



1 Samuel 12

“A Farewell Address”

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25:13

If you'd open your Bibles with me to 1 Samuel chapter 12. 1 Samuel chapter 12. The past few weeks we've seen Samuel anointed as king and last week we saw Samuel win a battle against Nahash king of the Ammonites.

25:37

Now if you've been paying attention as we've been reading through 1 Samuel, you might look at Saul and see he's kind of a tragic figure. There's this undercurrent of this idea of like we're looking at this guy like, is this guy for real? Is this the guy? As the question was posed a few weeks ago.

26:04

He gets selected by God. That's significant. Selected by God to be king. But then we find Saul hanging out in the luggage. In chapter 10 there's all this crazy prophecy stuff that gets prophesied and comes about and Saul gets selected as king and then he goes back and his uncle asks him like what happened?

26:33

And if you remember Saul kind of explains everything except anything relating to be a king. Right like it's kind of like you're reading this going wait wait wait you left out a pretty significant point there Saul.

26:49

And there's not really an undercurrent there's a there's a blatantly obvious tone in the text from Samuel. For example 1 Samuel chapter 10 verse 19 where Samuel is constantly rebuking the people.

27:08

He says this but today you have rejected your God. You've rejected your God who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses and you've said to him set a king over us. And you see the people showed their cards in chapter 10.

27:29

If you remember a few weeks ago we have what what they they titled worthless men and Samuel likes that that title worthless men. And these worthless men they despised God's choice. And they asked in one sense as you read that passage you're like wait their question is is like a really logical straightforward honest question. Can this guy save us?

27:57

And the answer is what? No, he cannot save you. And the people showed their cards in in one sense because they they asked for a king. God granted them the desires of their hearts as a way of punishment. To rebuke them, to say okay here you go.

28:24

And then the people now come and and Saul's now their king and then they they show that there's there's still this reality of the people rejecting what God has done. So Saul gets anointed king, wins a battle, he then goes to Gibeah with a small army of men.

28:47

Now if you're reading from a 30,000 foot view, we've we've come to Gibeah before in Judges chapter 19. We have this Sodom part two event where there's this Levite traveling with his concubine and they come to Gibeah.

29:07

And the men of the city at that night they come and they're pounding on the door demanding that the owner of the house release the man so that they might know him. You can fill in the blanks there. And they, the man of the house hands over the concubine and she's abused all night and left for dead.

29:29

And we have this Sodom part two and then the the Levite chops up her body and and sends pieces of her out to Israel. Right? This tragic, like horrific, like what in the world? That's Gibeah. And then last week Saul is found where?

29:48

Gibeah. And what does he do? He takes an ox and he chops it up and he's and there's this like wait that sounds familiar. It starts to sound eerily similar. And the authors of Judges in 1 Samuel are not just laying out history for us just to read, and events merely just for educational purposes, but there is theological and gospel-centered, here's the big word, redemptive historical purposes in writing these events for us to learn.

30:25

And here's the point. Saul is king. David's gonna become king. Solomon's gonna become king. Rehoboam is gonna become king. Jeroboam in the north is gonna become king. None of these men will save you.

30:45

All of these men are flawed men. And we already saw that earlier in this book with the priesthood, right? Because we meet other worthless men, Eli's sons, who are also despising God. They reject His commandments, and they do things the way they want to do things.

31:09

Out of the greed of their heart, out of the lust of their flesh, they move out and they, quote, serve the Lord. And they get titled as worthless men. And the purpose is to tell us we need a better priesthood and we need a better priest, and we need a better king.

31:33

Right? The people, they reject God as king, demand a king, and God gives them the desires of the heart to show them, hey, those desires that you think are so right and so true and so this is such a good idea, so we could be like all the other people.

31:56

We could be like all the other churches. We could be like all the other nations. We need to do it this way. And God says, no, you need to do it my way. And the people's constant sin, that's the drumbeat, they're constant rejection of the things of God.

