



## 9: Renewed Relationship - Awe that Obeys

(1 Sam 12)

*Renewal starts when we recognize and prioritize the One who matters most. In 1 Samuel 12, we discover how awe of God becomes obedience—and how that renewal can begin in you today.*

**beourguest**

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**teachingnotes**

\* All Scripture is from the Christian Standard Bible (CSB) unless otherwise noted.

### 1 Samuel 12:1-4 NET 2nd ed.

Samuel said to all Israel, "I have done everything you requested. I have given you a king. Now look! This king walks before you. As for me, I am old and gray, and my sons are here with you. I have walked before you from the time of my youth till the present day. Here I am. Bring a charge against me before the LORD and before His chosen king. Whose ox have I taken? Whose donkey have I taken? Whom have I wronged? Whom have I oppressed? From whose hand have I taken a bribe so that I would overlook something? Tell me, and I will return it to you!" They replied, "You have not wronged us or oppressed us. You have not taken anything from the hand of anyone."

Accountability, integrity, honesty, & sincerity brings freedom while the opposite breeds fear that you will be found out. Oh that we could be known as honest & sincere, people of integrity!

The term "taken" is used 4 times within this conversation.<sup>1</sup> (Some translations combine "whose ox or donkey have I **taken**".)

- Samuel had earlier spelled out how the king they asked for would "**take** your sons...daughters...fields...servants, and flocks" (1 Sam 8:11-18).

- We will see how King David **took** Bathsheba (the same Hebrew word as translated in ESV, NASB, LSB of 2 Sam 11:4).

✓ Samuel, God's judge, is contrasted with the kings; the kings will **take** from the people, but Samuel has not.

### 1 Samuel 12:5-11 CSB

He said to them, "The LORD is a witness against you, and His anointed is a witness today that you haven't found anything in my hand."

"He is a witness," they said.

Then Samuel said to the people, "The LORD, who appointed Moses and Aaron and who brought your ancestors up from the land of Egypt, is a witness. Now present yourselves, so I may confront you before the LORD about all the righteous acts He has done for you and your ancestors. When Jacob went to Egypt, your ancestors cried out to the LORD, and He sent them Moses and Aaron, who led your ancestors out of Egypt and settled them in this place.

But they forgot the LORD their God, so He handed them over to Sisera commander of the army of Hazor, to the Philistines, and to the king of Moab. These enemies fought against them. Then they cried out to the LORD and said, 'We have sinned, for we abandoned the LORD and worshiped the Baals and the Ashtoreths. Now rescue us from the power of our enemies, and we will serve You.' So the LORD sent Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel. He rescued you from the power of the enemies around you, and you lived securely.

If you've read through Judges, this is the format:

- They forgot Yahweh,
- God hands them over to other nations
- They cry out saying "**we have sinned...rescue us!**",
- Yahweh raises up judges like Jerubbaal, Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel to do **rescue** them.

<sup>1</sup> Bill T. Arnold, 1 & 2 Samuel, The NIV Application Commentary (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003), 188.

### 1 Samuel 12:12-14

But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was coming against you, you said to me, 'No, we must have a king reign over us'—even though the LORD your God is your king. Now here is the king you've chosen, the one you requested. Look, this is the king the LORD has placed over you. If you fear the LORD, worship and obey Him, and if you don't rebel against the LORD's command, then both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the LORD your God.

The Ammonites approaching Israel was the catalyst that caused the Hebrew people to cry out for a king. While the political structure might have changed (a king instead of a judge), the purpose hasn't changed. The people are to fear and worship Yahweh, and that includes the king.

**To fear Yahweh is an "awe that obeys."**

### 1 Samuel 12:15-17

However, if you disobey the LORD and rebel against His command, the LORD's hand will be against you as it was against your ancestors. Now, therefore, present yourselves and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes. Isn't the wheat harvest today? I will call on the LORD, and He will send thunder and rain so that you will recognize what an immense evil you committed in the LORD's sight by requesting a king for yourselves."

**The wheat harvest** was a time of celebration & thankfulness, when the food was gathered. Thunderstorms are rare during this time of the year and heavy rains at harvest would ruin grain. Further, remember that the people had earlier worship Baal - the storm god. But Yahweh is about to remind His people Who is really in charge.

### 1 Samuel 12:18-22

Samuel called on the LORD, and on that day the LORD sent thunder and rain. As a result, all **the people greatly feared the LORD** and Samuel.

