

Lesson 5 – July 3

1 Samuel 12:1-25

FEARED



LORD Sees the Heart



FBC Woodville
Sunday School Class
Michael G. Maness
see
PreciousHeart.net/SS



1 Samuel

1.	June 5	Answered!	1-2	Hannah Prays, Vows, Samuel Born
2.	June 12	Called	3	Boy Samuel Clearly God Called
3.	June 19	Worthy!	4-7	Philistines Take Ark ... oooops!
4.	June 26	King?	8-11	Israel, "Give us a King!"
5.	<i>July 3</i>	<i>Feared</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>Thunder and Rain ... to Obey?</i>
6.	July 10	Judged	13-15	Samuel Regrets, Rejects King Saul
7.	July 17	Anointed!	16	David Anointed—Lord sees the heart
8.	July 24	Delivered	17	David Whips Goliath
9.	July 31	Faithful	18-20	David and Jonathan's Loyalty
10.	Aug. 7	Blinded	21-23	Saul Pursues David & Followers
11.	Aug. 14	Protected	24-25	Abigail's Wisdom Saves Home
12.	Aug. 21	Respect	26-29	David Spares King Saul's Life II
13.	Aug. 28	Victory	30-31	David Pursues Raiders & Saul Killed

1 Samuel 12:1-25

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1 Samuel 12:1-25

Lesson Author's Theme

**God's character and power
demand reverential fear.**

- 12:1-11* *Samuel's One-Two Punch – Integrity vs. History*
- 12:12-15** **Covenant Revisited – Follow the Lord or ELSE!**
- 12:16-18** **Sign Delivered – Rain & Thunder on Call**
- 12:19-22** **God's Mercy and Grace – Lord Will Not Reject**
- 12:23-25* *Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord*

**Samuel kept his vow to God
and encouraged Israel to keep their vow**

1 Samuel

Alternative Title

Fear the Lord

Forget Not what God Has Done

in Unconditional Love



1 Samuel

Start with FEAR

End with LOVE



1 Samuel

Key Verse 12:24

But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you.



What great things?

God kept His promises, His word to Israel to us, too, in Christ ... and shall to the end

All in Love



1 Samuel

Really ... it is all about



LOVE



From beginning to end ... and forever after—*LOVE*
Just harder to see in the O.T. . . . and see today

12:1-11 Samuel's One-Two Punch—Integrity v. History

ONE Punch – Samuel's Integrity

¹ Samuel – “I have listened ... and set a king over you.

How important is LISTENING in God's Kingdom?

² Now you have a king... I am old, gray, and ... leader from my youth.

³ Here I stand. Testify against me in the presence of the LORD and his anointed. Whose ox ... donkey...? **Whom have I cheated? ... or taken a bribe to make me shut my eyes?**

⁴ “**You have not cheated or oppressed us,**” they replied. “You have not taken anything from anyone's hand.”

⁵ Samuel said, “The LORD is witness against you, and his anointed is witness this day, that **you have not found anything in my hand.**”

“He (Saul) is witness,” they said.

12:1-11 Samuel's One-Two Punch—Integrity v. History

ONE Punch – Samuel's Integrity

In so many ways, what did Samuel say?

I was as honorable as I could be!

I kept my vows and oaths to God—every one!

I kept my oath and word to you—every one!

**After all these decades, if there is ONE
to accuse me—step forward NOW!**



Then Samuel turns to Israel

I'll tell you – Oh Israel – what YOU did

12:1-11 Samuel's One-Two Punch—Integrity v. History

TWO Punch – Their History

⁶ Samuel – “LORD appointed Moses and Aaron ... up out of Egypt.

⁷ Now ... I confront you with evidence before the LORD as to all the **righteous acts performed by the LORD for you and your ancestors.**

⁸ “Jacob entered Egypt, they cried to the LORD for help, and the LORD sent Moses and Aaron ... out of Egypt and settled ...

⁹ “**They forgot the LORD** ... Habor ... Philistines ... king of Moab.