32:21

Show us as we read through the Old Testament, they stack that weight upon us of saying, can these guys save us? That honest question, right? And there's this longing, there's this anticipation, for who?

32:39

For Christ. For Christ to come, the true king of Israel, our great high priest, the better prophet as he comes. And he rules and he reigns and he exercises in perfection all the things of God. And so we come to 1 Samuel chapter 12 and we come to this kind of farewell address of Samuel.

33:08

And it's a farewell address in one sense because we're coming to the close of the time of the judges. Samuel's still going to function as a prophet, but there is a mantle being passed from the time of the judges as Samuel serving as a judge.

33:25

Now he's passing that to Saul. Now we enter the time of the kings. And Samuel says in verse 2, hey, I'm old, I'm gray. Right? My time is nearing its end. And we come here, let's read the passage. I'm just gonna read the whole chapter and then we'll make some comments throughout.

33:56

Chapter 12, verse 1. And Samuel said to all Israel, behold, I have obeyed your voice in all that you have said to me and have made a king over you. And now behold the king. Like behold the king, look at him.

34:12

The king walks before you and I am old and gray. And behold, my sons are with you. I have walked before you from my youth until this day. Here I am, testify against me before the Lord and before his anointed.

34:27

Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkeys have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or from whose hand have I taken a bribe to blind my eyes with it? Testify against me and I will restore it to you.

34:46

They said, you have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything or taken from any man's hand. And he said to them, the Lord has witnessed against you and his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hands.

35:08

And they said, he is witness. Verse 6, and Samuel said to the people, the Lord is witness who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought the fathers up out of the land of Egypt. Now, therefore, stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord, that he performed for you and for your fathers.

35:32

When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place.

35:46

But they forgot the Lord, their God. And he sold them into the hands of Sisera, commander of the army of Hazor and into the hands of the Philistines and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them and they cried out to the Lord and said, we have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, but now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies, that we may serve you.

36:18

And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak and Jephthah and Samuel and delivered you out of the hands of your enemies on every side and you live safely. And when you saw that king, that Nahash king of the Ammonites came against you, you said to me, no, but a king shall reign over us when the Lord your God was your king.

36:48

When the Lord your God was your king. And behold the king whom you have chosen from whom you have asked, behold the Lord has set a king over you if you fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandments of the Lord.

37:11

And if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well. But if you will not obey the voice of the Lord but rebel against the commandments of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.

37:33

Now, therefore, stand still and see this great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call upon the Lord that he may send thunder and rain and you shall know and see that your wickedness is great which you have done in the sight of the Lord and asking for a king, for yourself a king.

38:01

So Samuel called upon the Lord and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day and all the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel. And all the people said to Samuel, pray for your servants that to the Lord, your God that we may not die, for we have added to all our sins this evil to ask for a king over ourselves.

38:29

And Samuel said to the people, do not be afraid, you have done all this evil, yet do not turn aside from following the Lord but serve the Lord with all your heart and do not turn

aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver, for they are empty, for the Lord will not forsake his people, for his great namesake because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for himself.

38:59

Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you and I will instruct you in the good and right way, only fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your hearts, for consider what great things he has done for you.

39:21

But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away both you and your king. This is God's word, let's pray. Lord, I pray as we just look at this passage over the next few minutes that you will open it up to us, that we would see Christ here this morning.

39:45

We would be changed, we would be confronted, as Samuel here is clearly confronting rebellion and sin, that we would think honestly about this text and be changed by it today. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.

40:04

I have three points today that I want to cover. Point one, we're starting is the first five verses. It's the integrity of Samuel's leadership. Samuel's doing something a little tricky here, right? He kind of corners the people.

40:22

He goes, okay, you demanded a king over yourself, but let's look at actually the leadership you just, you're leaving for the leadership you're going into. He says, Samuel, Samuel said to Israel, behold, I've obeyed your voice and all that you said to me and I've made a king over you.

