

Here I Am
I Am With You – Samuel 12
Pastor Tim Layfield | March 30, 2025

Thread: How we live our life determines the story we tell. So, let's live well!

A Life Centered & Seated in the Will of God

1. Walk with INTEGRITY. (vs. 1-5)

“Then Samuel addressed all Israel: ‘I have done as you asked and given you a king. Your king is now your leader. I stand here before you – an old, gray-haired man – and my sons serve you. I have served as your leader from the time I was a boy to this very day. Now testify against me in the presence of the Lord and before his anointed one. Whose ox or donkey have I stolen? Have I ever cheated any of you? Have I ever oppressed you? Have I ever taken a bribe and perverted justice? Tell me and I will make right whatever I have done wrong.’ ‘No,’ they replied, ‘you have never cheated or oppressed us, and you have never taken even a single bribe.’ ‘The Lord and his anointed one are my witnesses today,’ Samuel declared, ‘that my hands are clean.’ ‘Yes, he is a witness,’ they replied.” **1 Samuel 12:1-5 NLT**

- Be a trusted witness to others about the heart of God. (His story)
- Be a trusted witness to the story you are telling with your life. (Your part in His story)

2. Be FAITHFUL because God is faithful to you. (vs. 6-11)

“It was the Lord who appointed Moses and Aaron,’ Samuel continued. ‘He brought your ancestors out of the land of Egypt. Now stand here quietly before the Lord as I remind you of all the great things the Lord has done for you and your ancestors. When the Israelites were in Egypt and cried out to the Lord, he sent Moses and Aaron to rescue them from Egypt and to bring them into this land. But the people soon forgot about the Lord their God, so he handed them over to Sisera, the commander of Hazor’s army, and also to the Philistines and to the king of Moab, who fought against them. Then they cried to the Lord again and confessed, ‘We have sinned by turning away from the Lord and worshiping the images of Baal and Ashtoreth. But we will worship you and you alone if you will rescue us from our enemies.’ Then the Lord sent Gideon, Bedan, Jephthah, and Samuel to save you, and you lived in safety.” **1 Samuel 12:6-11 NLT**

- Lean into the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Lean into the trusted character of God.
- Lean into the perfect will of God.

3. TRUST in God alone. (vs. 12)

“But when you were afraid of Nahash, the king of Ammon, you came to me and said that you wanted a king to reign over you, even though the Lord your God was already your king.” 1 Samuel 12:12 NLT

“Where we place our trust is what we become obedient to.”

4. Be OBEDIENT to the WORD and WILL of God. (vs. 13-15)

“All right, here is the king you have chosen. You asked for him, and the Lord has granted your request. Now if you fear and worship the Lord and listen to his voice, and if you do not rebel against the Lord’s commands, then both you and your king will show that you recognize the Lord as your God. But if you rebel against the Lord’s commands and refuse to listen to him, then his hand will be as heavy upon you as it was upon your ancestors.” 1 Samuel 12:13-15 NLT

- Following God’s plan will reap a harvest of positive, long-term benefits.
- Disobedience to God’s revealed instruction will lead us to bondage and destruction.

5. Be MERCIFUL and FORGIVING as God is to you. (vs. 20-22)

“Don’t be afraid,’ Samuel reassured them. ‘You have certainly done wrong, but make sure now that you worship the Lord with all your heart, and don’t turn your back on him. Don’t go back to worshiping worthless idols that cannot help or rescue you – they are totally useless! The Lord will not abandon his people, because that would dishonor his great name. For it has pleased the Lord to make you his very own people.’” 1 Samuel 12:20-22 NLT

6. PRAY without ceasing. (vs. 25)

“As for me, I will certainly not sin against the Lord by ending my prayers for you.” 1 Samuel 12:23a NLT

Samuel’s Final Encouragement

“I will continue to teach you what is good and right. But be sure to fear the Lord and faithfully serve him. Think of all the wonderful things he has done for you.” 1 Samuel 12:23b-24 NLT

- Fear the Lord – hate what is evil – cling to what is good (of God), walk in integrity and holiness.
- Faithfully serve God – obedience to His Word, be merciful and forgiving.
- Always remember all that God has done for you.

Challenge:

- What’s the long view of your life looking like?
- Is the story you are writing with your life reflecting a life of integrity, faithfulness, trust, mercy, forgiveness, obedience and prayer?
- What steps can you take this week to begin living out these practices? (Don’t get overwhelmed. Start with one or two.)

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