



“REASONS TO REJOICE”

*“Your Words were found, and I ate them,
and Your Word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart.” Jeremiah 15:16*

I and II SAMUEL

Lesson 6

In our lesson last week, we learned about God choosing Saul for king and his response to that call. Samuel anointed Saul privately and then introduced him publicly as they cast lots. We left off at the end of chapter 10 with most of Israel happy with God’s choice for king, except for a few rebels who refused to bring tokens of homage to him. Saul still hadn’t been officially recognized as king by the entire nation. Now, in chapter 11, we’ll read about the beginning of Saul’s reign, a major victory over the Ammonites, and a transfer of authority from Samuel to Saul. Let’s get going!

First Day

- 1. Read I Samuel 11. What is the main thought? How would you title it? Are there any key words or phrases?*
- 2. Who was the enemy in verse 1? Read Genesis 19:31-38, 2 Samuel 17:25, and 1 Chronicles 2:16-17 for background.*

The Ammonites occupied the territory northeast of the Dead Sea, across the Jordan River from Israel. They had declared war on Israel previously (Judges 3:13, 11:4), and now they’re at it again.

- 3. Why did the men of Jabesh Gilead want to make a covenant with them? Were they supposed to? Read Exodus 34:12-16 and Deuteronomy 7:2.*

4. *What conditions did Nahash put on the covenant? Why would this bring reproach upon Israel? How was this a battle strategy?*

5. *What agreement did they make?*

6. *How did Saul find out about the problem? Had they approached him as the king?*

7. *What happened to Saul in verse 6? What did he do? Why?*

8. *Why did Saul number the people in verse 8?*

9. *What was Saul's strategy? Did it work?*

The men of Israel could assemble together and not be seen by the enemy in Bezek. This city was about 15 miles west of Jabesh Gilead. Bezek was situated in a valley surrounded by hills, so the Ammonites didn't know that all of Israel was uniting.

10. *Why did some want Saul to kill those who didn't accept his authority? (10:27) How did Saul respond to that?*

11. *So far, what have you learned about Saul's character in this situation?*

12. *Sometimes we are like the men of Jabesh Gilead, too tired or too afraid to fight the enemy. We can't give in to the enemy's tactics by making deals with the world. What types of deals does the world offer us?*

That's it, ladies. Keep your spiritual armor on and don't give the enemy any footholds in your life. Don't make any deals with the world, no matter how appetizing they look. Don't sell your soul for success, popularity, or money. Fight the good fight of faith! Stand strong!

Memory Verse of the Week: *“Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.”*
I Samuel 12:24

Second Day

Practice your memory verse. It applied to the Israelites, and it applies to you and me!

1. *Read I Samuel 11 again. Let's look at a few more points.*
2. *Why do you think Saul used Samuel's name in verse 7?*

Saul didn't want to take revenge on those who hadn't supported his authority. That was a good move. God doesn't want us to seek revenge on our enemies either.

3. *What do the following verses tell us about seeking revenge?*
 - a. *Luke 9:51-56*
 - b. *Proverbs 20:22*
 - c. *Romans 12:14*

d. Romans 12:17-21

e. Matthew 5:38-42

- 4. Do the above Scriptures reflect the attitude of your heart? Have you been blessing those who curse you? Have you been turning the other cheek?*

- 5. Why is it so important to practice this principle in our marriage, as well as in other relationships?*

- 6. Back to our text. What happened in verses 14 and 15?*

Saul had not yet been really recognized as king of Israel. As the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, he stepped up to the plate and took charge. Saul sort of “name-dropped” in verse 7 because the people were still a little leery of him, I’m sure. Saul showed humility by not killing the men who wouldn’t support him, allowing God to be his defense. This national victory established his authority throughout all of Israel. He now takes his place as the head of the nation as the people crowned him king!

In 11:6, we see the “Spirit of God come upon Saul.” This phrase occurs often (Numbers 24:2; Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 13:25, 15:14; 1 Samuel 16:13, etc.) The LifeChange Series says this: “This phrase normally speaks of a special empowerment granted to someone by God to accomplish a particular task. It is never used of a conversion experience in the New Testament sense. Nor does it imply that everything the individual does is according to God’s will (Judges 11:29-31 is an example). Israel’s judges were usually marked out in this way.”