40:43

Now behold, the king walks before you. I'm old and gray. Verse 3, here I am. Testify against me before the Lord, before his oxen. Before his anointed. Whose ox have I taken? Or whose donkey have I taken?

40:56

Who have I defrauded? Right? He's basically putting himself out there as exhibit A saying, if you could bring a charge against me, do it. Do it. And the people respond with, we have nothing to bring against you.

41:19

Right now, if you remember back to chapter 8, verse 10, when the people are demanding a king, Samuel warned them. He says this in chapter 8, verse 10. So Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king for him.

41:36

He said, this will be the way of the king who reigns over you. He will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties and some to plow his ground and reap the harvest and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

42:04

He will take your daughters and your perfumer, to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olives and orchards and give them to his servants. He will take the 10th of your grain and your vineyards and give it to his officers and his servants.

42:24

He will take your male servants and female servants and the beasts of the young men and the, sorry, the best of your young men and your donkeys and put them to his work. He will take the 10th of your flocks and you shall be his slaves.

42:41

And in that day you will cry out because of your king whom you have chosen for yourself, but the Lord will not answer you on that day. But the people refused to hear the voice of Samuel. There's a contrast Samuel's doing here.

43:00

A kind of I told you so type message. Right? Samuel says, note this, I already said to you, what are the kings going to do? They're going to take, take, take. They're just going to take and in this chapter Samuel's saying, look, I've done none of that.

43:21

It was actually pretty good, wasn't it? And the people have to reply. Verse 4 and it says, you have not defrauded us or oppressed us or taken anything from any man's hand. And since Samuel reinforces it, verse 5, they said to them, the Lord has witnessed against you and is anointed his witness this day that you have not found anything in my hand.

43:45

They said he is witness. At one level, Samuel is telling the people to testify that under his leadership, things were pretty good and forcing them to say, yeah, they were pretty good. But Samuel's being tricky.

44:01

He's backing them into a corner and is about to drop a rebuke on them. His vindication as a righteous leader leads right into their condemnation in demanding a king for themselves. And then he now goes into a rebuke and this is kind of point two of the outline.

44:22

The repetition of Israel's failures. And that's what's happening here. And I want you to note verse 7, look at verse 7. He says this, now therefore stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds, the deeds of the Lord that he performed and the for you and your fathers.

44:49

Verse 24, for consider what great things he has done for you. He's calling the people first to remembrance of what the Lord has done. And in contrast, right, it's going to be, but look what you have done.

45:07

And there's another contrast as he's setting himself up in a leadership versus leadership type way. And what is and what's going to happen under Saul and the other kings to come in the future of the kings of Israel and what has happened under Samuel.

45:27

So, there's two levels of contrast, him versus Saul, God versus them. What was God doing? Well, God was faithful. What was Samuel doing? He was serving faithfully. What were the people doing? They were unfaithful, right?

45:46

What are the kings going to do? They're going to be unfaithful, right? And that's the kind of object lesson that is being put forward here. And to start, he starts with the Exodus. And what Samuel is going to point out is the recurring pattern that we have seen since the time of the Exodus through the judges and now here into the beginning of the kings.

46:14

And it's this, the people found themselves in bondage because they didn't do what the Lord had told them to do. They cry out to God because of their situation. The Lord provides a deliverer and sets them free.

46:28

The people didn't get themselves right back into bondage because they didn't do what the Lord told them to do. They cry out and the pattern repeats itself over and over, kind of ad nauseam. It's like, we're here again, like we're doing this again, right?

46:44

That's the drumbeat. You're like, stop, just somebody stop, right? Just listen to what God is saying. What Samuel is doing here is picking up on the contrast, this drumbeat of the people's failures in obeying God and His law and God's total faithfulness to His covenant promises.

47:10

So he's going to travel through the history of Israel beginning in Egypt. He highlights key points through the period of the judges, and I'm not going to go through all of those points today. That's your homework.