You – Oh Israel – *FAILED* to keep your word, your oath!



¹⁰ **Cried out to the LORD**, ‘We have sinned; we have forsaken the LORD and served the Baals and the Ashtoreths.... Deliver us

¹¹ Then the LORD sent Jerub-Baal (Gideon), Barak, Jephthah and Samuel ... delivered you from your enemies, **so that you lived in safety.**

12:1-11 Samuel's One-Two Punch—Integrity v. History

TWO Punch – Their History

In so many ways

Israel did NOT keep its oath to God

Did NOT keep its word to God



Samuel's Last Judgment on Israel is

Keep Your Word to God



12:1-11 Samuel's One-Two Punch—Integrity v. History

George Santayana (1863-1952), atheist who valued Roman Catholicism, a respected American man of letters, a philosopher and essayist, in his five-volume

The Life of Reason: Phases of Human Conduct (1905)

**“Those who cannot remember the past
are condemned to repeat it.”**

too often that is true

btw
Winston Churchill
did not say it

For Israel, it seems *in spite* of remembering
they **STILL** repeated their past ... *pitiful!*

Where Was Samuel?

Gilgal or Ramah

Or does it even matter?

- After Chap. 11, at Gilgal?

- At his home in Ramah?

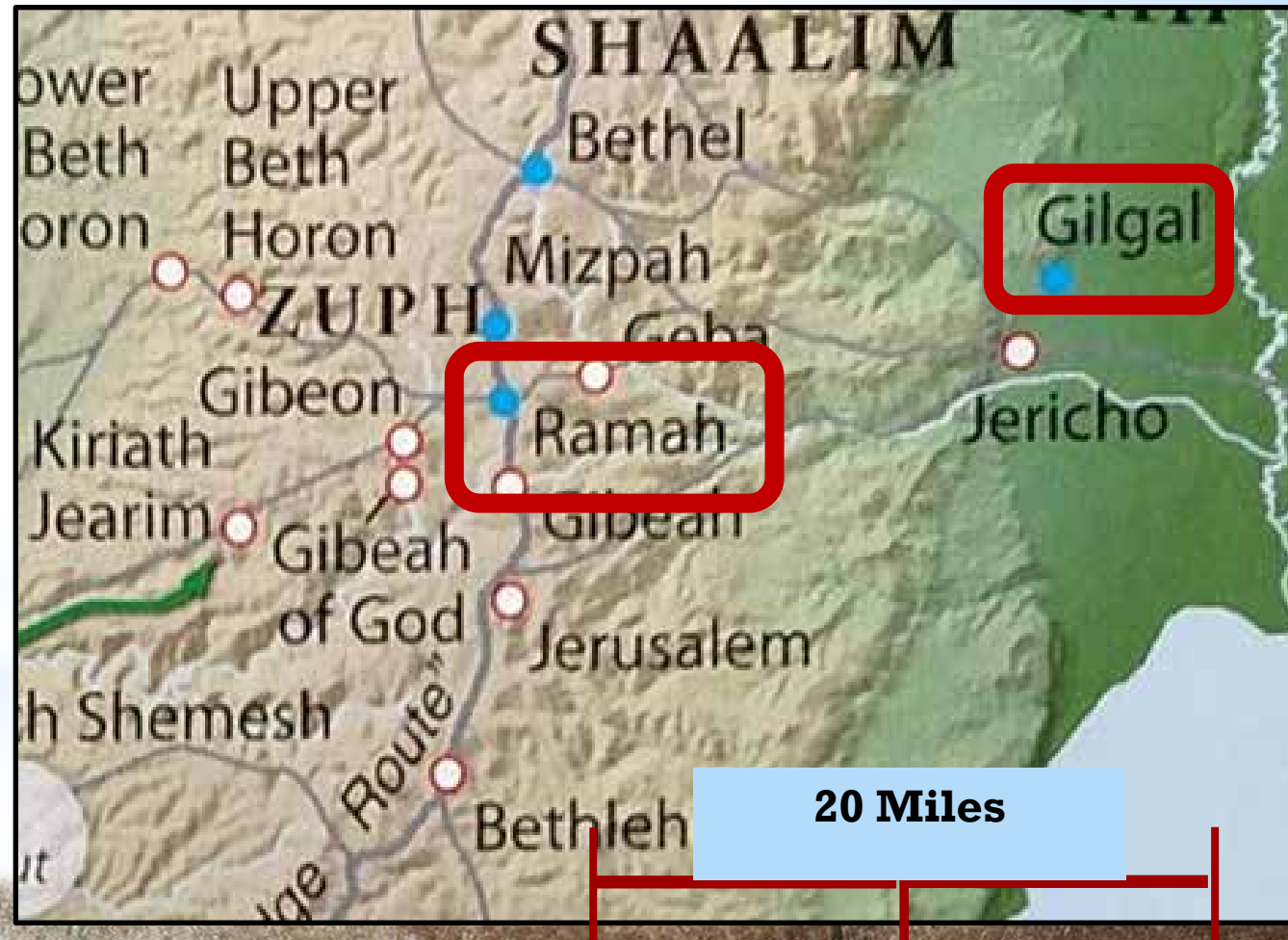
Seems it was at **Gilgal** right after celebration

