

November 6, 2022

“Consider What God Has Done for Us!”
1 Samuel 12:1-25

Prel Rmks

LOGW ~ Before we observe the LS

INTRODUCTION

Before we read the text, we need to know some background ...

Son of Hannah

Name Samuel = Heard of God

Weaned → House of God → Shiloh → Eli

Samuel ministered before the LORD, even as a child

Grew in stature, and in favor both with the LORD and men.

God confirmed his calling ...

The LORD ... let none of his words fall to the ground.

Theme: “return to the LORD with all of your heart”

He prayed for the people ~ the people wanted his prayers

God delivered Israel from enemies

(1 Samuel 7:15) And Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life.

(1 Samuel 8:1) Now it came to pass when Samuel was old that he made his sons judges over Israel.

1 Samuel 8:3 But his sons did not walk in his ways; they turned aside after dishonest gain, took bribes, and perverted justice.

(1 Samuel 8:4-5) Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, **(5)** and said to him, "Look, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations."

(1 Samuel 8:7) And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

So Samuel anointed Saul King of Israel & presented him to them at Gilgal

Farewell address as their leader –

v. 23 – would continue to be a spiritual leader and pray for them & teach them

Doesn't die until chapter 25

I want to come to one particular verse ~ phrase in v. 24

Here's what Samuel says in his farewell address to the nation:

I. I Have Been Faithful 1-5

- (1) Now Samuel said to all Israel: "Indeed I have heeded your voice in all that you said to me, and have made a king over you. (2) And now here is the king, walking before you; and I am old and grayheaded, and look, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my childhood to this day. (3) Here I am. Witness against me before the LORD and before His anointed: Whose ox have I taken, or whose donkey have I taken, or whom have I cheated? Whom have I oppressed, or from whose hand have I received *any* bribe with which to blind my eyes? I will restore *it* to you." (4) And they said, "You have not cheated us or oppressed us, nor have you taken anything from any man's hand." (5) Then he said to them, "The LORD *is* witness against you, and His anointed *is* witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand." And they answered, "*He is* witness."

He wanted to clearly establish the record of his history with them

He wanted them to admit that he had been a faithful leader

He hadn't gotten rich at their expense

He hadn't taken anything from them by fraud or oppression

That he had been a good and faithful leader!

Not perfect. No one is ... but he wanted them to say it themselves – and be witnesses by their own words that he had been faithful to them and faithful to God.

Why would he go to these lengths ... ?

To help them see that there was no need to desire or demand a King

1. Fickle nature of people ~ part of human nature

Samuel says: I have been faithful

II. God Has Been Righteous 6-11

He rehearses for them all that God has done for them!

2. **(6)** Then Samuel said to the people, "It is the LORD who raised up Moses and Aaron, and who brought your fathers up from the land of Egypt. **(7)** Now therefore, stand still, that I may reason with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous acts of the LORD which He did to you and your fathers: **(8)** When Jacob had gone into Egypt, and your fathers cried out to the LORD, then the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. **(9)** And when they forgot the LORD their God, He sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab; and they fought against them. **(10)** Then they cried out to the LORD, and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and Ashtoreths; but now deliver us from the hand of our enemies, and we will serve You.' **(11)** And the LORD sent Jerubbaal [**Gideon**], Bedan, [**probably Barak or Samson**] Jephthah, and Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you dwelt in safety.

I have been a faithful leader

God has been righteous in His dealings with you

III. You Have Been Unfaithful 12-18

God has been faithful to you, but you have been unfaithful to Him

(12) And when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, 'No, but a king shall reign over us,' when the LORD your God was your king.

There was an element of covetousness involved in their unfaithfulness – wanted to be like the other nations

lack of contentment → covetousness → callousness & coldness of heart toward God

(13) "Now therefore, here is the king whom you have chosen and whom you have desired. And take note, the LORD has set a king over you. (14) If you fear the LORD and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the LORD your God.