47:24

Read the Exodus event, read the Judges, and you'll see this repetition. And here's the heart of the matter. Look at verse 9. It says, but they forgot the Lord their God. They forgot the Lord their God.

47:43

That's the sin. Look at verse 10. The people say, we have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord. They forgot the Lord, they forsaken the Lord. That's it. That's the foundation. That's their failure.

48:01

They chose to regard God as irrelevant, inconvenient, troublesome. He got in the way of how the people wanted to live. They looked at their neighbors and thought, you know what? We want to party like them.

48:19

We want to have temples like them and do the things that they're doing in their temples. They stood, Israel stood as uncommon people. They stood out as God's people, and they said, no, we want to blend in like the other nations.

48:39

And Moses warned them in Deuteronomy chapter 8, verse 18, he says, you shall remember the Lord your God. For it is he who gives you power to get wealth that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers as it is this day.

48:56

And if you forget the Lord your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish. God is faithful to his word. He promised them. Verse 20, like the nations that the Lord makes to perish before you, so shall you perish because you would not obey the voice of the Lord your God.

49:28

You see, church, there is nothing new under the sun. The natural drift of our evil hearts is towards worldly things. It's away from the Lord. Our sinful nature pulls our affections away from God. And we slowly drift down the beach until we look up and we don't recognize where we're at because we've forgotten the Lord.

49:53

And one day we look up and we no longer recognize where we're at. It was true of Israel and hear this church, if we are not careful and we are not intentional as a church, it will happen to us as well.

50:09

If we are not watchful to remember the Lord, the Rock Community Church will become a building where people drive by one day and say, I think there was a church there at one time. Right, there's nothing new under the sun.

50:23

The natural bent of our hearts. It's towards that. We've seen this in recent days with the United Methodist Church. If you guys have been paying attention to any Christian news, they've declared themselves fully an apostate church.

50:39

Two weeks ago in their general conference, they voted 692 to 51. That's overwhelming to change their doctrinal stance for LGBTQ plus and gender identity to be a quote fully affirming denomination on every level.

50:57

The church of John Wesley, which was part of the holiness movement has now fully gone the way of the world. Loved ones, if our pastors aren't men standing behind a pulpit and unapologetically declaring the word of God to the people calling sin sin, our church will forget the Lord.

51:23

Mark Dever recently said this in a podcast. He says, if you are not willing to split a church over biblical truth, you are not ready to be a pastor. I thought, yep, that's true. One of the hardest things for a pastor to do is stand up at a pulpit and say, this is truth.

51:40

This is sin, this is error. Because we know the natural bent of all of our hearts is towards worldly things. And when you say that, you know what's gonna happen? People leave the church, they go. That was too rough, that was too mean.

52:02

I wonder how many people whispered in the Samuel's ear and said, just soften the language, Samuel. Just lighten up, cool down a little bit. Their forefather, well, they meant sin, they just made mistakes, right?

52:19

Like soften it. They meant, well, they had hearts of gold, right? And we try to soften the language and what does Samuel do? No, you forsook the Lord. This great evil, your wickedness has led you here.

52:36

And if you continue down this path, here's the promised outcome, you're gonna perish. You're gonna be taken into slavery. That's what happened here, church. We see this all the time. When we forget the Lord, the Rock Community Church forgets, thus saith the Lord.

53:00

And we turn to worldly evil things as the foundation of truth. We will cease to be a church. We will cease to be a church. Pray for your pastors, pray for our deacons, pray for the Bible teachers in this church that we would stand unapologetically upon God's word and not forget the standard of his truth.

53:29

Verse 6, and Samuel said to the people, the Lord is witness who appointed Moses and Aaron and brought your fathers up out of the land of Egypt. Now, ironically, where were the children of Israel supposed to be?

53:43

In Israel, in the promised land. Yeah, there was a famine, they had to go to Israel for relief, but they ended, or Egypt for relief, but they end up camping out there and they stay there. Right, and they find themselves in slavery.

