



1 Samuel

Following The Shepherd King In An Age Of Personal Freedom

Life Group Discussion / Week Six

READ

1 Samuel 12:6-25

SUMMARY OVERVIEW

1 Samuel chapter 12 is like a courtroom trial. It is God versus the people. For asking God for a king, as we've seen in previous chapters, the people have in effect accused God of failing in his divine responsibilities. The people will feel justified if God is found in the wrong. But if God is vindicated, the the people will be condemned. This is how it worked in Hebrew law.

Samuel points out a pattern throughout Israel's history: criss, cry for help, deliverance from God. Samuel points to a few stories as evidence of God's faithfulness despite their wickedness. As Samuel lays out his case in defense of God's faithfulness to them he leaves no room for them to speak. He moved directly from defense, to judgement, to sentencing, to carrying out God's judgement manifested in disastrous thunder and rain on their crops at harvest. This judgement showed just what kind of destruction God held in his hand for wickedness. It also pointed to only one clear verdict: God is faithful and Israel unfaithful.

The people stand in awe as the verdict is carried out and ask Samuel to intercede on their behalf. But, this is not the end of the story. Because God is gracious.

STUDY & APPLY

1. The people stand in awe as the verdict is carried out and ask Samuel to intercede on their behalf, asking that God spare their lives followed by an admission of fault. They not only acknowledge their sin of asking for a king but also "all our sins." **What does this admission tell you about the quality fo their sorrow or how they viewed their sin against God?**

Samuel's response is full of significance. The remaining questions will focus on his response in verses 20-25

2. Samuel's immediate response is "Do not be afraid, you have done this evil". **How does this response communicate the dualistic nature of truth and hope? How does it compare to responses you might give or hear when someone is caught in sin?**
3. People tend to think of idols as statues in temples or at least something that is not relevant today for us. **How does the wording of Samuel's encouragement to resist idols in vs. 21 apply to us today? How specifically can this verse be a good criteria for how to identity potential idols in our lives?**

4. The warning of judgment in the passage is made clear. But there is a solid basis for hope. The hope is in the fact that God will never forsake his people. God made a decision to have a people and he will never go back on that decision. His reputation and honor depend on it. Many think that grace is needed to become a Christian but fail to see how grace is involved in the endurance of our standing with God. Grace, as many see it, is the first step into the Christian faith. **How does this passage show us that it is by grace we become God's people and by grace we remain God's people?**

5. This passage reminds us that the key to faithful life with God is continually rediscovering of the deep reality of all that God has done for us in Jesus Christ. We do this in many ways throughout our day. However, the primary way we do this as God's brought-together people is during our Sunday worship. All of worship on Sunday is meant to center around Jesus, our better Samuel, who prays for us and reminds us of God's love for us. Our Sunday worship, therefore, is designed to be a testimony of God's faithfulness to us, despite our many sins. **How does this understanding of our purpose on Sunday help motivate you in your attitudes and actions during Sunday worship?**

PRAY

Close your discussion praying earnestly, empathetically, and boldly for one another.