7. *Where did the people go to have the crowning ceremony? What other significant events happened there? Read Joshua 4:19; 5:1-10, 9:6; 14:6 and Judges 2:1.*
8. *Plucking out the enemy's eye would hinder them in battle. They wouldn't be able to hide behind their shields any longer, use their bows, or be aware of what was happening on all sides of them. What hinders us in our spiritual battle, making us an easy target for the enemy?*
9. *Read Ephesians 6:10-18. What are the two offensive weapons the Lord gives us to use in our spiritual battle? How do they work? Are you using them?*

See you tomorrow, ladies. Make sure you put your armor on each morning so you won't be an easy target! God bless you!

Third Day

Review your memory verse. Are you taking it to heart?

In today's lesson we will read Samuel's farewell speech to the people of Israel as he transfers his authority to Saul. Notice Samuel's heart for both God and the people.

1. *Read I Samuel 12. What are the main points of Samuel's farewell address?*

2. *How is it similar to Joshua's good-bye in Joshua 24?*

3. *Read I Samuel 12:1-5 again. Why do you think Samuel says what he does about himself? Was he boasting?*

4. *Recall his mom's words in I Samuel 1:28. Any comments?*

5. *Samuel sure was vulnerable as he opened up his life for public scrutiny. Did the people have anything negative to say against him?*

6. *Define the word "integrity." How was Samuel's life a model of this?*

In verse 3, Samuel points out that he never stole from anyone, took advantage of anyone, or received a bribe for judging someone unfairly. He also uses the phrase "to blind my eyes." This phrase is used of one who averts his eyes, as refusing assistance, or as showing contempt, or, as here, in winking at what is wrong.

7. *Why is God so concerned with our reputation? (Read 1 Timothy 4:12; 15-16; and Titus 2:7-8).*

- 8.** *Time to get personal. Is your life a model of integrity to those around you? Think about your speech, your actions, your choices ... would they stand up against public scrutiny? If not, what changes need to be made?*
- 9.** *What do people think about you? How is your reputation:*
- a. In the community?*
 - b. In the neighborhood?*
 - c. In your workplace?*
 - d. In your home?*
- 10.** *Read the following verses. What do they say about integrity?*
- a. Psalm 7:8*
 - b. Psalm 25:21*
 - c. Psalm 26:11-12*
 - d. Proverbs 20:7*
 - e. Proverbs 11:3*
- 11.** *Have you been guilty of “blinding your eyes” and looking away from what is right?*
- 12.** *Read Proverbs 31:10-31. How is her life an example of integrity? Be specific.*

No one could find fault in Samuel. In Lesson 2 we discussed whether or not it was Samuel's fault that his sons were not walking with God. I believe that if he had been a lenient father like Eli, this certainly would have been brought out at this time. Someone surely would have brought that out as an accusation. Some believe that the phrase in verse 2, "my sons are with you" means that he actually removed them from office (hopefully repenting later).

- 13.** *Does having integrity mean that we'll never make mistakes? Why or why not?*

Let's end here for today. I know that the prayer of every mother's heart is that her children would always walk before God like Samuel did. The Lord answered Hannah's prayer. Are you praying too?

Fourth Day

What's your memory verse? Are you serving Him in truth?

- 1.** *Read I Samuel 12:6-25. Why do you think Samuel is reviewing their history? What was he trying to stress?*

- 2.** *What happened in the past when the people:*
 - a.** *Disobeyed God?*
 - b.** *Repented?*

- 3.** *What would happen to them if:*
 - a.** *They didn't listen to the Lord?*
 - b.** *If they obeyed God?*

4. *Why do you think Samuel kept reminding them that it was wrong for them to ask for a king?*

5. *Even though they now had a king, who was in supreme control? Who were they still supposed to listen to? How is this stressed?*

6. *How is this relative to our form of government today?*

7. *What did God do to validate Samuel's words and remind them who was in charge? How did the people respond?*

Even though God let them have a king, they were still called to follow Him. It wasn't the king who would save them; it was God. Their obedience and faithfulness to Him would bring them blessings and favor. This was essential. The thunderstorm was a definite "Amen" to Samuel's words.