b t w

Gilgal means “rolling”

Abraham made altar at **Gilgal**

Samuel sacrificed at **Gilgal** after Shiloh destroyed



Gilgal

Gilgal – Northeast of Jericho

Joshua 4:7 “flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD”

Joshua 4:20 – Joshua set up 12 stones to mark where they crossed Jordan

4:14 – That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses.

2 Kings 2:1 – When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven in a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way *from Gilgal*.

(on way to Bethel)





מחנה גלגל
GILGAL CAMP
مخيم الغلجل

1000 1000 1000

12:12-15 Covenant Revisited

History Lesson Continues on Gilgal

Follow the Lord or ELSE!

12:12 “But when you saw that Nahash king of the Ammonites was moving against you, you said to me, ‘No, we want a king to rule over us’—even though the LORD your God was your king.

What? . . .

Even though the Lord your God was your king!

Goodness ... how painful it must have been for Samuel to say that!

Have you had to say something painful?

Just because it HAD to be said?

12:12-15 Covenant Revisited

History Lesson Continues

Follow the Lord or ELSE!

¹³ Now here is the king you have chosen, the one you asked for; see, the LORD has set a king over you.

¹⁴ If you fear the LORD and serve and obey him and do not rebel against his commands, and if both you and the king who reigns over you follow the LORD your God—good!

¹⁵ But if you do not obey the LORD, and if you rebel against his commands, his hand will be against you, as it was against your ancestors.



David and Saul
by Ernst Josephson, 1878

12:12-15 Covenant Revisited

Covenant Revisited

COVENANT:
Mutual Agreement

Joshua 24 – Compare to Joshua’s farewell at Shechem, dying at 110 yrs

**24:25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, ...
reaffirmed for them decrees and laws.**

**24:26 Joshua recorded these in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a
large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD.**

Covenant Characteristics

- ✓ **Review of History of Abraham and Moses to present**
- ✓ **Obligation to Yahweh**
- ✓ **Blessings and Curses**
- ✓ **Sign of some kind**

- ü ***SOME*** say 1 Samuel 12 NOT a covenant renewal, but similar and more like Samuel justifying his actions
- ü **My opinion, don’t have to use “covenant” for a “covenant” to exist**
- ü ***Here ... let’s shake on it !!!***

12:12-15 Covenant Revisited

Covenants of Past

Keeping One's Word in 1000 B.C.