54:00

Right, that's that start of this process. They find themselves in the land of Egypt. Now, therefore, stand still that I may plead with you before the Lord concerning all the righteous deeds of the Lord that he performed for you and your fathers.

54:15

When Jacob went into Egypt and the Egyptians oppressed them, then your fathers cried out to the Lord and the Lord sent Moses and Aaron. So they found themselves in hot water, they cry out to the Lord.

54:30

Finally, the Lord sends a deliverer, Aaron and Moses, who brought your fathers out of Egypt and made them dwell in this place. Verse 9, here's the tragedy, but they forgot the Lord, they're God. They forgot the Lord.

54:43

And he sold them into the hands to the hand of Sisera, the commander of the army of Hazor, and into the hand of the Philistines, and into the hand of the king of Moab. And they fought against them. And they, once again, cried out to the Lord and said, we have sinned because we have forsaken the Lord and have served the Baals and Ashtaroth.

55:03

But now deliver us out of the hand of our enemies that we may serve you. And the Lord sent Jerubbaal, and Barak, and Jephthah, now Samuel, and delivered you out of the hand of your enemies on every side, and you live safely.

55:20

And when you saw that Nahash, so this is the previous chapter, the king of the Ammonites, came against you. What should you have done, right? That's kind of the silent question here. What should you have done?

55:39

Well, you should have turned to God your king, but instead, what did you do? You said to me, Samuel, no, but a king shall reign over us when the Lord your God was king. That's the rebuke, right? He's like, you guys asked for this.

56:03

So when this king comes against us, what did you do? You asked for another king instead of looking to God as your king. And now behold the king whom you have chosen, for whom you have asked, behold, the Lord has set a king over you.

56:24

Verse 14, if, if you will fear the Lord and serve him and obey his voice and not rebel against the commandments of the Lord, and if both you and the king who reigns over you will follow the Lord your God, it will be well.

56:40

But if, here's the promise, if you will not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against his commandments of the Lord, the commandments of the Lord, then the hand of the Lord will be against you and your king.

56:52

And therefore stand still and see the great thing that the Lord will do before your eyes. Is it not the wheat harvest? Kind of a random, like, okay, that was random, right? That came out, and it's an arid time.

57:06

It's the dry season. Is it not the dry season? Is it not the time harvest today? I call upon the Lord that he may send thunder and rain. So it'd be like, hey, it's, you know, middle of August here in Orange County and there's snow on our mountains, right?

57:24

Like that's like, or on these hills behind us. That's kind of the parallel here. That would be what's happening here. And so I will call on the Lord that he may send thunder and rain. And you shall know and see that your wickedness is great, which you have done in the sight of the Lord in asking for yourself a king.

57:45

Why? Because you already had a king. You already had a king. And your continual sin is you keep rejecting him. So Samuel called upon the Lord and the Lord sent thunder and rain that day. The Lord supported.

58:05

The Lord confirmed Samuel's message that their wickedness and evil was great because they rejected him as king and they demanded a king to sit over them. And the people greatly feared the Lord and Samuel.

58:26

And we have a third and final point of plea for intervention, verse 19. And all the people said to Samuel, pray for your servants, right? Like is that, pray for us. Pray for his servants to the Lord.

58:39

Notice this, to the Lord, your God. It's like they're distancing themselves, right? Maybe in one sense, they recognize how we've failed greatly. We've sinned our wickedness is great. Would you pray to the Lord?

58:56

Clearly he's your God. He would become our God, right? Like that we may not die, that we may not die. There was that threat of death, the promise that they would perish in their sins, right? God is faithful to his promise.

59:15

What was the promise with Adam? The day you eat the fruit, you shall surely die. The grace in that event is they ate the fruit and what happened? They didn't die immediately. It would have been perfectly righteous and just for God to wipe them off the face of the earth and start over, but he didn't.

59:33

He extended grace and mercy. Why? Because he's gonna atone for their sins. But the wages of sin is death. That's the payment owed to sin. Pray for your servant, to the Lord your God, that we may not die.

