

Character Study: Samuel
Part 5 – Samuel Tells of God’s Grace
I Samuel 9-12

What’s happening?

- God told Samuel that He would send a man to him who he should appoint as commander over Israel. When Saul came into town, the Lord told Samuel that he was the man. Samuel informed Saul of God’s desire to use him as Israel’s king. When the people heard the news, they shouted “Long live the king.” (9:1-10:27)
- Saul’s leadership ability was seen in a victorious battle over the Ammonites. After the battle, Saul was confirmed as their king. (11:1-15)
- Samuel gave a speech to the Israelites where he expressed his life-long faithful service to them and God’s continual deliverance of them. He encouraged them to faithfully serve God. He also warned that rebellion against God would bring God’s hand against them. (12:1-15)
- After Samuel finished his speech, the Lord sent thunder and rain to show Israel how wicked their sin was in choosing a king. Fearing the Lord and Samuel, the people confessed their sin. Samuel told them not to turn aside from following the Lord, for the Lord “will not forsake His people, for His great name’s sake.” (12:16-25)

What’s God doing?

> Though the people had made the wrong choice in seeking a king, they were brought to a point of recognizing the wickedness of their actions. God showed them grace and forgiveness, and the people were encouraged to serve God faithfully from that day forward.

What’s to learn?

→ Despite our sins, we are not hopeless. God offers forgiveness to those who willingly acknowledge their sin. This does not guarantee that the consequences of our sin will no longer occur (there may still be results of our actions), but it does assure that things between us and our Creator are good and that we can move forward resting in His grace!

→ Do you have sin in your past that still brings you much guilt? God tells us that in Christ we have forgiveness. Do not focus on your past failures, but rather focus on how you can live for God today!