Origins of word "Covenant" – not certain, but likely "fetter" or "binding"

- ✓ Confirmed with an oath
- ✓ Confirmed with a solemn meal
- ✓ Confirmed with a sacrifice

Various Types of Covenants

- ✓ Between individuals
- ✓ Between states
- ✓ Between kings & subjects
- ✓ Between husband & wife
- ✓ Figuratively between men & animals

Not always a Mutual Covenant

Between powerful & inferior, as one taking another under protection

as Ammon wanted with Jabesh Gilead

Saul fixed Ammon in battle from night to mid-day ... and was confirmed king

Please ... name some

To Our Family, Church, Country



Covenants of Today

We make many oaths or “covenants” today

Our Church Covenant

Preamble: Church Covenant is our voluntary agreement to conduct our lives to glorify and promote the ongoing ministry of our Lord Jesus Christ. The covenant outlines the obligations of Christian character of church unity and family.

We probably have one posted somewhere ... 1 page with 10-14 mutual commitments

Saw in a Google search one Independent Baptist Church's was 77 pages long ... haha ... *nuts*





12:12-15 Covenant Revisited

Covenant par Excellence

Keeping One's Word in 1000 B.C.

Between God and Israel –

- ✓ Exodus 19-24 – at Mt. Sinai
- ✓ Deuteronomy – Entire Book!

Between God and Abraham –

Gen. 15 – **Promise Land to Israel**

Gen. 17 – **Father of Many Nations**

Between God and David

II Sam. 7 – **House Endure Forever**

God's Covenants with Israel
were **OBLIGATORY**
must keep obligation to receive

God's Covenants to Abraham
and **David** are **PROMISARY**
obligation not required to receive
No Limit ... No Expiration

UNCONDITIONAL

Like our Salvation in Christ –
Born Again is *ETERNAL*

12:16-18 Sign Delivered

Rain & Thunder on Call

¹⁶ “Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes!

**¹⁷ Is it not wheat harvest now?
I will call on the LORD to send
thunder and rain.**

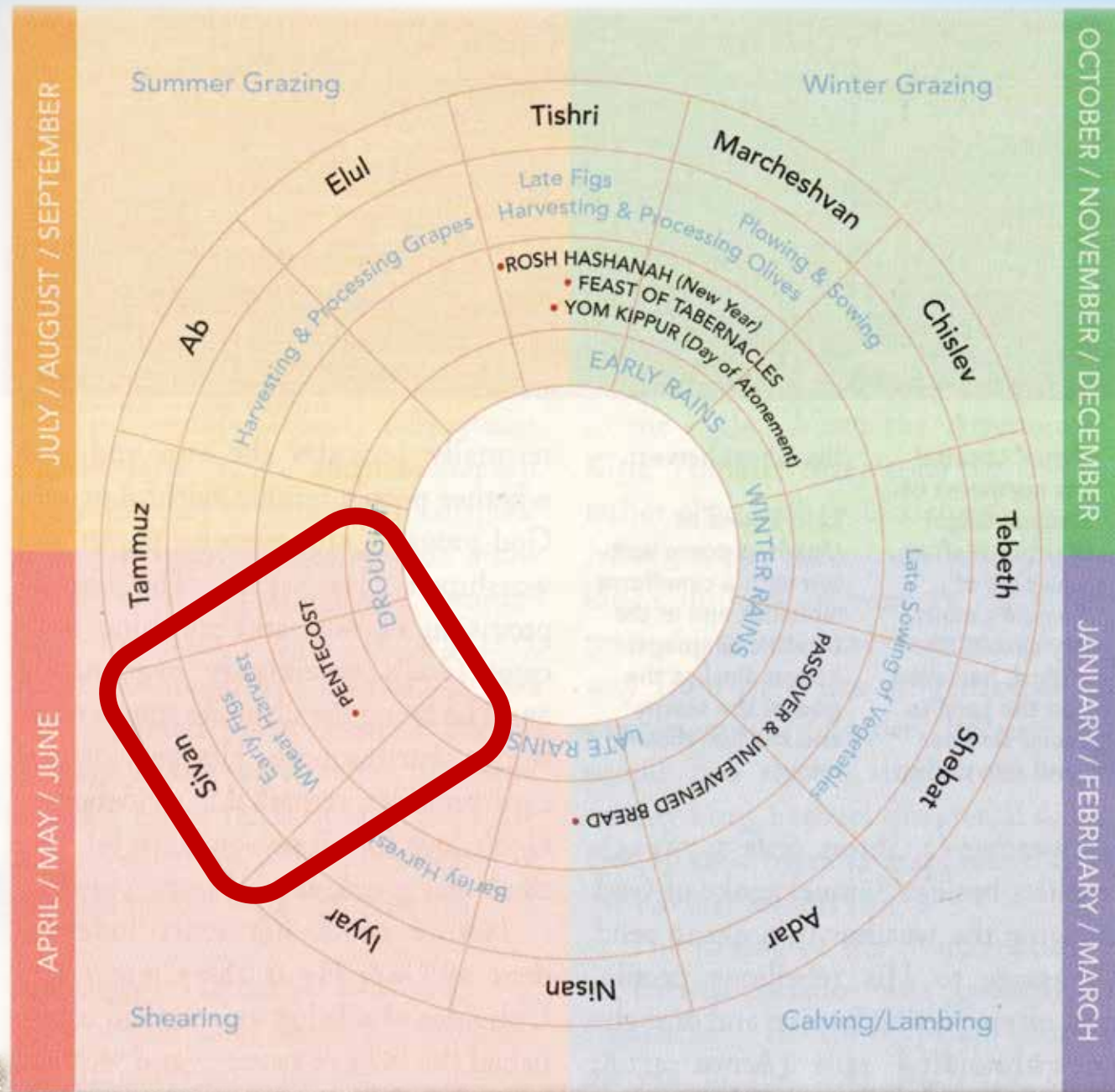
**And you will realize
what an evil thing you
did in the eyes of the LORD
when you asked for a king.”**

