

“Only Fear the LORD and Serve Him Faithfully With All Your Heart”
1 Samuel 12:1-25

“Therefore an overseer must be above reproach...”(1 Timothy 3:1-7). “Moreover it is required of stewards that they be found faithful” (1 Corinthians 4:2). “Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith” (Hebrews 13:7). “So I exhort the elders among you...being examples to the flock” (1 Peter 5:1-3).

- The integrity of a godly leader: 1 Samuel 12:1-5
 - Samuel deals with his sin before dealing with the sin of the people.
 - Godly men do not mind and should expect to be scrutinized and evaluated (James 3:1). Unlike the king, Samuel has not taken from the people, but has instead only given to the people (1 Samuel 8:10-18). Samuel is wanting them to see the difference between what they asked for, which will be harmful, and what God had given them, grace upon grace.
 - Samuel wanted the testimony of all three parties to his integrity; the LORD, the king, and the people....*“Do not admit a charge against an elder except on the evidence of two or three witnesses.” (1 Timothy 5:19; cf. Deuteronomy 19:15)*

“Whenever you hear a word from My mouth, you shall give them warning from Me...if you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way...his blood I will require at your hand” (Ezekiel 33:7-9). “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

- The message of a godly leader: 1 Samuel 12:6-18
 - Obedience to God should be motivated by the goodness and grace of God towards us. Samuel pleads with them to remember the goodness of God. *“If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.” (John 14:15)*
 - Samuel shows them their pattern from the time of Joseph until the time of the Judges. *Bondage/Forgetting to Deliverance/Remembrance to Bondage/Forgetting.* This is the pattern of humanity, which is why we desperately need the preacher of God’s Word.
 - The power of Nahash made them forget the power of God and desire to have a man of worldly power leading them (1 Samuel 9:1-2; 10:24).
 - God showed His affirmation of Samuel’s message by causing a great rain storm in the dry season of the wheat harvest. It is not easy for us to believe *“that our wickedness is great.”*
 - The people had a fear of the judgment of God. This is not the fear that we ought to have as believers....*“There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” (1 John 4:18)*

*“Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ. For this I toil, struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.”
(Colossians 1:28-29)*

- The burden of a godly leader: 1 Samuel 12:19-25
 - *“Do not be afraid you have done all this evil. Yet do not turn aside from following the LORD...”*
 - *“But serve the LORD with all your heart...”*
 - *“And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty...”*
 - *“Only fear the LORD and serve Him faithfully with all your heart...”*
 - *“For consider what great things He has done for you.”*

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- *“Far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you....”*
 - *“And I will instruct you in the good and right way.”*
 - *“But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king.”*
 - *“For the LORD will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake because it has pleased the LORD to make you a people for Himself.”*
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Announcements:

★**DONATIONS:** We are collecting donations for Vertical 196 during the month of August. They are in need of: Disposable Razors, Travel Size Shaving Cream, Travel Size Deodorant, Men’s Boxer Briefs (Size Large), Women’s Bikini Cut Underwear (Size 7 & 8), Men’s and Women’s Ankle Socks, Dry Dog and Cat Food, Coffee, Wendy’s Gift Cards, Individually Wrapped Candy, Powdered Drink Mix, and Bleach.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner THIS Sunday, August 14th, immediately following the worship service. There is a sign-up list on the back table, please sign-up to bring something for the dinner. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us!