

## 1 Samuel 12:20-21

*Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing."*

How many of you have ever sinned, raise your hand. Now we should all be raising our hands. In fact, both of them, and both of our feet as well, because we have all done things that we know we shouldn't have done, even as Christians. And when we do, we walk around feeling bad, which is a good thing, because that bad feeling helps bring us too repentance.

But when we feel like we really messed up, we feel like Paul did when he said.

✠ **Romans 7:19 (NLT2)** *I want to do what is good, but I don't. I don't want to do what is wrong, but I do it anyway.*

We beat up ourselves because of our sins, but then we also come to the same conclusion Paul did, which is.

✠ **Romans 7:24-25 (NLT2)** *Oh, what a miserable person I am! Who will free me from this life that is dominated by sin and death? Thank God! The answer is in Jesus Christ our Lord. So you see how it is: In my mind I really want to obey God's law, but because of my sinful nature I am a slave to sin.*

In today's verses, this was Israel asking for a king. And by doing so, they were rejecting God as their King and had messed up big time, and they knew this, that's why they went on to say:

✠ **1 Samuel 12:19** *And all the people said to Samuel, "Pray for your servants to the LORD your God, that we may not die; for we have added to all our sins the evil of asking a king for ourselves."*

Which is where today's verses come in, as Samuel responds to them with:

*"Then Samuel said to the people, "Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart. And do not turn aside; for then you would go after empty things which cannot profit or deliver, for they are nothing."*

The one thing that really caught my attention when I read this was the first part of verse 20, *"Do not fear. You have done all this wickedness; yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart."*

Like our scenario we talked about earlier, we too can stand on this verse when we fall into sin, as God tells us the same thing *"You have done all this wickedness"* God knows what we did, and

He even knew that we would do it before we did it, that's why He sent His Son Jesus to die for our sins. But God also tells us what to do when we do sin and confess those sins to Him, He tells us, "*yet do not turn aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart.*"

Then He locks it in with verse 24 when He says,

† **1 Samuel 12:24** *Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.*

"*Consider what great things He has done for you*" and we know those great things is sending His Son Jesus to die for us; Therefore, even though we have sinned, "*You have done all this wickedness*" we must remember that we should "*not turn aside from following the LORD*" and continue to "*serve the LORD with all your heart.*"

† **Psalm 51:7-10** *Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice. Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.*