They pleaded with Samuel, "Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so we won't die! For we have added to all our sins the evil of requesting a king for ourselves."

Samuel replied, "**Don't be afraid**. Even though you have committed all this evil, don't turn away from following the LORD. Instead, **worship the LORD with all your heart**. Don't turn away to follow worthless things that can't profit or rescue you; they are worthless. The LORD will not abandon His people, because of His Great Name and because He has determined to make you His own people.

**"Don't be afraid."** They were supposed to "fear Yahweh" (v13), but **this fear is...an AWE that OBEYS**, NOT a fear that causes them to *RUN FROM* Yahweh, but to *RUN TO* Yahweh.

Even though they have committed **evil** (sin), Yahweh has extended forgiveness. Now they are to stay the course and make sure they don't turn away from following Yahweh.

Just as a good parent refuses to let their children get away with lies & sinful living, and will never abandon their children, so too Yahweh brings discipline & correction to His people, and Yahweh will not abandon His people!

**He has determined to make you His own people.** Yahweh was committed to send the ULTIMATE SAVIOR to them & through them...Jesus the Hebrew Messiah, the Bread of Life!

### 1 Samuel 12:23-25

As for me, I vow that I will not sin against the LORD by ceasing to pray for you. I will teach you the good and right way. Above all, **fear the LORD and worship Him faithfully with all your heart**; consider the great things He has done for you. However, if you continue to do what is evil, both you and your king will be swept away."

Samuel's commitment to **pray** persistently & **teach** his people the good and right way is a great example for all people wanting to make a spiritual impact on others - pastors, teachers, mentors, parents & grandparents. We are to **pray** persistently & **teach** truthfully.

God's love for people does NOT discount His justice to those who continue to do what is **evil**. Sadly, many have convinced themselves that God is LOVE, but that He is not JUST. He is BOTH - LOVE & JUST. Of course, that LOVE & JUSTICE was best demonstrated at...THE CROSS - where the ULTIMATE, SINLESS KING died for our sin - LOVE & JUSTICE. When we **consider the great things He has done** for us...*THIS* should stand out as the ultimate demonstration of God's LOVE & God's JUSTICE.

❓ **Does your life show that you have a RENEWED RELATIONSHIP with God, demonstrated by an AWE that OBEYS?**

# heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

- \* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), **Caleb** (864-315-8015), **Gary** (850-673-2507), **Betty** (850-973-3266), or another follower of Jesus soon!
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## discussionquestions

These open-ended questions are designed to help you LIVE what you LEARN with your Family, Friends, or Small Group.

### 1. **Servant Leadership** (12:1-5).

- Samuel invites scrutiny. Who has permission to “bring a charge” against you if needed?
- Why is there honesty result in freedom while dishonesty breeds fear?
- Samuel is not known for what he takes from others, instead he is known for \_\_\_\_\_ (fill in space). What are some practical ways we can follow the example of Samuel?

### 2. **Recognizing God's Role:** Samuel reminds the people of their history of forgetting God (1 Samuel 12:9-11). Can you think of a time when you or your community forgot to prioritize God? What brought you back?

### 3. **The Wheat Harvest Sign:** The thunder and rain during the wheat harvest (1 Samuel 12:16-18) was a surprising act of God. How have you seen God use unexpected events to get your attention or renew your faith?

### 4. **Awe That Obeys:** Samuel says to fear Yahweh and obey Him (1 Samuel 12:14). What does “awe that obeys” look like in your daily life, and how is it different from fear that drives you away from God? Give an example when you *ran from* God and an example when you *ran to* Him.

### 5. **Grace and Discipline:** In 1 Samuel 12:20-22, Samuel assures the people that God won't abandon them despite their sin. How does this balance of grace and discipline reflect God's character, and how can it encourage us when we fail?

### 6. **Impacting Others:** Samuel vows to pray and teach the people (1 Samuel 12:23). Who in your life can you commit to praying for and what truth do they need to hear to know & obey God's “good and right way”?

### 7. **Christ and the Cross:** How does Jesus' death on the cross demonstrate both God's love and justice, and how does that impact your relationship with Him?

### 8. **“Consider the great things He has done for you”** (12:24). Name two specific graces from the last month. How will you build a habit of remembrance (journal, weekly family check-in, sharing with another believer)?

### 9. Take a few minutes to pray for one another.