

## Guilt or Grace 1 Samuel 12

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### 1. Samuel charges the people with wrongful dismissal. (1-5)

- He proclaims his righteousness.

*“The Lord is witness against you, and also his anointed is witness this day, that you have not found anything in my hand.”* (v. 5)

- The people are guilty - there is no evidence to justify dismissal.
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### 2. God charges the people with wrongful dismissal. (6-19)

- He recounts his faithfulness. (6-11)
- He charges the people with being unfaithful. (12-15)

*“No, we want a king to rule over us – even though the Lord your God was your king.”*  
(v. 12)

- God makes a dramatic court appearance!

*Then Samuel called upon the Lord, and that same day the Lord sent thunder and rain. So all the people stood in awe of the Lord and of Samuel.* (v. 18)

- The people are guilty – there is no evidence to justify dismissal.

*“We have added to all our other sins the evil of asking for a king.”* (v. 19)

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### 3. The surprising sentence (20-25)

***“Do not be afraid...” (v. 20)***

**They get what they don’t deserve.  
They get grace.**

#### **Confronting the Lie**

***You have done all this evil;  
yet do not turn away from the Lord,  
but serve the Lord with all your heart.  
Do not go after useless idols.  
They can do you no good, nor can they  
rescue you, because they are useless.  
(v. 20-21)***

- **God will not reject his people.**

***For the sake of his great name the Lord will  
not reject his people, because the Lord was  
pleased to make you his own. (v.22)***

- **Samuel will not abandon his people.**

***“As for me, far be it from me that I should sin  
against the Lord by failing to pray for you. I  
will teach the way that is good and right.”  
(v. 23)***

### **Samuel’s Summation (24-25)**

***“But be sure to fear the Lord  
and serve Him faithfully with all your heart.  
Consider what great things  
he has done for you.  
Yet if you persist in doing evil,  
both you and your king will be swept away.”***

#### **Let Us Consider What Great Things He Has Done for Us**

**Think of a time when you were guilty and  
received grace.**

**How has God surprised you in recent times?**

**What great things has God done for you?  
Share those stories with your family and  
friends.**

**Has God made a dramatic appearance in your  
life in recent days? Share that story with  
someone.**