

Adding Sin Upon Sin

1 Samuel 12 (text: v. 19)

This is Samuel's "swan song." He is stepping aside to pass the leadership of the nation to the new King, Saul.

The **essence of his message**: "You wanted a King, now you got one. He's your problem now!"

➡ Israel eventually admits it's sin (v. 19). Up to this point they've been adding sin upon sin.

1. Israel forgets God (v. 9).
2. Israel forsakes God (v. 10)
3. Israel serves Baalim (v. 10).
4. Israel again rejects God and desires a human King (vs. 12, 17). This was adding sin on top of sin.

➡ Sins do not stand alone. When one sin is committed it generally requires others to cover the first one and carry it out.

ILLUS—Adam and Eve: (1) They sinned taking the forbidden fruit. (2) They tried to cover their sin with another sin (fig leaves). (3) Then to top it off they added the sin of blaming the other for their sin (failed to take responsibility for their actions)!

Sinning leads to more sinning (cf. 2 Chron. 28:10-13; Job 34:37; Isa. 30:1). A second sin is easier to commit than the first sin. And it gets easier the next time and so forth.

- Missing church
- Pornography
- Fornication
- Drugs

Notice the **three-fold progression of Israel's sinfulness**:

I. Discontent with Samuel's FAULTLESS administration (12:1-5).

- A. No one could find fault in Samuel—A man of integrity. He maintained a "clear conscience" (cf. Acts 24:16; 1 Tim. 1:19). His life was an "open book."

1. He did not use extortion.
 2. He never defrauded anyone.
 3. He was not oppressive.
 4. He could not be "brought" or bribed.
 5. He was willing to make restitution if he wronged anyone.
- B. "*Here I am...*" (v. 3). Could you challenge people to scrutinize your life without anyone being able to witness against you?
- C. Verse 7— By reminding the people that his life was above reproach, he was assuring them that **he could be trusted to tell the truth.**

II. **Disregard of God's FAITHFUL acts** (12:8-13).

➡ Samuel rehearses God's faithful dealings with Israel to point out their wickedness in preferring a human king over God.

- A. Delivered Israel from Egypt (v. 8).
- B. He chastened them when they forgot the Lord (v. 9).
- C. Answered their prayers for deliverance (vs. 10-11).
- D. He gave them their request for a King (vs. 12-13).
 - ➡ "*Behold the king whom YE HAVE CHOSEN...*" Samuel throws the whole burden of responsibility on them! It was not his idea to have a King!

III. **Discarding of God's FEARFUL admonition** (12:14-25).

➡ Verse 14—Samuel places before the people two courses. There was no middle ground. They could not be neutral.

- (1) They could choose to obey and serve God. If they did they would be blessed.
- (2) Or, (v. 15) they could rebel against God and God would in turn be against them.

A. The SERMON (vs. 16-19). Samuel literally, "**preached up a storm!**"

1. To prove that Israel's demand for a king displeased God, Samuel prays for God to answer by sending thunder and rain. Samuel's prayer was, in effect, "Lord, show these people that

You're not happy with the way they've handled this king business.

2. "Rain in time of harvest ruins the harvest.
3. The storm was God saying, "*Amen*" to Samuel's message!
4. The storm wakes the children of Israel up!
 - ➡ Sometimes God must send a storm into our lives to get our attention and bring us to our senses!

B. The CONFESSION (v. 19).

C. The ADMONITION (vs. 20-21).

1. Samuel made it clear that they had sinned, but now that was over and forgiven. They had the King they wanted and now they needed to make the best of it.
2. Verse 21— Beware of getting "side-tracked" or distracted.
 - a. The church at Ephesus left it's first love (Rev. 2:4).
 - b. Demas forsook the Lord, "*having loved this present world*" (2 Tim. 4:10).
 - c. Solomon's heart was turned away from the Lord by his many wives (1 Kings. 11:4).
 - d. The Galatians were tripped-up by false doctrine (Gal. 3:1-3; 4:9; 5:7).

D. The PROMISE (v. 22).

E. The EXAMPLE—Samuel exemplifies **SIX CHARACTERISTICS OF A GOOD PASTOR:**

1. Integrity (vs. 3-4). A role model.
2. Prays for his people (v. 23).
3. Teaches them the right way to go (v. 23).
4. Admonishes them to fear the Lord (v. 24).
5. Exhorts them to stop and consider God's goodness in our lives (v. 24).
6. Warns them of the consequences of wickedness (v. 25).