**Vicious rain will damage harvest,
even destroy ... lead to famine!**



Israel's Seasons

Wheat Harvest?
= Bread!



OCTOBER / NOVEMBER / DECEMBER

JANUARY / FEBRUARY / MARCH

12:16-18 Sign Delivered

Rain & Thunder on Call

¹⁷ Is it not wheat harvest now? I will call on the LORD to send thunder and rain. And you will realize what an evil thing you did in the eyes of the LORD when you asked for a king.”

¹⁸ Then Samuel called on the LORD, and that same day the LORD sent thunder and rain.

Miracle

So all the people stood in awe of the LORD and of Samuel.

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

19 The people all said to Samuel, “Pray to the LORD your God for your servants so that we will not die, for we have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”

20 “Do not be afraid,” Samuel replied. “You have done all this evil; yet do not turn away from the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.

21 Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless.

“USELESS” has Hebrew root in “Wilderness” as if “nothing there”

22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.

**Today ... we understand “USELESS” and have
TROUBLE understanding how THEY could seriously follow**

**“USELESS” has Hebrew root in
“Wilderness” as if “nothing there”**

Judean
wilderness



**“USELESS” has Hebrew root in
“Wilderness” as if “nothing there”**



Judean Wilderness



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

**“USELESS” has Hebrew root for
“Wilderness” as if “nothing there”**

As mentioned previously about Dagon and Idols – we have trouble

We CANNOT believe in idols like they did

***Samuel
KNEW***

**Not that we don't idolize some things – American Idol
but we truly identify with Samuel about “Nothing THERE” of idols**

**12:22 For the sake of his great name the LORD will NOT REJECT
his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own.**

UNCONDITIONAL

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

UNCONDITIONAL

Covenant in 1100 B.C. ... keeping one's word we have trouble to see too ...

Remember the story of Jephthah?

His covenant, his promise – he'll sacrifice first thing he sees on return ... *what?*

His Daughter Appears ! ! ! ! !

