**1 Samuel 11-12 – What could have been…and what could be**

**Main: When we live for the Lord, “what could have been” becomes “what is”!**

**1. At times, we may not realize the full results of our sin and scheming for years –**

 **11:1-2; Genesis 19:30-38**

**2. Samuel did nothing wrong in giving them a king, nor did God. It was their idea**

 **11:1-5. God’s design for Israel was that they be unique, NOT like other nations -**

 **Ex 19:5-6. In this case, the old adage is true, be careful what you ask for.**

**Rather than get upset, we should often thank God when He says “no” and the heavens appear silent.**

**3. In some cases anger, even strong anger, can be from God - 11:6**

**4. When Saul walked with God, he was very effective; so are we!**

**Saul’s surprise attack was an overwhelming success (v. 11), the hearts of the people were his (v. 12), he was quick to forgive (v. 13), he used the outcome to wisely re-establish the theocracy (v. 14), and the outcome was corporate worship and joy (v. 15).**

**5. Chapter 11 serves to show us what could have been in the life of Saul. Flawed though he was, God still honored and supported him. Saul’s failures could not be blamed on God. Our failures cannot be blamed on God either.**

**6. When Samuel is done with their history and explains God’s faithfulness, one thing is clear: there was no need for a king other than God 12:6-13. They got what they asked for.**

**We often pray that God’s will be done, but...do we really want that?**

**7. Even in the midst of their stubborn worldliness, grace is shown – 12:14**

**We must always remember that God is a God of grace!!**

**8. The presence of a king did not change the rules - 12:15 (compare with Dt. 28).**

**When the Lord shows grace, mercy, faithfulness, and forgiveness, it should never lead us to believe that our sin is ok with God – 12:18**

**9. The uncommon storm served to remind people that Samuel wasn’t simply**

 **talking.**

**A healthy fear of God is a good thing - 12:18**

**10. The choice of the people was wrong.**

**Judgment and consequences can lead us to a better realization of God, to confession, and to repentance – 12:19**

**11. It is important we respond properly when we are disciplined or judged.**

**Responding poorly only makes a bad situation worse - 12:19-20**

**12. When we are faithless, He remains faithful – 12:22.**

**Discipline doesn’t end relationship.**

**13. Samuel saw failure to pray for the people as sin – 12:23.**

**How seriously do we take prayer for others? - 1 Tim 2:1f. with Jer. 29:6-7; Jas 4:2**