8. *What are some ways that you have been reminded that it's God who is in control of your life?*

9. *What are we also called to do when we disobey the Lord and follow our own understanding? (1 Samuel 12:19, 1 John 1:9)*

10. *Did God give them another chance? Why? (Read Psalm 86:5)*

I praise God that He has a heart that is “ready to forgive,” don’t you? Seems like I am always asking Him to forgive me for something. I’m so glad that He doesn’t get tired of me coming to Him. Isn’t He wonderful? We need to make sure we keep our accounts short with Him! See you tomorrow!

Fifth Day

Write your verse from memory.

1. *Let’s read I Samuel 12:6-25 again, concentrating on verses 19-25.*
2. *What is Samuel challenging them to do?*
3. *What happens to us when we turn away from the Lord, according to verse 21? Have you ever seen this to be true?*
4. *What “empty things” might someone turn to? How will they not “profit or deliver”?*
5. *Why was God’s name at stake in them?*
6. *Is God’s name at stake in you? How?*
7. *According to verse 23, what was Samuel’s main job now as God’s prophet? How serious did he take this responsibility?*

8. *How can it be a sin “not” to pray for someone? What is our responsibility in prayer? Is prayer necessary? Give Scriptures if possible.*

As I read over and meditated on this section, I was so convicted. How often do I neglect my responsibility as a wife to pray for my husband, or as a mother to pray for my kids? What about those in my neighborhood, or those at work? How many times do I tell someone that I’ll pray for them and then promptly forget. We are called to pray without ceasing, aren’t we? (1 Thessalonians 5:17) May we take it seriously, like Samuel!

9. *Okay, your turn. Are you in sin because you have ceased to pray for anybody? Have you been diligent to pray for your husband? Kids? Family? Friends? Neighbors? Government leaders? Do you see prayer as “necessary” in your life?*

10. *What does it mean to “fear the Lord and serve Him in truth”?*

11. *What is Samuel’s final warning to them in verse 25?*

To “fear the Lord” means to hold Him in “reverent awe.” We will be discussing that in depth in another lesson. It’s too important just to glance over. It’s obviously a very important principle.

Samuel was in many ways a second Moses. The LifeChange Series lists many things that these two men had in common. I’d like to share them with you because I thought they were so interesting!

1. **Providential infancy** (Exodus 2:1-10, I Sam. 1:9-20).
2. **Son of godly parents** (I Sam. 1:1-28, Hebrews 11:23)
3. **Raised in a house destined for judgement** (Exodus 2:10, I Sam. 2:11-26)
4. **Called by God** (Exodus 3:1-4:17, I Sam. 3:4-14)
5. **Used by God to liberate Israel from foreign oppressor** (Exodus 3:10, 12:29-14:31; I Sam. 7:5-14)
6. **Interceded for Israel** (Exodus 5:22, 32:11-14; I Sam. 7:5-9)
7. **Built an altar** (Exodus 24:4, I Sam. 7:17)
8. **Offered sacrifices on the nation's behalf** (Exodus 24:4-8, I Sam. 7:9-10)
9. **Led the people in sanctification** (Exodus 17:19:10-15, I Sam. 7:3-4)
10. **Led the nation in battle as an intercessor, not a warrior** (Exodus 17:8-13, I Sam. 7:5-14, 11:7-15)
11. **Erected a monument** (Exodus 24:4, I Sam. 7:12)
12. **Adjudicated civil disputes** (Exodus 18:13-26, I Sam. 7:15-17)
13. **Demonstrated God's power in miracles** (Exodus 9:22-26, I Sam. 12:16-18)
14. **Mediated God's Word** (Deuteronomy 5, I Sam. 3:21-4:1)
15. **Recorded God's Word in a book** (Exodus 24:3-4, I Sam. 10:25)
16. **Inaugurated a new phase in the nation's history** (Exodus 19:1-6, I Sam. 8:4-9)
17. **Consecrated the new leader of God's choice** (Numbers 27:15-23, I Sam. 9:27-10:1)
18. **Concluded his ministry by exhorting Israel to be faithful to the Lord** (Deuteronomy, I Sam. 12)

Like Moses, Samuel was Israel's covenant mediator, the man who stood between Israel and the Lord to speak God's word to Israel and to intercede for the nation before its king (Deuteronomy 18:15-19). This is important to grasp for a good understanding of the next few chapters.

God bless you, ladies! Have a great week!

***For You, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive,
and abundant in mercy to all those who call upon You.”***

Psalm 86:5