Keeping his “Obligation” striking to us

But what is MUCH MORE striking is his daughter's PERFECT understanding and HER courage to face it

Book of Judges

1:1 – 2:5 **Completion of Conquest**

2:6 – 3:6 **Intro to Careers of Judges**

3:7-30 **Othniel**

3:31 **Shamgar**

4:1 – 5:31 **Deborah & Barak**

6:1 – 8:35 **Gideon (*also* Jerubbaal)**

9:1-57 **Abimelech**

10:1-5 **Tola and Jair**

10:6-16 **Intro to later Judges**

10:17 – 12:7 Jephthah

12:8-15 **Ibzan, Elon and Abdon**

13:1 – 16:31 **Samson**

17:1 – 21:25 **Migration of Dan to north and war against Benjaminites**

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Jephthah and his daughter

MUCH MORE striking is
his daughter's **PERFECT**
understanding and
HER courage to face it

Does NOT mean what he
did was **RIGHT** then or today

Jephthah seeing his daughter
by Bon Boullogne (1649-1717)



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

Jephthah and his daughter

MUCH MORE striking is
his daughter's **PERFECT**
understanding and
HER courage to face it

DOES mean it was **RIGHT**
FOR & TO HIM then ...

To HIM it was **RIGHT**

His HONOR to himself
was bound up in his oath

Jephthah Meeting Daughter

by Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini 1700-21



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

Jephthah and his daughter

MUCH MORE striking is
his daughter's **PERFECT**
understanding and
HER courage to face it

His Oath MORE important
than **LIFE** to **HIM ... *then***
NOT so in the N.T. –
Jesus said, “No greater
Love has no man than this ...”

Jephthah's Vow: The Return
by Edwin Long (1885-86)



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject

Jephthah and his daughter

MUCH MORE striking is
his daughter's **PERFECT**
understanding and
HER courage to face it

His honor more important
than *HER LIFE TO HER* too!!!

She refuses a veil ...
and he slays her !!!

He KILLS his daughter!!!

Jephthah Sacrificing Daughter

by Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini 1700-21



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Jephthah's KEEPING his word is strange to us ... because of ?????

Because we understand **LOVE** much better than he did ... **N.T. LOVE**

NOT that he loved his daughter **LESS**, for he did **NOT** love **LESS**

Jephthah had a value of **OATH** **we DON'T have**—we see *him as psychotic*

We know **LOVE** as self-sacrificing in a way that he did **NOT**

What is **MORE** remarkable in his “obligation” and **INFORMS** to us today ...

His Daughter's Perfect Understanding

*That she **ACCEPTED** it tells us **VOLUMES***

ALL knew **BACK THEN** a Promise to God is **KEPT**
even more valuable than life itself

Ooooh ... let me explain



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Ooooh ... let me show you something

PAUSE

Jephthah's Oath – why here on Samuel's retirement?

Oath and Idols – side by side – FAR from us TODAY

**Samuel Hated Idols and KEPT HIS OATH to God
in a way we have trouble grappling with today**

**Israel then in 1000 B.C. knew how terribly wrong
terribly wrong they were TIME and TIME AGAIN
in how they COULD NOT KEEP their Oath to God**

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Ooooh ... let me explain

We dig deeper to understand Jephthah's Oath?

And therefore understand MORE of Samuel's Faith?

**ALL of us here are men and women
who keep our word ... I do NOT question that**

**Likewise, I KNOW – sure as the sunshine – NO ONE
among us, not a single one, would kill our son or daughter
for anything, much less a misspoken oath!**

Let me bring this home ... then we'll close

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

NEWS BRIEF

ISIS soldiers heard a mother threaten her stubborn 10-year-old daughter
If her daughter did not obey, the mother said, "I'll behead you, swear to God"
Daughter disobeyed ... soldiers told mother to behead daughter – she did not.
Mother was **GOING** to **KEEP** her word to God!

So, ISIS soldiers beheaded
the 10-yr old daughter **FOR** the mother
They made her **HOLD** her beheaded daughter!
Today – we cannot understand "idols" **NOR**
a "vow" "obligation" like Jephthah's or ISIS'
ISIS' vows are clearly Satanic ... murderous
Jephthah's vow was to God ... *before* the N.T.