59:54

For we have added to all our sins this evil, to ask for a king over ourselves. Now in one level, Israel is to be commended here. They got laid out, right? Samuel laid them out. It got confirmed by the Lord through thunder and rain, when it wasn't supposed to thunder

and rain, and God saying, yes, Samuel's message of your wickedness and evil is correct.

01:00:24

It is right. And instead of just leaving and being like, you know, that was a harsh thing you said there, Samuel. And I can't believe God, you know, God's a God of love. He would never tell us we did wrong.

01:00:39

What did they do? There's a repentance here. There's a recognition we have added to all our sins this evil, right? It's not, they're not sitting here going, okay, well, yeah, we recognize like we had no sins and this is our one sin.

01:01:00

No, we added to all of our sins this sin, right? They recognize who they are, church. There's not a one of us in here that are innocent. We're all guilty. We're all sinners. We're all on the same page.

01:01:22

That's who we are. You could get upset by that and that would be the wrong path to take because you will stand before God one day and you will perish. Or you recognize the truthfulness of who we all are and the holiness of who God is and His standards, not our standards, His standards.

01:01:47

We confess our sins. We have added to our sins every single day. Verse 20, and Samuel said to the people, do not be afraid. You have done all this evil, right? He doesn't coddle them. He doesn't try to pad their emotions.

01:02:11

Yes, you've done this evil. This was sin. Let's call sin sin. You've done this evil and here's grace, right? We have law. We have gospel. You have done this evil. The law calls evil evil. The law calls rebellion rebellion.

01:02:32

You have done that. Let that sit there. But here's this. Here's the gospel. Here's the grace. Do not turn aside, verse 21, after empty things that cannot profit, hear this, or deliver. What did the people want and need?

01:02:52

Deliverance. Now, this is in the context of political deliverance and kings and wars and stuff like that, and that's the purpose of the history. What is their ultimate need? What is our ultimate need?

01:03:09

Deliverance. Deliverance from this present evil age. Deliverance from our wicked heart. Deliverance from the evil deeds we compound upon ourselves every single day. We need deliverance. So, do not turn aside after empty things that cannot profit or deliver.

01:03:24

They cannot, these false religions, these religious acts, whatever they might be, kings, political parties, all of those things, jobs, spouses, kids, whatever we fill in the... They won't deliver you.

01:03:39

They won't satisfy you. They're going to leave you wanting. For they are empty. Verse 22, for the Lord will not forsake His people, for His great name's sake. Because, here's the why, because it pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself.

01:04:02

Moreover, as for me, far be it for me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you, and I will instruct you in the good and right way. I will continue to serve as your prophet. Only, verse 24, only fear the Lord and serve Him faithfully with all your heart.

01:04:25

For consider what great things He has done for you. Look at the greatness of what God has accomplished for you. We have such a better historical perspective looking back through the cross. Consider church what great things God has accomplished for you.

01:04:42

Why would you serve idols? Why would you go after empty things that will not satisfy, that will not deliver, that will only compound evil? Why would you go after that? Those things are spent. Stop. Remember the Lord.

01:04:58

Remember the great things He's done. But if you still do wickedly, you will be swept away, both you and your King. Now I want to ask the question, what is the basis of Samuel saying, do not be afraid.

01:05:14

You have done this evil. Okay, so on one side, it's like a weird, I was wrestling, do not be afraid. You have done this evil. He affirms they're evil, but then He says, do not be afraid. Like that's a weird, what's the basis?

01:05:32

Why can't He say that? Well, He gives the answer in verse 22, did you catch it? For the Lord will not forsake His people. Why? Because they're a great and awesome people? No, no, nothing, none of that at all.

01:05:51

Why? For His great namesake, because it has pleased the Lord to make you a people for Himself. Why should you not fear? Why should you not fear? Church today, as we look through the cross, why do you not fear?

