

## INTRODUCE

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to 1 Samuel chapter 12. 1 Samuel 12. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to 1 Samuel 12. That's on page **233** in those Bibles under the chairs.

## INTRODUCTION

Man, we've got some work to do in this week's chapter of 1 Samuel.

- Have y'all been enjoying this Spring with Samuel and Saul?
- It's been pretty cool, right?
- And this stuff almost NEVER gets preached on!
- I can't tell you the number of 1 Samuel series I've seen...
  - that cover Samuel's miraculous birth...
  - and the call of Samuel, right?
    - ***"Speak Lord, for your servant hears."***
  - And then they just skip all of Saul...
  - and move on the King David.

And listen, yo, I'm pumped for us to get to David!

- But this Saul stuff is so important to Israel's history,
- AND I hope it's been applicable to you!
- It certainly has for me!

## RECAP

So, we're halfway through our Spring series in 1 Samuel.

This is week 6, and we've got 5 more to go. So, let's do a quick recap:

- At the very beginning of the book, we meet Samuel,
  - who is Israel's greatest prophet,
  - and the last judge of Israel.
- And don't think like a judge with a robe and a gavel,
  - God had been leading his people by the hand
  - of men and women called judges.
  - You can read about them in the book of...yeah, Judges.
- Well, Samuel will be Israel's last judge,
  - because in 1 Samuel 8,
  - Israel demands that God gives them a king
  - to rule over them just like all the other nations!
- But in doing this, they are rejecting God's rule over them.
  - They are in rebellion...
  - against how God wanted to lead his people.

And even though Samuel warns God's people repeatedly, they are obstinate.

- So, God gives them a king. Enter Saul.
- Saul looks pretty good on the outside,
  - but as we've already seen,
  - there're some red flags
  - as to whether he's got the character
  - to be king over God's people.

You've heard the phrase, be careful what you wish for...cause you might just get it?

Well, God has given them what they asked for.

- Saul was privately anointed as king...
- then he was publicly chosen as king...
- and last week...
  - after Saul is filled with the Spirit of God,
  - and he delivers Israel from Nahash the Ammonite,
  - the people renew the kingdom,
- which is essentially King Saul's inauguration.

And today in chapter 12, we find Samuel's farewell.

- This is his retirement speech.
- Saul is king, and thus Israel needs no judge.
- So, Samuel is stepping down from being Israel's judge.
  - He'll still function as a prophet,
  - and priest at times,
- but Saul is the leader of God's people.

And chapter 12 is Samuel's final speech to the people.

## **TRANSITION**

So, let's walk through this text, and like always, there's meat on the bone for us today in this text.

1 Samuel 12, starting in verse 1.

## 1 SAMUEL 12:1-5

[1] And Samuel said to all Israel, “Behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. [2] And now, behold, the king walks before you, and I am old and gray; and behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. [3] Here I am; testify against me before the LORD and before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.” [4] They said, “You have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man’s hand.” [5] And 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 said, “He is witness.”

### POINT 1

So, this is Samuel making his case that he’s led God’s people with integrity.

- His point is that he has led faithfully,
- and the people affirm it in him.

Which sets him up one last time to speak the hard things to God’s people.

So, I’ll break his message into two main sections. And the first section is where Samuel brings **SLIDE** **GOD’S CASE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE**

So, here we go. Verse 6:

## 1 SAMUEL 12:6-7

[6] And Samuel said to the people, "The LORD is witness, who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. [7] Now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the LORD concerning all the righteous deeds of the LORD that he performed for you and for your fathers.

So, Samuel is going to PLEAD with God's people one last time.

- He going to PLEAD with them to repent.
- He's going to PLEAD with them to obey.
- He's going to PLEAD with them to turn from their rebellion.

But he's going to start by reminding them of the downward spiral that brought them to this point. Verse 8

## 1 SAMUEL 12:8

[8] When Jacob went into Egypt, and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the LORD and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

So, he first brings up when God saved his people from slavery in Egypt.

- This is like 400 year earlier.
- You remember Moses?
  - *Let my people go!*

God saved his people, but just note, that in their distress, they cried out to the Lord. That's gonna be important. Verse 9:

## 1 SAMUEL 12:9-11

[9] But they forgot the LORD their God. And he sold them into the hand of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. [10] And they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, because we have forsaken the LORD and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth. But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.' [11] And the LORD sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you lived in safety.

Secondly, Samuel brings up the era of the Judges.

- So, even after being saved from slavery in Egypt,
- the people of God forgot the Lord their God.
- They sinned and worshipped idols.
- And God gave them over to their enemies.