No ...

I'd **NEVER** show
anything like that

God knows ... I wish
I had **NOT** seen it

12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Keeping YOUR Oath to God

**Difference between
ISIS and Jephthah?**

- ✓ **Jephthah felt regret ... ISIS no regret**
- ✓ **Conflict for Jephthah ... ??**
- ✓ **God has written His laws on
our HEART – all in LOVE**
- ✓ ***Jephthah knew ... in his heart ...***

Jephthah Meeting Daughter
by Giovanni Antonio Pellegrini 1700-21



12:19-22 God's Mercy and Grace

Lord Will Not Reject – UNCONDITIONAL

Keeping YOUR Oath to God

With New Testament ... we now KNOW

- ✓ **Only ONE reason an Oath is chosen over innocent life**
- ✓ **When YOU are asked to deny Christ you ought to die first ... *hope we never have to***
- ✓ **Today, our N.T. value of Love cherishes the Sanctity of Life**



12:23-25 Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord

Fear the Lord

²³ As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. I will teach you the way that is good and right.

**²⁴ But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart;
consider what great things he has done for you.**

²⁵ Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish.”

Covenant Renewal summary is Clear as a button ...

Keep your word to serve God ... or else

***with motivator:* Remember Great Things God did in LOVE**

12:23-25 Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord

In my book, *Would You Lie to Save Life?*

I detail how the absolutes of Love and Truth relate

In 1968 Com. Bucher saved the lives of his men with a lie.

- ✓ **Love found a way to a respectable choice.**
- ✓ **Gold standard is that we can always Love.**
- ✓ **Love—best served on the plate of freedom.**
- ✓ **Love—the sum of virtues and treasure of trust.**
- ✓ **No dilemma where we would not choose Love.**
- ✓ **Love found a way to top the available options.**
- ✓ **Love found a way to *be present* more than to *explain* its presence.**
- ✓ **Best is yet to come in LOVE.**



www.PreciousHeart.net/love

12:23-25 Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord

Fear the Lord = LOVE the Lord
consider what great things he has done for you.

Samuel LOVED his people ... served them ALL his life

Behind all of Samuel ... was his LOVE for God
and LOVE for God's people – All about LOVE

Kept his vows ALL his life ... in a age
in era when they valued "oath" greater than life

He kept vows when "vows" were deadly serious

Samuel let go of Judging ...
and supported King Saul ...

ALL IN LOVE

just knew it not yet



12:23-25 Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord

Fear the Lord = LOVE the Lord
consider what great things he has done for you.

Samuel KNEW ... he knew more than all what he was leaving behind

He would REMAIN as their Prophet ...
remain as their WISE MAN

Samuel LOVED his people, deeply,
though he and they had NOT the words yet

They knew NOT the LOVE we know today

He'd remain their beloved, loved,
even adored and respected National Grandpa

Perhaps, as Samuel left Gilgal on his way
to his home in Ramah, he felt this way ...



I will Always Love You

**by Dolly Parton, #1 in 1974 ... on her parting with Porter Wagnor
Whitney Houston's #1 1992 – Best-Selling Single of ALL TIME**

**If I should stay ...
I would only be in your way
So I'll go, but I know
I'll think of you each step of the way
And I will always love you
I will always love you
Bitter-sweet memories
That's all I am taking with me
Good-bye, please don't cry
We both know that I'm not ...
What you need**

**I hope life ... treats you kind
And I hope that you have all
That you ever dreamed of
And I wish you joy
And happiness
But above all of this
I wish you love
And I will always love you**



12:23-25 Samuel Prays, Teaches – Fear the Lord

Fear the Lord

consider what great things he has done for you.

Samuel LOVED his people

UNCONDITIONALLY

**with a LOVE he had no words for – *not yet*
with a diehard vow we *struggle* to appreciate**

words of LOVE fulfilled in Christ

Samuel genuinely wished them the best



**May we Fear the Lord and REMEMBER what
great things God has done for us in**

Unconditional Love

