

GOD AND ORDINARY PEOPLE, LIKE US

“Samuel... Having God’s
Courage To Lead!”
Pt. 3



Peter Thomas, Pastor | August 18, 2019

Question: As a Christ follower, if you can have ANYTHING from this moment, what would that be for you?

8 As Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons to be judges over Israel. ² Joel and Abijah, his oldest sons, held court in Beersheba. ³ But they were not like their father, for they were greedy for money. They accepted bribes and perverted justice. ⁴ Finally, all the elders of Israel met at Ramah to discuss the matter with Samuel. ⁵ “Look,” they told him, “you are now old, and your sons are not like you. Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations have.” ⁶ Samuel was displeased with their request and went to the LORD for guidance. ⁷ “Do everything they say to you,” the LORD replied, “for they are rejecting me, not you. They don’t want me to be their king any longer. ⁸ Ever since I brought them from Egypt they have continually abandoned me and followed other gods. And now they are giving you the same treatment. ⁹ Do as they ask, but solemnly warn them about the way a king will reign over them.”... ¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to Samuel’s warning. “Even so, we still want a king,” they said. ²⁰ “We want to be like the nations around us. Our king will judge us and lead us into battle.” 1 Samuel 8:1–20 (NLT)

- God had given Samuel the **task to LEAD** a nation that was “supposed” to be living a **God-fearing, God-reverencing** and **God-trusting life!**

FIGHTING The Inability To Stay FOCUSED!

- Each person of **faith in God** is called to **live a life different** from those that don’t believe in God.
- Sometimes God allows/uses **pain, problems and pressure** to help shape/clean up our character, keeping us focused on what’s important... **our relationship with Him!**

Israel’s pain ...**loss of lives—death!**

Israel’s problems ...**the Ark of the covenant captured!**

Israel’s pressure ...**to be like other nations, replacing God!**

- Because God **seems to be silent**, that doesn’t mean he is not **watching, listening and working** at the same time ...stay focused!

³ Then Samuel said to all the people of Israel, “If you want to return to the LORD with all your hearts, get rid of your foreign gods and your images of Ashtoreth. Turn your hearts to the LORD and obey him alone; then he will rescue you from the Philistines.” ⁴ So the Israelites got rid of their images of Baal and Ashtoreth and worshiped only the LORD. ⁵ Then Samuel told them, “Gather all of Israel to Mizpah, and I will pray to the LORD for you.” ⁶ So they gathered at Mizpah and, in a great ceremony, drew water from a well and poured it out before the LORD. They also went without food all day and confessed that they had sinned against the LORD. (It was at Mizpah that Samuel became Israel’s judge.) 1 Samuel 7:3–6 (NLT)

- No one human being can give us what we think we want: **security, comfort, provision, happiness, hope** ...all of these are found in God alone!

¹³ All right, here is the king you have chosen. You asked for him, and the LORD has granted your request. ¹⁴ “Now if you fear and worship the LORD and listen to his voice, and if you do not rebel against the LORD’s commands, then both you and your king will show that you recognize the LORD as your God. ¹⁵ But if you rebel against the LORD’s commands and refuse to listen to him, then his hand will be as heavy upon you as it was upon your ancestors. ¹⁶ “Now stand here and see the great thing the LORD is about to do. ¹⁷ You know that it does not rain at this time of the year during the wheat harvest. I will ask the LORD to send thunder and rain today. Then you will realize how wicked you have been in asking the LORD for a king!” ¹⁸ So Samuel called to the LORD, and the LORD sent thunder and rain that day. And all the people were terrified of the LORD and of Samuel. ¹⁹ “Pray to the LORD your God for us, or we will die!” they all said to Samuel. “For now we have added to our sins by asking for a king.” ²⁰ “Don’t be afraid,” Samuel reassured them. “You have certainly done wrong, but make sure now that you worship the LORD with all your heart, and don’t turn your back on him. ²¹ Don’t go back to worshiping worthless idols that cannot help or rescue you—they are totally useless! ²² The LORD will not abandon his people, because that would dishonor his great name. For it has pleased the LORD to make you his very own people. ²³ “As for me, I will certainly not sin against the LORD by ending my prayers for you. And I will continue to teach you what is good and right. ²⁴ But be sure to fear the LORD and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you. ²⁵ But if you continue to sin, you and your king will be swept away.” 1 Samuel 12:13–25 (NLT)

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