But again, note in verse 10, that they **cry out to the Lord**,

- and so, God gave judges to them:
- God delivered his people again!

But now to their recent history. Verse 12:

## 1 SAMUEL 12:12

[12] And when you saw that Nahash the 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.

So, here's where we are in their current context.

- Apparently, the scourge of Nahash the Ammonite...
  - that Saul handled in chapter 11...
- was an impetus that led to them demanding a king.

BUT, did you notice what's missing in those verses?

- They don't cry out to the Lord...
- There is no cry for help!
- Instead, they go to Samuel,
  - and they've already got their solution.
- *Give us a king!*

## **APPLICATION: REBELLION**

And this is applicable, because we've all got our Nahash.

- Many of us cry out to God for help
  - in many areas of our lives.
- BUT there can be these Nahash things...
  - where we just don't trust the Lord,
  - and instead, try to take matters into our own hands.

WE think WE know the best way to handle our Nahash...

But hear me: that's rebellion against God.

**And rebellion against God always feels right...at the start.**

- It's gonna feel right!
- It seems like the logical way to handle your Nahash.

You say, *"I've got this!"* Until you realize you don't got this!

We put whatever method in place to “take care” of our Nahash:

We make those promises...

- *I'm never going to look at that stuff again.*
- *I'm never going to drink that stuff again.*
- *I'm never going to talk that way again.*
- *I'm never going to lose my temper like that again.*

But there's a huge difference between saying,

- *“I got this!”*
  - Give us a king!
- And saying: *“I don't got this!”*
  - And crying out to the Lord.

## TRANSITION

So, one last time, Samuel is saying to the Israelites:

- You're rebelling!
- You're choosing a king over God.
- You're trusting in yourselves.

So, here's where he PLEADS with them. Verse 13:

### 1 SAMUEL 12:13-15

[13] And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked; behold, the LORD has set a king over you. [14] If you will fear the LORD and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God, it will be well. [15] But if you will 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 and your king.

So, here's the way Samuel explains it once again to Israel.

- If you obey, it will be well.
- If you disobey, the hand of the Lord will be against you.

So, Samuel's last word to God's people, in his farewell address is:

- Obey.
- Obey God.
- His PLEAD with the people is to obey.

But then he does one more thing. Verse 16

### **1 SAMUEL 12:16-18**

[16] Now therefore stand still and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. [17] Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the LORD, that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking for yourselves a king." [18] So Samuel called upon the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day, and all the people greatly feared the LORD and Samuel.

## EXPLAIN: RAIN SIGN

So, the case is made against Israel.

- But, just in case the people weren't listening,
- or had tuned him out,
- or thought to themselves,
  - "Oh gosh, here goes old Samuel again..."
  - on one of his prophet rants!"

Samuel gives them a SIGN of God's case against them!

He mentions the wheat harvest.

- This is a time of year...
- in this region of the world...
- when it would NEVER rain.

You planted during the rains...

- and you reaped after the rains had ceased.
- So, it's the time when it would never rain.

SO, Samuel says,

- **"I'll call on the Lord to send rain."**
- **This is how you shall know that your wickedness is great!"**

This would be like a blizzard in Miami on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.

## APPLICATION

So, this is all GOD'S CASE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE

And this might feel a bit heavy...but I want to apply it to us.

God's CASE is meant to bring **ADD SLIDE CONVICTION** to his people. It's meant to convict them of their rebellion.

- And the conviction of God is a gift.
- Romans 2 tells us that it's the kindness of God
- that leads us to repentance.

## ILLUSTRATION

Before I got saved I can remember hearing preachers talk...

- about sin and rebellion
- and it would rub me the wrong way.

I would get offended.

- *"Don't judge me.*
- *Don't tell me what is wrong and right.*
- *Who are you?!?"*

But a crazy thing happened when I got saved...

- I would go and hear preachers tell me that I am a sinner,
  - an enemy of God,
  - and that I needed to turn from that sin and repent.

And it was the same message that I had heard in the past!

- But instead of offence,
- I felt like these preachers were speaking life to me.
- I WAS a sinner, and I was no longer offended by that truth,
- but rather, I was hungry for that conviction.

Conviction of sin is a gift! Why?

- Because it was evidence of God's pursuit of me...
- when I started to feel his conviction on my life.

## TRANSITION

Now, let's look at the second part of Samuel's farewell address.  
We've seen God's CASE against his people.

**BLANK SLIDE** Now on to the end. Verse 19:

### 1 SAMUEL 12:19

[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 this evil, to ask for ourselves a king."

So, the people seem to hear what Samuel warns.

