

THE PROPHET AND HIS PEOPLE (3) 1 SAM. 12:16-25

An OT prophet (NT prophet also) ≠ pastor. There are many similarities and overlap of functions. What should God's people expect?

4 expectations:

I. Affirmation when possible!

1 Samuel 12:19 And all the people said unto Samuel, Pray for thy servants unto the LORD thy God, that we die not: **for we have added unto all our sins this evil, to ask us a king.**

1 Samuel 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, Fear **not: ye have done all this wickedness:** yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart; 1 Samuel 12:22 **For the LORD will not forsake his people for his great name's sake: because** it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

What does affirmation look like? A combination of praise, affirming looks, greetings and hope!

A Pastor's personal thoughts:

- This is easy to do for the obedient
- This is fairly easy to do for new Christians and youth

Stumbling now but we are going to get it!

So much hope for change and the future!

- Difficult / very difficult for the deliberately disobedient
- Almost impossible for the deliberately disobedient over time!

So...!

What can I (we as Christians) do / offer people?

- Hope → an honest hope
- Hope through repentance & obedience
- Hope for the future
- Hope in &/ from God!!!

1 Samuel 12:22 For the LORD will **not** forsake his people **for** his great name's sake: **because** it hath pleased the LORD to make you his people.

Psalm 25:11 For thy name's sake, O LORD, pardon mine iniquity; for it is great.

Psalm 79:5 How long, LORD? wilt thou be angry for ever? shall thy jealousy burn like fire?

Psalm 79:6 Pour out thy wrath upon the heathen that have not known thee, and upon the kingdoms that have not called upon thy name.

Psalm 79:7 For they have devoured Jacob, and laid waste his dwelling place.

Psalm 79:8 O remember not against us former iniquities: let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us: for we are brought very low.

Psalm 79:9 Help us, O God of our salvation, **for the glory of thy name: and deliver us, and purge away our sins, for thy name's sake.**

Psalm 106:8 Nevertheless he saved them **for his name's sake**, that he might make his mighty power to be known.

Psalm 143:10 Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness. Psalm 143:11 Quicken me, O LORD, **for thy name's sake:** for thy righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

Isaiah 48:9 **For my name's sake will I defer mine anger,** and for my praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off.

Daniel 9:18 O my God, incline thine ear, and hear; open thine eyes, and behold our desolations, and the city which is called by thy name: for we do not present our supplications before thee for our righteousnesses, but for thy great mercies. Daniel 9:19 O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, hearken and do; defer not, for thine own sake, O my God: **for thy city and thy people are called by thy name.**

II. Instruction as commanded!

1 Samuel 12:23 Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: **but I will teach you the good and the right way: 1 Samuel 12:24 Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. 1 Samuel 12:25** But if ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king. **Deuteronomy 24:8** Take heed in the plague of leprosy, that thou observe diligently, **and do according to all that the priests the Levites shall teach you: as I commanded them, so ye shall observe to do.**

Deuteronomy 33:10 They shall teach Jacob thy judgments, and Israel thy law: they shall put incense before thee, and whole burnt sacrifice upon thine altar.

Acts 20:17 And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called **the elders (τοὺς πρεσβυτέρους τῆς ἐκκλησίας) of the church. Acts 20:28** Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you **overseers (ἐπισκόπους), to feed (ποιμαίνειν)** the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; **2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word;** be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. **2 Timothy 4:3** For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; **2 Timothy 4:4** And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

1 Peter 5:1 The **elders (Πρεσβυτέρους)** which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: **1 Peter 5:2 Feed (ποιμάνατε)** the flock of God which is among you, **taking the oversight (ἐπισκοποῦντες)** thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;

1 Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. **1 Peter 5:4** And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

III. Intercession as expected &/ needed!

1 Samuel 12:13 Now therefore behold the king whom ye have chosen, and whom ye have desired! and, behold, the LORD hath set a king over you. **1 Samuel 12:23** Moreover as for me, **God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you:** but I will teach you the good and the right way:

Thoughts:

- They have rejected Samuel → as the leader
- Worse, they have rejected the Lord
- Samuel isn't positive about where this will end up
- He will continue to pray - anyway!
- He will also continue to beg God for His best

Acts 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, **and** to the ministry of the word.

1 Timothy 2:1 I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; **1 Timothy 2:2** For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty.

Exodus 32:33 **Exodus 32:30-32;** **Numbers 11:2 ; Numbers 21:7 ; Deuteronomy 9:20 ; Deuteronomy 9:26**

IV. Correction when necessary / needed!

1 Samuel 12:20 And Samuel said unto the people, **Fear not: ye have done all this wickedness: yet turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart;**

1 Samuel 12:21 And turn ye **not** aside: **for** then should ye go after vain things, which **cannot** profit nor deliver; for they are vain. **1 Samuel 12:24** Only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you. **1 Samuel 12:25** But **if** ye shall still do wickedly, ye shall be consumed, both ye and your king.

With age this becomes more difficult:

- Like people
- Want what's best for people
- Don't see as much / can't see as much / don't want to see as much!
- And, we hope for the best