The form of government didn't matter so much as their heart relationship with God
 {elder v. congregational}

Judges 21:25 In those days *there was* no king in Israel; we usually think it was a reference to an earthly king; but part of what it is say there is the LORD was not their King

everyone did *what was* right in his own eyes.

Warning

(15) However, if you do not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then the hand of the LORD will be against you, as it was against your fathers.

Just to make sure they understood it was not just Samuel's idea that they had been unfaithful ...

God gives them an affirmation and a demonstration

An **affirmation** that Samuel was speaking for Him

A **demonstration** of His displeasure with their unfaithfulness

(16) "Now therefore, stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes: **(17)** Is today not the wheat harvest? I will call to the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain, that you may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking a king for yourselves."

{Like a snowstorm in Miami, Florida on the 4th of July!}

(18) So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day; and **all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.**

So God got the point across to them that they had been unfaithful and covetous and He was not pleased with what they had done

Samuel:

I have been faithful

God has been righteous

You have been unfaithful to God even though He has remained faithful to you

IV. The Confession and Repentance of the People 19

(19) And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD **your** God, that we may not die; for **we have added to all our sins** (confession) **the evil** of asking a king for ourselves."

{It is evil to trust in anyone supremely other than God Himself} ...

We won't be where we need to be as a nation until the people of this nation look to God as our supreme leader {FDR}

And when our human leaders lead us to do that! When our civic leaders begin to point us to God ...

The people at this point were truly repentant ... it didn't last long ~ next chapter

They realized they had sinned greatly

There was evidence of Godly sorrow ... God had their attention!

So Samuel in verse 20 begins to comfort them by speaking to them about

V. The Covenant Relationship of God with His People 20-24

(20) Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

Sometimes when we sin, we begin to think we've blown it beyond recovery.

We begin to doubt if we will ever get it right

We begin to lose hope that we will ever be the Christians God saved us to be

The tendency is just to give up.

The people of Israel were at that point.

So Samuel gives them some encouragement:

(21) And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing.

Samuel: "Don't put your confidence in anything or anyone other than the LORD God of Israel.

2 Chronicles 6:14 Solomon: "LORD God of Israel, *there is no God in heaven or on earth like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.*

Psalms 73:25 Whom have I in heaven *but You?* And *there is none upon earth that I desire besides You.*

John 6:68 [Simon Peter said to Jesus], "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

Samuel reminds them of the Covenant relationship God has with His people

(22) For the LORD will not forsake His people,

Why won't He forsake His people?

for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people.

It was a covenant of grace and mercy ...

Even the Old Covenant had built into it a demonstration of the grace and mercy of God ...

{Ark of the Covenant – the stone tablets / mercy seat}

That's what Samuel is reminding them of!

1. When we observe the LS, it is a reminder that we are the people of God, and that we are in a covenant relationship with Him and also with one another – a covenant that is sealed with His own blood.

Matthew 26:27-28 Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "**Drink from it, all of you. (28) For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.**"

(23) Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way.

Samuel says: I will still be your teacher and I will still pray for you.

Here's the verse we want to come to – our key verse today!

Samuel tells them –

(24) Only fear the LORD,

and serve Him in truth

with all your heart;

for **consider** what great things He has done for you.

consider = look and see; and know = REMEMBER

That's what we do when we observe the LS

What has God done for us?

He has provided the only sacrifice that could ever satisfy His perfect and holy justice and righteousness that would enable Him to forgive our sins – that sacrifice was the death of His own Son, our Lord and Savior JC.

It is the death of Jesus, that enabled God to forgive us and not violate His own perfection and holiness.

- It was the only transaction that was acceptable to Him.
- He would judge His perfectly righteous Son for our sins.
- He would give the perfect righteousness of His Son to us.
- That's the only way anyone could ever be in relationship with God – through the covenant relationship initiated by God and sealed with the blood of Christ.

VI. A Final Word of Warning 25

(25) But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.

Conclusion

Romans 8:31-32 What then shall we say to these things? If God *is* for us, who *can be* against us? **(32)** He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

Today, as we observe the LS, let's consider what great things God has done for us!