- They see the sign of the rain.
- And they feel the conviction therein.
- So, they say,
  - *"We've sinned!*
  - *Pray for us!*
  - *We're wrong.*
  - *Help us!"*

They, at least verbally, express their repentance.

And this is how you know if the conviction of God has landed on you.

- It will lead you to repentance.
  - But it stings a bit.
  - Conviction stings.

## ILLUSTRATION: BACTINE

It's like when I was a kid and I'd get hurt, when I'd wreck my bike.

Cause that's what we did when we were kids...

- We we're cooped up all day inside playing video games!
  - Cause listen, you can only play Tetris for so long...
- So, we rode bikes...
- in the street...
- without helmets!
  - And there weren't any of those little green men
  - with orange flags to protect us from cars...
- Can you even imagine?
- I don't know how a whole generation survived!

But, I'd wreck on my bike all the time, and bust up my knee or something.

- But the worst part of getting hurt...
- was the knowledge that I had to go home...
- cause I knew my mom would want to clean the wound.

And mom cleaned with a special little product called Bactine.

Does this stuff even exist anymore?

Well, Bactine is the Windex of health care.

- Did you scrape your knee?
  - Spray some Bactine on it.
- Did you cut your hand?
  - Put Bactine on it.
- Poison ivy? Bactine.
- Snake bite? Bactine.

- Acne? Bactine.
- Broken leg? Bactine.

But I dreaded the Bactine because when she sprayed it on my cuts and scrapes, it stung like crazy!

- It sometimes felt like the Bactine
- Was inflicting more pain
- than I was already experiencing.

But my mom loved me, and she knew that in doing this...

- in adding this pain,
- it was the first step towards healing.

## **APPLICATION**

Church, CONVICTION STINGS!

Being convicted of our sin stings...

- it stings because it forces you to get honest about your mess.
- It forces you to recon with all the stuff...
  - you're trying to run and hide from.

But don't despise conviction.

- It's a gift of God.
- It's that conviction that is a first step towards health.
- It's that conviction that leads to change.

So, look at verses 20 to the end:

## 1 SAMUEL 12:20-25

[20] And Samuel said to the people, "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. [21] And do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty. [22] 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. [23] Moreover, as for me, 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 the right way. [24] Only fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart. For consider what great things he has done for you. [25] But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."

### POINT 2

So,

- What does God do with his people when they have committed spiritual disaster?
- How does God respond when they have charted their own course in rebellion?
- What does he say to his people when they come to see how ugly their sin really is?

He says: **do not be afraid.**

And this is the second point.

We saw, GOD'S CASE AGAINST HIS PEOPLE.

But now we see **SLIDE GOD'S GRACE FOR HIS PEOPLE**

- *"Yes, you've done all this evil..."*
- *"But you have not out sinned my grace!"*

You see, if God's case against us brought the gift of CONVICTION.

Then God's grace for us shows us that there is

**ADD SLIDE NO CONDEMNATION**

And there's a huge difference between conviction and condemnation.

### **EXPLAIN: CONVICTION OR CONDEMNATION**

And I've been thinking about this a lot this week. Because one of the big themes we've looked at in this 1 Samuel series, even today, is obedience.

In the last 5 weeks, I've said things like:

- *"You will always either OBEY God's voice...or your own."*
- *"Why do you think God will give you a new word, when you haven't been OBEDIENT to the one he's already given you?"*
- *"If you love Jesus, then you'll OBEY his commandments."*
- And I said last week: *"You don't have to keep doing the things you used to do! You can OBEY!"*

So, Samuel has been hammering and hammering on obedience.

But here's the thing I've been mulling on:

- WHAT ABOUT WHEN YOU DO THE THINGS
- THAT YOU DON'T WANT TO DO?

What about when you're NOT obedient?



## APPLICATION

Cause, man, there are certain sins for each one of us that just seem impossible to break away from! They're Nahash-es.

- I mean, does anyone else get frustrated...
- when they find themselves struggling...
- with some of the same junk they struggled with in high school?

It's like we keep falling again...

- and again,
- and again.

But this is why I think these chapters in 1 Samuel are so important.

- How many times has Samuel warned them?
- How many times has he PLEADED with them?
- How many times has he pointed out their disobedience?

And today, when Samuel is stepping down from his leadership position,

- he doesn't just wash his hands of God's people.
  - *"I'm done with you.*
  - *God's done with you."*

No! When the people repent,

- no matter how many times they've fallen,
- God is faithful to extend grace.
- There is NO CONDEMNATION.

**We must obey! DON'T MISS THAT!**

- But when we don't,
- AND we repent,
- there's more grace for us.

## EXPLAIN: PAUL

I want to point us to a New Testament parallel to this idea of conviction and condemnation.

