



1 Samuel Sermon Series
To Be Used: Session 5: Feared
Potential Sermon Title: Twas Grace that Taught
My Heart to Fear
1 Samuel 12:12-22

Connecting to the Passage

Israel's demand for a king other than God revealed that they had lost sight of the greatness and power of God. God set out to remind Israel of His glory and to give them a picture of His coming salvation.

Introduction/Opening

Have you ever wondered what it means to fear the Lord? We are told that such fear is where wisdom begins (Prov. 1:7; 9:10). But are we to be terrified of God? Make no mistake; God is terrifying, especially when we stand before Him in our sin. But when we come to know God as our Father through Jesus the Son, a different kind of fear overtakes us. We uphold God with the highest reverence and love. We fear that we will fail to honor the greatness and glory of His Name. We no longer fear His anger, because we know that His anger was placed on Jesus in our place. We are like one who has found a safe shelter in the midst of a raging storm. We can still watch the storm's fury with awe and reverence while we remain safe from its destructive powers.

Outline

- I. Do You Meet the Standard? (1 Sam. 12:12-15)
 - a) Though God had given Israel the king they asked for, He still had expectations. They were to continue to fear the Lord, serve Him, and faithfully follow Him. If they lived according to His standards, all would go well. However, if the people and the king failed to meet those standards, the hand of God would be against them and their king (vv. 14-15).
 - b) God's standards are just and righteous, His commands are never the problem. We are the problem! Our fallen, sinful nature makes compliance to God's standards and His Law impossible, because no one is righteous (Rom. 3:10). Therefore, it is impossible to be saved according to our own goodness, because we will always fall short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23).

- II. Do You Hear the Storm? (1 Sam. 12:16-20)
 - a) In order to regain Israel's fear of the Lord, Samuel called on God to send thunder and rain. The storm demonstrated that God was ultimately in control of all things. Such a storm posed a threat to the yet-to-be harvested crops. The people realized that they were dependent on the grace of God.
 - b) The result of our sin is that we are under the wrath of God's righteous judgment (Rom. 1:18). The hand of God is against us. The purpose of God's righteous standard was meant to drive us from the coming storm of God's wrath and to encourage us to take shelter in His Son Jesus.

- III. Do You Trust the Savior? (1 Sam. 12:16,21-22)
- a) Our only hope for salvation is to confess our sinfulness and trust in the finished work of Jesus Christ on the cross. In verse 16, we discover our role in the redemption of our souls: “Present yourselves and see this great thing that the LORD will do before your eyes.” We don’t earn or work for it. We are to stand still and see Jesus dead, buried and raised!
 - b) Every means of satisfying our soul outside of Jesus will leave us empty (v. 21). Samuel offered the people hope. Sin does not have to have the last word. The Lord will not forsake His people because of who *He* is! He will not forsake the glory of His great Name (v. 22). Therefore, we can rest in His mercy knowing that He will always uphold the glory of His great Name!

Conclusion

When we look around our society today, it doesn’t seem like there is much fear of the Lord. When the fear is gone, we make decisions that will result in much pain and heartache in the future. Such was the case with Israel’s choice to demand a king other than God. But all is not lost. God’s love extends to us even after we have blown it big time. He does not forsake us; on the contrary, He pursues us. Through His furious love, He brings us to repentance, redemption, and restoration. Praise be to His Name!

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