

## **Missing God's Best but Getting God's Grace**

**“For all sad words of tongue and pen, the saddest are these, 'It might have been'.”**

### **Background**

*This chapter may be an expansion on 11:14-15*

**God wanted to give Israel “Samuel” kind of leadership, 12:1-5**

*Men of character and integrity*

Long term

Dynastic, his sons got their act together, cf. 1 Sam 8:3.

One who does not “take” compare 1 Sam 8:10-18

*This worked, 12:10,11, cf. 7:10ff*

*Even when Israel failed...*

**But Israel in her rebellion wanted a king like the rest of the nations, 12:6-13**

*Record of God's faithfulness 12:6-8*

*Record of Israel's failure, 12:8-12*

*Samuel took this personally, it hurt him, 1 Sam 8:7, 19*

*Samuel keeps showing Israel her failure*

See 8:5; 8:20; 10:19; 12:12

Nothing could be right if Israel didn't repent.

***Israel had exactly the kind of king they wanted when God's kind of leader was already in their presence, 12:13***

They didn't want a “Samuel” kind of leader...

They didn't pray to God and say, "please raise up another Samuel!"

## God's mercy in spite of Israel's failure, 12:13-25

*I will bless you if you will obey me, 12:14-15*

*I will prove it to you, 12:16-18.*

*Israel's repentance, 12:19 (cf. 11:14?)*

### Samuel's assurance

God longs to bless his people for his name's sake, 12:20-22.

*Where sin abounds, grace superabounds, Rom 5:20ff*

*Sin is serious, Rom 6:1*

Samuel won't reject these people either, 12:23

*Pray*

*Teach—rebuke*

*Samuel's final warning, 12:24-25.*

## So what?

*Samuel takes his place in a distinguished line of saviors whom God has raised up and would continue to raise up, if only the people had a heart for theocracy.*

*There is a sense in this passage of what things might have been.*

*Yet there is also a clear statement that if Israel will obey, they will experience the blessing of God.<sup>1</sup>*

*Don't live your life wondering what might have been.*

*Begin to live your life today for God's very best*

Nobody can change the past. By God's grace, everybody can change the future.

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<sup>1</sup> These ideas come from Robert Gordon's Commentary on 1 & 2 Samuel

**Don't be satisfied with the status quo.**

*The status quo is often comfortable.*

*It is ultimately destructive.*

**This will call for repentance and change.**