

Sermon-Based Discussion Guide

Date 10/18/26 Bryce Taylor

Watch the sermon at manheimbic.org/sermon.



BIBLE PASSAGES

1 Samuel 12:6 Now then, stand still and see this great thing the LORD is about to do before your eyes! ¹⁷Is 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."

¹⁸Then Samuel called on 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.

¹⁹The 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. ²¹Do not turn away after useless idols. They can do you no good, nor can they rescue you, because they are useless. ²²For the sake of his great name the LORD will not reject his people, because the LORD was pleased to make you his own. ²³As for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD by failing to pray for you. And I will teach you the way that is good and right. ²⁴But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you. ²⁵Yet if you persist in doing evil, both you and your king will perish."

Psalms 25:1 In you, LORD my God, I put my trust. ²I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me. ³No one who hopes in you will ever be put to shame, but shame will come on those who are treacherous without cause. ⁴Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths. ⁵Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long.

Other passages: Romans 13

Connect: Get to know each other. Connect, warm up to each other, and take time to fellowship.

Care:

Carry each other's burdens. Share life's challenges and practice Soul Care. Pray together.

Challenge:

- 1) In 1 Samuel 12:6–18, Israel asked for a human king because they wanted security they could see and control, rather than trusting God. What is an area in your life (e.g., finances, family, career) where you are tempted to rely on human control or backup plans instead of trusting God completely?
- 2) God sent unexpected thunder and rain during the dry harvest season to shake Israel but of spiritual apathy and open their ears (1 Sam 12:17–18). Looking back, what is a recent moment or situation God used to get your attention and draw you back into awe of Him?
- 3) Matthew 6:24 reminds us that we cannot serve two masters. Making Jesus both King (*Melech*) and Lord (*Adonai*) means giving Him both authority and total ownership. Is there a specific "room" of your heart or life where you've let self or the world sit on the throne, and what would it look like to surrender that area to Him today?
- 4) Romans 13:14 tells us to "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh." When you feel the internal pull (*yetser hara*) to take matters into your own hands or give in to temptation, how can you practically turn that moment into a dialogue/communion with God instead? What are some strategies that work for you?
- 5) 1 Samuel 12:24 says, *"Be sure to fear the Lord and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."* What is one "great thing" God has done in your life that serves as a reminder that He is in total control?

Clarify:

Does anyone need clarity on something? Are there any big God questions you are wrestling with?

Celebrate:

Celebrate life's successes and God's provision. Worship God's presence. Time to brag about God.

KEY TAKEAWAYS