

For the sake of His Great Name (1 Samuel 12:1-25 & John 17:6-12)

19-May-19

Please have your Bibles open at 1 Samuel chapter 12 - as we continue the story of the prophet Samuel and the new King of Israel, King Saul.

There's the usual outline for you to jot down notes if you wish.

Let me ask God for His understanding, before we begin

Let's pray...

Intro/Having a good name

[PowerPoint 1-Heading]

- When we say someone has a good name
- We're not just talking about their actual name - but their reputation, their character and their integrity

So, when we think of say:

- Queen Elizabeth - what would we say about her name?
- Or Bob Hawke who passed away recently - what would we say about his name?
- Or Nelson Mandela?
- Or Ghandi?

As you know, a few of us in our church family - went on the Ceilidh this week

And we stopped at a few places - that have a good name

- Blaxland in the Blue Mountains
- Mudgee?
- Gilgandra?

What about God's name?

When God spoke to Moses from inside a burning bush and Moses asked God what His name was, God replied in Exodus 3:14

[PowerPoint 1a-I AM]

"I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

God was basically saying - I am the one and only true God - The ONE who is and always has been - the ONE who created everything

There's no greater name than - I AM.

From that phrase I AM

We get God's name in Hebrew Y-H-W-H - from Hebrew letters - yod, hey, waw, hey (YHVH)

God's name is so important to the Jews that in case the Jews accidentally blasphemed - they stopped saying YHWH and said Adonai instead - which means LORD

When we see LORD in capitals in our English OT - this is the Hebrew word YHWH

Later on, vowels were added to get YaHWeH

And in some Bibles, y was changed to J - and W changed to v - and the vowels change to get JeHoVaH

The reason for telling you all this is because in our OT passage from 1 Samuel 12 [which you can turn to now]

The key verse is verse 22

For the sake of His great name the LORD will not reject his people,

Here - God basically swears by His own name not to reject His people

God's great name and reputation - are paramount to Him.

He is completely Holy and perfect - and He always keeps His promises

He is unchanging - the same, yesterday, today and forever!

Now, in our OT passage today - Samuel the Prophet - having now installed

Israel's first king - Samuel now makes a farewell speech

And Samuel is very much wanting to make sure He leaves his office as Israel's leader - with a *good name - and a good reputation*

Here's what I (Samuel) have done (1 Samuel 12:1-5)

So, in Samuel's farewell speech to the people of Israel, in verses 1 to 5 -

Samuel spells out what he has done

[PowerPoint 2a-Samuel]

- Samuel makes it clear it wasn't his idea for them to have a king - he listened to the people and gave them a king
- He explains he's old and grey
- And Samuel mentions his sons are here with the people - showing the people that his sons are not standing with him as leaders - because Samuel didn't allow his sons to serve as leaders - because they were corrupt
- Samuel asks

- Have I cheated anyone?
- Have I oppressed anyone?
- Have I accepted a bribe from anyone?
- He says, if he has - he'll make it right
- The people agree Samuel hasn't done any of these things
- Samuel says - even the Lord God is a witness to his integrity - we hear people say that don't we "As God is my witness - I haven't done that xyz!"
- The people also agree that God has witnessed Samuel's faithfulness in ministry
- Samuel knew that the time was right for him to step aside and let the new king - Saul - take over the leadership
- Sometimes we need to recognize the time is right of us to step aside and let someone else take over - don't we?
- Samuel has left a great legacy in his ministry to the people

[PowerPoint 2b-legacy?]

A Challenge for us: If we were to assess our legacy right now - How would we stack up? Are we leaving a good legacy?

Are we people of integrity?

Would people say, we served well?

Would people say, we were loving, caring, faithful, honest and loyal?

Would people say, we were Godly?

Would people say, we were Jesus people?

Is there something we need to repent of?

(pause)

Then Samuel reflects on what the people have done in response to God's faithfulness to them in verses 6 to 12

Here's what you have done (1 Samuel 12:6-12)

Samuel says:

[PowerPoint 3a-What you have done]

- In the past God appointed Moses and Aaron as their leaders
- God brought them out of slavery in Egypt and into the Promised Land
- But the people gave up on God and disobeyed Him
- And so, they had trouble from the surrounding nations
 - Trouble from - Sisera - the commander of the army of Hazor
 - Trouble from - The Philistines
 - Trouble from - The King of Moab
- They worshipped false gods - like Baal and Ashtoreth
- They cried out to God in repentance
- And God sent them judges like Jerub-baal (aka Gideon), Barak, Jephthah, and Samuel and they were delivered from their enemies
- But this proof of God's faithfulness wasn't enough for the people
- So, in v12 - when they saw Nahash the Ammonite king - threatening them - they asked for a King like the other nations - even though the Lord God was their King

[PowerPoint 3b-challenge]

Challenge: If we were to assess our lives right now - is God truly our King? Or do we have other kings of our lives? Ourselves? Our spouses? Our family? Our wealth? Our possessions?

