

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

OCTOBER 8TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### REVIEW (1 SAMUEL 12:1-15) CHANGE

Samuel tells Israel that things are about to change. Judges have served Israel for almost 500 years, and now, they would get the king they begged for.

- **Samuel knew his time was almost over and decided to make sure the record was set straight before things went sideways again.**

### HERE I AM

Samuel stood before the people and welcomed the opportunity to correct wrongdoing. He hadn't taken anything that wasn't his, mistreated anyone, or taken bribes.

- **Samuel had been a man of integrity, and his word could be trusted. He even had confirmation from God and Saul.**

### THE LORD

Samuel then reminds them of all that God had done for them: God appointed Moses and Aaron, enabled them to do mighty works, and delivered them from Nahash.

- **The pattern was clear: The people sinned, then called out to God, and God defended His people whenever they followed Him.**

### SIMPLE TRUTH

Samuel gave them a clear path to the good life. If they fear the Lord, worship (serve), obey, and do not rebel against the Lord's commands, they will be following God.

- **This is what it means to be a Christ Follower today. When we respect God, worship, obey, and agree with His direction for our lives, we are following Christ.**

### REBUKE (1 SAMUEL 12:16-25) PRESENT YOURSELVES

Samuel calls the people together again. This time, God would perform a sign of His power and confirm their sin against Him.

- **They had demanded a king for themselves. Samuel called upon the Lord, and God sent a rainstorm in the dry season. God had done something that no earthly king could ever do.**

### REPENTANCE?

They saw God's power and feared judgment for their sin. Again, they pleaded with Samuel for deliverance from his God.

- **We rarely see Israel crying out directly to God, asking for forgiveness for their sin. Samuel would give them a path to true repentance, but they would choose another path.**

### DON'T BE AFRAID

They had sinned against the Lord, but there was a way to safety: follow the Lord.

- **Life is full of "worthless things that can't profit or rescue" us. When we realize that following Christ is the best life, those things will get the attention they may need but not the attention that God deserves.**

### AS FOR ME

Whatever they decided, Samuel made it clear that he would obey the Lord by praying for them and teaching the Word of God.

- **Our hearts may be broken for those around us, but we don't give up! We intercede through prayer and continue to share the truth. Less judgment and more prayer can change the culture.**

### UNBELIEF (1 SAMUEL 13:1-15) WAR

Saul would be king for over 40 years. During that time, he established a standing army. He chose the best to stay near him and his son, Jonathan. The Philistines responded by placing troops near the cities of Israel.

- **Jonathan bravely defeats the Philistines in Gibeah, but Saul is the one who blows the horn and calls for more warriors.**

### ODDS

The Philistines responded by gathering troops as numerous as the sand on the seashore. The people began to hide, and some even left the area altogether.

- **Saul started to fear the odds. His troops were deserting him, and Samuel was nowhere to be seen.**

### IMPATIENCE

Saul didn't believe Samuel would come and God would deliver. So, he took matters into his own hands. He "forced himself" to disobey.

- **Unbelief often leads to impatience. Without faith and patience, we can't receive what God has promised. Until we learn to trust God and wait on His timing, we can't learn other lessons or receive other blessings.**

### FOOLISH

Saul tried to blame his troops and even Samuel. Ultimately, he had been foolish to believe anything but God's plan would be best.

- **Why do we think we can live lives of disobedience without consequence? Our pride, impatience, disobedience, and deception are seen and will have consequences. What choice will we make?**

### INSECURE (1 SAMUEL 13:16-22) DIMINISHED

Saul was down to about 600 troops. His failure had impacted everyone who followed him.

- **Saul had walked by sight and not by faith. In the past, Saul called the people to unity as they followed God. They didn't fear God or the king; they feared the enemy.**

### THREATENED

At this point, the Philistines had them surrounded. It didn't matter which way they turned; they would meet the enemy.

- **In the middle of battle, we too often get ourselves "into a corner" and can't see a way out. All we see is the enemy. God is there. He has a way out for us. It always involves faith and obedience.**

### DEPRIVED

Saul's army was without proper weapons. They even depended on the enemy to sharpen their tools. They were small in number, had a small supply of weapons, and were assured of defeat.

- **They had a great God if only they would trust Him. Sound familiar?**

### PAST

- We can trust God because He has been faithful.
- **We can read of His love for His people in the Bible and history.**
- **If we have followed Christ, we can remember that He has been with us in our past battles and victories.**

### PRESENT

- God has a plan for our current circumstances.
- **Sometimes, we wait. Always we pray.**
- **When we surrender ourselves to God's plan, we do more than obey. We agree with Him, and it shows in our worship, service, patience, prayer, and love.**

### FUTURE

- If the church looks like Saul's army, it's our own fault.
- **The level of impact we have is dependent on our level of obedience to God.**
- **The future may look bleak, but only to those who refuse to see that Christ has done the work on the cross, and God has given us a strategy and the resources to win. Are you ready?**