

1 SAMUEL 12:13-25 – Samuel’s Prayers – Sin of Prayerlessness and Address at Saul’s Coronation!

9/18/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

TO GOD BE THE GLORY – F. Crosby – Maranatha Praise Band

1 To God be the glory, great things He has done; So, loved He the world that He gave us His Son, Who yielded His life an atonement for sin, And opened the life gate that all may go in.

Refrain: Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear His voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the people rejoice! O come to the Father, through Jesus the Son, And give Him the glory, great things He has done.

2 O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, To every believer the promise of God; The vilest offender who truly believes, That moment from Jesus a pardon receives. (Refrain)

3 Great things He has taught us, great things He has done, and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son; But purer, and higher, and greater will be Our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. (Refrain)

Chapter 12– Saul’s Coronation

The LORD had been King of Israel and had cared for the nation since its beginning; but now the elders of the nation wanted a king to lead them. Samuel’s reaction to their request shows that he fully understood their unbelief and rebellion: they were rejecting Jehovah. Here is an illustration of God’s permissive will: He granted them their request, but He warned them of the cost. The nation rejected Samuel’s admonition and asked for a king just the same! **They wanted to be like the other nations**, even though **God had called them to be separate from the nations**. In Chapter 12, Samuel had made Saul king. We have Samuel’s address and prayers at Saul’s Coronation.

SAMUEL’S PRAYERS AND FAREWELL ADDRESS – Sin of Prayerlessness; God’s Great Mercy & Grace!

1Sa 12:13 *"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.* - Samuel probably had the feeling, "Here is the king you wanted. This is what you’ve got. He may not be quite the king you need, but he is the king you wanted."

1Sa 12:14 *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.* – Oh, the grace and mercy of God! Samuel presents Israel with an important choice. They had been disobedient in their desire for a king, yet God had given them a king. Even so, if they would **fear the LORD and serve Him**, God could still bless them. Yes, Israel should have never sought a human king. But now they had one, and Samuel simply calls them to serve the LORD where they are at now. What an application for us! We need to know that one wrong turn doesn’t wreck our lives before God! Instead of agonizing over the past, get right with God today. **Fear the LORD! Serve Him and obey His voice! Do not rebel against the commandment of the LORD**, and God will bring even good.

1Sa 12:15 *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.*** - Samuel puts the choice before Israel. On one side is submission to God and obedience; on the other is rebellion and disobedience. If they choose the wrong path, God will not bless it. **As it was against your fathers**: Every individual, every generation is tempted to think of itself as a special exception. They know of the *righteous acts of the LORD* in previous generations, yet they felt excepted from God’s correction or judgment.

1Sa 12:16 *"Now therefore, **stand and see this great thing which the LORD will do before your eyes:*** - God confirms Samuel’s word with a sign. Samuel will pray and ask God to send a sign to confirm His word. This is a concession to the wicked hearts of the people, because Samuel knows only a sign from God will impress them.

1Sa 12:17 *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.***" - Why would Samuel and the LORD wait until now for such a dramatic sign? Why not do it when Israel first asked for a king, so they would have known their sin right then, and taken back their request for a king? Because God had a purpose in allowing the "people’s king," Saul, to come first. Because if it had happened in the first days of Saul’s reign, the people would have cast him off just as quickly, and just as wrongly, as they asked for him. Now, that his reign has been confirmed by the victory at Jabesh Gilead (previous chapter) and accepted by the people, they can be more directly confronted with their sin. This is an excellent way of preaching - to mingle promises of blessings through obedience and the certainty of lack of blessings through their disobedience!.

1Sa 12:18 *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.*** - Thunder and rain were unusual during the wheat harvest. This was a truly remarkable sign from God. The LORD was showing that He was the true God of the weather, not Baal, their god

of weather and thunder! **The people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel:** The result was good, but it shows something weak and carnal in the hearts of the people. They *could* have known the power and majesty and sovereignty of God in their hearts before this, and then it would have been unnecessary to bring a sign. Even more impressive than thunder during harvest time **is the thunder of the Holy Spirit's conviction in the heart.** Even more impressive than rain during harvest time **is the love of God poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.** The inner work is more effective in making us serve God than any outward sign, no matter how impressive! This is an impressive example of power in prayer. Samuel is known in the Bible as a mighty man of prayer.

1Sa 12:19 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 the evil of asking a king for ourselves." - Israel sees their sin of desiring a king. **Pray for your servants:** Samuel had just shown himself a mighty man of prayer, and Israel now knows how much they need prayer. It was good to ask Samuel to pray for them! ...**added to all our sins the evil....** Finally, Israel sees their sin of wanting a king. They see it too late! If only they had realized it earlier, when Samuel first warned them! Now they are stuck with a king, yet God can still turn it for good if Israel will repent and seek the LORD.

1Sa 12:20 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." - Samuel exhorts Israel to walk right with the LORD today. Samuel does not want them to dwell on the sin of the past but walking with the LORD today.

1Sa 12:21 And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing. - Samuel wants Israel to know that rejecting the LORD and turning aside from Him does not work! If they will not serve God out of spiritual reasons, then do it for practical reasons: nothing else can **profit or deliver!**

1Sa 12:22 For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake, because it has pleased the LORD to make you His people. - Samuel wants Israel to know that *God loves them*. This is why, despite the sin of their past, they can get on with serving the LORD and still see His blessing. Because God loves them. His favor towards Israel was not prompted by good they had done, were doing, or promised to do! It was **for His great name's sake**, because it **pleased the LORD** to do it. The reasons were in Him, not in Israel. Why doesn't God give up on Israel? Because He loves them! Why is God willing to put away the sin of the past? Because He loves them!

1Sa 12:23 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 knew the best thing for Israel was to pray for them. His words to them would make no difference if the LORD was not working in their hearts, and **the best way to cultivate the working of the LORD in their lives was through prayer.** **I will teach you the good and the right way:** Samuel would pray, but he would not only pray. There was still a place for teaching, and Samuel would faithfully fulfill that role as well.

1Sa 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. - We do it because of the **great things He has done for us**. We don't serve God so as to persuade Him to do **great things** for us. He has done the **great things**, and asks us to receive them by faith. Then we serve Him because of the **great things he has done for us**.

1Sa 12:25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king. - This warning became the sad legacy of Israel, when they were conquered and taken from the land in captivity. Never was a people more fully warned, and never did a people profit less by the warning.

SUMMARY:

- Israel wanted, "**my will**, not Thy will be done!" God gave them their request – a king.
- God's permissive will always results in leanness or something less.
- But God did not turn His back on them! What grace! What mercy! What love!
- Prayer is so important! We need to pray for others! Not to pray for others is a sin!
- Fear the LORD! Serve Him with all your heart! Consider what great things He has done!

"Amazing Grace" – Newton – sung by Judy Collins

1. Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.
3. Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.
4. When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun. (Repeat verse 1)