In Romans chapter 7 the Apostle Paul is wrestling with this very issue. I'll put some verses up on the screen.

### SLIDE ROMANS 7:18–19

[18] For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. [19] For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Now, this is the Apostle Paul speaking here.

- Dude wrote most of our New Testament!
- This is *“to live is Christ, to die is gain”* Paul.
- This is *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* Paul.

And here, Paul is saying:

- *“I know the good I should do.*
- *I want to obey.*
- *But I keep doing the things I don't want to do.*
- *I keep sinning.*
- *I keep doing evil.”*

He's like, *“What's wrong with me?!?”*

Verse 24:

## **SLIDE ROMANS 7:24**

[24] Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?

He feels the CONVICATION of the Holy Spirit.

He wants to be delivered.

And so, he cries out, *“who can help me?”*

Verse 25:

## **SLIDE ROMANS 7:25a**

[25] Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!

And then to the famous next verse in Romans 8:1

## **SLIDE ROMANS 8:1**

[1] There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

## **BLANK SLIDE**

### **APPLICATION**

So, here's what Paul just said:

- if you are in Christ,
- and today you hear...
  - the whispers of CONDEMNATION,
  - instead of CONVICTION.
- those are not from God.

Condemnation comes from the enemy, not from God.

But they can sound so similar, right?

- Conviction says: *“What a wretched man I am.”*
- Condemnation says: *“What a wretched man you are.”*

Conviction is God’s kindness towards us.

Condemnation is the Enemies’ weapon against us.

### **ILLUSTRATION: PROBE THE WOUND**

I’ve told you about James A. Garfield, our 20th president, but Garfield was one of four US Presidents who have been assassinated.

- On July 2nd, 1881,
- as he was leaving Washington for his summer vacation
- President Garfield was shot twice.

He was carried back to the White House,

- and doctors thought he would not survive the night;
- but the next morning,
- his vital signs were good
- and doctors began to hope for recovery.

Now, doctors managed to keep the president alive

- for 79 days after being shot...

And most historians and medical experts,

- believe that Garfield probably
- would have survived his gunshot wounds.

But you see, the method of the day to remove bullets,

- was insert one's fingers
- into the wound to probe for the bullet.

And so, every day his doctors would probe for the bullet,

- and dig for the bullet,
- but they just couldn't get it out!

And Garfield's autopsy discovered pneumonia in both lungs and a body that was filled with pus due to uncontrolled infections from all the probing of the wound.

- He died, not from being shot...
- but from never letting that wound heal.

## **APPLICATION**

Hear me today: CONDEMNATION keeps you probing at your wound.

- *You did what again?*
- *You slipped up again?*
- *You should know better by now!*
- *God must be really disappointed in you!*
- *He's done with you!*
- *You've gone too far!*

But to those words of CONDEMNATION, Samuel would say,

- *"Don't be afraid!*
- *Turn from that sin!*
- *Follow God!*
- *STOP PROBING THE WOUND!"*

So, if you hear words of CONDEMNATION today,

- they are NOT from God...

But if you feel pangs of CONVICTION...

- those are good gifts from God...
- through his Spirit
- to the believer,
- beckoning us to repent
- and change the direction of our lives.

## CONCLUSION **BLANK SLIDE W/PADS**

God's CASE and God's GRACE.

So, do you feel the conviction of the Holy Spirit today?

- What is it that God's convicting you of?
- Do you feel that sting?
  - It's the first step towards healing!

Maybe today is the first time you've ever felt this...

- and that would mean that God is calling you...
  - to give your life to him!
- To become a Christian!

Maybe you already are a follower of Christ, but the conviction is of something you're not obeying right now:

- What's your Nahash?
- The thing you keep saying, "*I've got this!*"
- But you know you don't got this.

To those things, God says,

- *“Don’t be afraid.*
  - *There’s grace for that.*
- *Are you in Christ?*
  - *Then there’s no condemnation for you.*
- *You are free.*
- *Free to follow the Lord with all your heart.*
- *Free to fight those temptations.*
- *Free to surrender those struggles.*
- *Free to obey.”*

So, church, don’t despise conviction.

But don’t buy the lie of condemnation.

You have not out sinned the grace of God.

So, surrender.

Let’s pray.

## RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – [fathomchurch.org/give](http://fathomchurch.org/give)
- PRAYER - [fathomchurch.org/prayer](http://fathomchurch.org/prayer)
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

### 1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.



## RESOURCES USED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel.
- David, Dale Ralph. *Farewell with an Edge*.
- Martin, Joby. *Farewell Address*.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. NICOT: The First Book of Samuel.