(pause)

Here's where we are now (1 Samuel 12:13-18)

So, Samuel says to the people, here's where we are now - in vv13-18

[PowerPoint 4a-Now]

- God has given you a king as you asked for
- You have two choices (2 ways to live)
 - **God's Way** - Fear the Lord and serve and obey Him and do not rebel against his commands - and both the people and the king following God
 - **Or the World's way** - Disobey the Lord and rebel against his commands - and God's hand will be against you and your ancestors
- Samuel calls on God to give a sign of thunder and rain to show the people their wickedness in asking for a king - this sign shows God's power and judgment. Demonstrating that heavy rain and a thunderstorm could destroy all their crops - if God so wished
- The people stood in awe when they saw the thunderstorm and God's power demonstrated

[PowerPoint 4b-Challenge]

Challenge: Where are we right now? Which road are we heading down? There are 2 ways to live - God's way or the World's way? Which way are we going?

(pause)

So, having seen what Samuel has done - and what the people have done - and where the people are now with the king, they asked for

How will the people respond?

That's in verses 19 to 25...

How will they respond? (1 Samuel 12:19-25)

[PowerPoint 5a-respond]

- The people respond by asking Samuel to pray for them that they won't die for asking for a king
- Samuel replies - even though they have done evil - it's not too late for them to turn to the Lord and serve Him with all their heart - and not to turn to useless idols, who can't rescue them - only God can do that
- Samuel promises that God will not reject His people for the sake of His great name! (Key verse - v22)
- God's reputation, integrity and character means He will not totally reject His people - He will rescue them
- But they are warned to respond by fearing the Lord and serving Him faithfully - considering what great things He has done
- Otherwise they will perish and so will their king
- So, Samuel prays for the people

[Powerpoint 5b-Challenge]

Challenge: It's not too late to turn back to God. We're never too bad that God won't accept our sincere sorry and allow us to come back to Him

Just like there are 2 ways to live - they are 2 destinations - follow God to eternal life (Heaven) or reject God and perish (Hell)

Fast forward to Jesus' time and our NT passage from John 17:6-12

Like Samuel prayed for the people, Jesus prays for His disciples

Jesus prays for His disciples (John 17:6-12)

Jesus' prayer is wonderful

[PowerPoint 6-Jesus prays]

- He says God the Father has given Jesus the Son, disciples from the world
- He says He has *not only spoken about God's name* (reputation) to these disciples - but *He has also revealed God's name* (reputation) to the people God the Father has given Him - by His amazing teaching and by His miracles
- And they have obeyed the Word of God and believed
- They know and believe everything Jesus has taught them
- Jesus tells them that He will be going to the Father
- And He prays and asks for protection for His disciples - by the POWER of God's Name (I AM) - the name that Jesus also has (You see Jesus claimed to be God [and is God] too - He claimed to have the name I AM too - in John 8:58 Jesus says "Very truly I tell you,"..."before Abraham was born, I am!"

- Jesus prays - that none of the people the Father has given Jesus - the Son - will be lost - because they have been kept safe and protected - by God's wonderful NAME - I AM

[Powerpoint 6b-Challenge]

Challenge: Are we hanging onto the promise of protection in the name of I AM
Are we acknowledging there's no other way to be saved for Heaven - than by the name - I AM - as Acts 4:12 says:

Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved."

Conclusion

[PowerPoint 7-Heading]

To finish up then:

How is it possible for God to not reject His people (as our key verse from 1 Samuel 12:22 says) - even though His people sin and fall short of His perfect standards?

Well...

[PowerPoint 7a-God will not reject]

When Jesus hung on that cruel cross at Calvary - Jesus cried out "My God, My God, why have you forsaken (rejected me)" (in Matthew 27:46 quoting from Psalm 22:1)

At that point - God the Father turned His back on His Son [rejecting His Son] - and the Father allowed His anger for the sin of the world - to be poured out on His Beloved Son

So, returning to that key verse in 1 Samuel 12 - verse 22

The Bottom line is: God will not reject His people - because He already rejected His Son on the cross - so that His people - who believe in Him - could be forgiven and go free

So, as we leave here, today

Let us reflect - on God's Holy name - I AM - YHWH - and reflect on His love for us - and reflect on His Son's Great Name - who's also called I AM - and reflect on Jesus' blood poured out as a sacrifice for our sin - ***all for the sake of His great name*** - the only name under Heaven by which we can be saved!

Jesus has a great name and a reputation - second to none!

Let's pray...