01:06:12

Because it pleased the Lord to atone for our sins. It pleased Him to save us, to call us, to elect us, to sanctify us, to please Him to glorify us. It pleases Him for His great namesake, because it pleases the Lord to make a people for Himself.

01:06:30

It is not, His confidence is not in the people's ability to do right. Continue to read the story. We see that, that goes, the people's ability to do right just instantly fails, right? It always does.

01:06:44

His confidence is not in their ability. There's zero confidence in the flesh, but on God's faithfulness to His promises. God completes what He begins. His grace is greater than their sins. His grace is greater than their sins.

01:07:04

Why do we sit here today fully assured that if we are in Christ and we die today, we go to heaven? It's because, is it because we're going to stand before Him on that, that, that day of judgment? I'm going to say, look at all the great things I did in, in my life.

01:07:22

No, it's not going to be any of that. None of those, none of those are going to count for our justification at all. We're going to stand before Him, and our, our mediator, our great high priest is going to look and say, the only reason they could stand here today is because they're clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

01:07:47

That's it. That's it. You have nothing to bring. You have nothing to bring. Don't cling. Even your good works are empty things that will not deliver you. That's why the reformers said, grace alone, and faith alone, and Christ alone.

01:08:07

It's the drumbeat of alone. It is Christ and Christ only. Only these kings, these prophets, or these priests, they will fail you. Pastors will fail you. The people in the pews next to you will fail you.

01:08:23

We're people. We're going to offend each other, right? If your faith is, is here, that's in the wrong place. When you stand before Him, you're clothed in the righteousness of Christ if you're in Him.

01:08:37

No other righteousness will count. Right, so we see here, Samuel ends in that gospel truth, for the Lord will not forsake His people for His great name's sake, because it pleased Him, pleased the Lord, to make you a people for Himself.

01:08:56

And so, beloved, as we approach the tables of communion this morning, on the night that Jesus was betrayed, He was betrayed. He took the bread. He took the cup. He extended that promise that Jeremiah talked for.

01:09:13

You see, these people, they had hard hearts, right? They were looking for salvation in all the things that could not save. And He finally, Christ on that night, He says, here it is. Look to the cross. Take the bread.

01:09:31

Take the cup. This is my body. This is my blood shed for you. This is the blood of the new covenant, this new promise, in His blood that was shed. If you're in Christ, that was shed for you, for the full and complete and final and total atonement for your sins.

01:09:53

So as you approach this table in one sense, Jesus says, for as often as you eat and drink, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes. So we're reaching back to the cross on one hand, on the other hand, we're reaching forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb, that day where we sit in glory with Him and we feast in the new heavens and new earth in perfect glory with no sin, no death, no tears.

01:10:17

That's our privilege this morning as we approach these tables. This is not for unsaved. If you don't know Christ here today, this is not for you. I do not invite you to partake of these because it says you are heaping judgment upon yourself.

01:10:34

This is for believers. This is for members of the Rock. You're visiting with us and you're an active member of another church, you're welcome to partake in fellowship with us. If you've sinned today, which all of us have, confess your sin and approach these tables with boldness and confidence, not in you, but in Christ and partake and enter into that fellowship with Him and with each other.

01:11:01

Amen? Let me pray. What a precious reality we have as we look back at these stories of our failures. In one sense, we're like, we want to shake Israel and be like, are you kidding me? But lest we be arrogant and think we're any different, we would have done exactly the same.

01:11:28

All of us are broken, leaky vessels, people in need of grace. I pray that we would now be people who cling to the cross, cling to the righteousness of Christ. We don't put our faith and our hope in empty things that cannot deliver.

01:11:48

But we put our confidence in the finished work of Christ, our great high priest who ever lives to make intercession for us, the King of Kings, the one who right now sits upon the throne of David in heaven, ruling and reigning in absolute authority until your enemies are made your footstool.

01:12:10

We have a King, and He is the King of Kings. And in that confidence, I pray that we would approach these tables, approach fellowship this morning, and walk rightly before you. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.