

# FIRST SAMUEL

## Lesson 20: Chapter 12, Samuel: A Great Man

18 November 2016

In First Samuel chapter 12, we'll see several reasons why Samuel was regarded as one of God's "great" men. He was a man that God would listen to above other men (Jeremiah 15:1). In fact, there are only six men (and one unnamed woman in 2 Kings 4:8) that God singles out as being notable or exceptional in the Bible. They are Noah, Job, Daniel, Moses, Samuel, and John the Baptist.

### 1. SAMUEL WAS HONEST IN HIS DEALINGS WITH PEOPLE (Verses 1-5)

- a. He didn't use his power, his authority, or his position with God to cheat people for his own personal advantage.
  - b. Many men and women in positions of authority submit to Satan's temptations and they become corrupted by the opportunities available to them to oppress others for their own gain.
  - c. Many ministers abuse their authority for their own financial benefit. Paul taught that the minister ought not to be a burden to the people (2 Cor. 12:14).
  - d. Samuel could confidently challenge the people to try and find fault with the way he had conducted himself among them. He knew he had always dealt honestly with them.
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### 2. SAMUEL REASONED WITH THE PEOPLE FROM THE BIBLE (Verses 6-11)

- a. He simply and matter-of-factly reminded the people of the historical record of God's dealings with them throughout their history as a nation.
  - b. He didn't need to yell at the people in a commanding tone. He didn't need to put on a show and try to get the people stirred up and excited. He simply reasoned with them.
  - c. Similarly, we need a balanced Christianity that is reasonable and based on the Bible.
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### 3. SAMUEL WAS SO FILLED WITH THE WORD OF GOD THAT HE WAS ABLE TO DISCERN THE THOUGHTS AND INTENTS OF THE HEART OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL (Verses 12-15).

- a. He not only told the people what they did wrong, but he told them why they did it.
  - b. God goes beyond what we do or say; He looks at the heart, He knows our thoughts, and He tells us why we do the things we do. See Hebrews 4:12.
  - c. The more you know the Bible, the better able you will be to judge every situation. You won't allow your feelings, impressions, or the sight of the eyes to prematurely misjudge a person or a situation. You will weigh every situation by your knowledge of the word of God.
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#### 4. SAMUEL CALLED SIN "SIN" (Verses 16-17)

- a. He didn't sugar-coat the wickedness of the day. He said, "**Your wickedness is great.**"
    - i. Wicked sodomy should not be characterized as "a gay lifestyle."
    - ii. Drunkenness shouldn't be downgraded to "alcoholism" or "a disease."
    - iii. Prostitution shouldn't be viewed as "entertainment." It's ungodly nakedness, fornication, and adultery.
    - iv. Swearing and cursing is wrong; it's sinful. It's not just a *slang* usage of the language.
    - v. Clothing that exposes too much flesh is called shameful nakedness. It's not "fashion."
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#### 5. SAMUEL TOOK ABUSE AND REJECTION FROM THE PEOPLE AND HE DIDN'T GIVE UP ON THEM (Verses 20-25)

- a. He continued to comfort them: "Fear not" (vs. 20), "God won't forsake you" (vs. 22).
- b. He still encouraged them: "turn not aside..." "serve the LORD..." (vs. 20).
- c. He continued to give them counsel: "don't go after vain things" (vs. 21).
- d. He counted it a sin to stop praying for them (vs. 23).
- e. He continued to give them the truth (vs. 24).

Can you do that as a child of God? People will hurt you (family and friends; lost and saved). Can you maintain your love and care for them when they turn on you or when they break your heart?

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