

1 Samuel Lesson 16 Samuel Addresses the New King and The People- Part One

Key Themes in 1 Samuel :

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Samuel's Defense of His Leadership: It is common for a ruler in any age to blame the country's problems on the previous ruler. It was also common for a ruler in the ancient Near East to trump up charges to anyone whom he perceived to be a threat to his rule.

Justice: In the ancient Near East it was the ruler's duty to maintain justice.

Key Words:

witness: Strong's H5707 "ed" one who gives evidence or testimony

Samuel addresses the the new anointed king and the people. He gives over His leadership responsibilities to the new king. He will continue on as the spiritual adviser to the king and through him to the people.

Read 1 Samuel 12: 1-12

1. Samuel opens his address to the people and Saul with a defense of his leadership, focusing on his role as judge. In 1 Samuel 12: 3 who does he ask to be his witnesses? According to 12:5 who else were witnesses ? Why were witnesses important? See Deuteronomy 19:15.

2. What claims does Samuel make about himself in 12:3 which are confirmed by the witnesses in 12:4? What do these claims reveal about the kind of leader Samuel was? Thinking back to previous lessons what were other godly traits seen in Samuel?

Application: When you are in a position of Christian leadership it is easy to focus on the job and forget about the character traits that God desires in his leaders. What are some important character traits that should be seen in leaders today?

3. Samuel now reviews 800 years of history in 5 verses. He uses this history to remind the people of their cycle of "seeking" the Lord and "forgetting" the Lord. List all the things the Lord did for them in the way of deliverance in 12:6-11, when they were seeking Him, especially when they repented of their sin and cried out to Him.

4. According to 12:9 what were some of the consequences they had to suffer when they forgot the Lord?

5. In 12:12 Samuel reminds them of their request for a human king. What does Samuel say motivated them? What does Samuel tell the people was wrong about their request for a king? How does what Samuel has just told them in regards to their history relate to their request for a king?

Application: When we are tempted to sin, how can looking back on our own "history" help us?

Application: What key themes from 1 Samuel do you see in this chapter so far?

