

## SUMMARY AND REVIEW

Take 5-10 minutes to discuss this week's sermon, *Better Call Saul*, 1 Samuel 12:13-25.

**READ** 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 8:6-22; and 12:13-25

### INTRO TO THE TEXT:

Samuel was a priest, a prophet and the last judge of Israel. In this passage, the author transcribes Samuel's farewell address to the Israelites. It isn't a true farewell, but rather a farewell to the time of judges. Samuel was a political instrument, largely used within the community to establish the monarchy – he was a kingmaker of sorts, as directed by God. This speech marks the official transition from judges to kings, albeit somewhat begrudgingly, and it continues previous warnings by Samuel, with stronger language than previously used, as if Samuel knew that the appointment of a king would mark the exacerbation of a deep sin.

Earlier, Samuel warned the Israelites concerning the realization of their demands for a king, specifically warning against a king that “will reign over you” for his own interests instead of for the kingdom of God (1 Sam. 8:10-18).

The Israelites are in the midst of their biggest downfall – disobedience through idolatry and lack of faith. Samuel begins his speech by curating the Israelites through their history of lack of faith in God. Starting with Moses and Aaron, on to Jephthah and Samuel himself (1 Sam. 12:6-11). Back and forth the Israelites go, forgetting their God, worshipping their military commanders or other leaders, then when that leader lets them down, they come back to God, admitting their sin and begging for deliverance. It's almost as if Samuel is attempting to let the Israelites know their request for a king (which is being granted) will *not* change their circumstances *unless* they worship and obey God. Samuel's warnings remind us of Moses' warnings to his generation in Deuteronomy.

Samuel's key points lie in verses 14 and 15, reminding the people that if they recognize (1) that God is and will always be their true king, and (2) that they must obey him accordingly, then “it will be well.”

**RE-READ** 1 Samuel 7:3-4; 8:6-22; and 12:13-25

### ANALYZE THE TEXT

1. What are the things that, according to Samuel in his speech, the Israelites are not understanding or doing that prevent them from a proper standing towards God? Is there a pattern? (Hint: 1 Sam. 8:8-9; 12:9-12)
2. What do you think the purpose of the kings are to the Israelites? Relative to their spiritual and emotional state of mind, why do you think the Israelites keep asking for leaders, judges and kings?
3. What is the significance of this transition from judges to kings?

**APPLY** *Break up into separate groups of men and women for the application.*

1. What “kings” have you asked for in your life? Do you rely on someone to make everything okay, give you peace, or be your “rock?” Is that person an unhealthy idol? Consider that not every idol is as obvious as a king.
2. Where do you see our city and/or culture wishing for some “king” to provide safety, providence and peace? How would you create awareness that such a desire competes with God's will?

**MEMORIZE** 1 Samuel 12:14-15