

Text: 1 Samuel 11:1 – 12:25 (ESV)

1. Affirming the Called

(*Affirm* means to state as a fact; assert strongly and publicly)

Read 1 Samuel 11

The Setting:

The Israelite Nation is in disarray. The people of Jabesh-gilead really fear that no one may come from Israel to save them.

This state of being isn't owing to God's lack of wisdom in knowing how to lead his people, rather it is owing to Israel's lack of obedience.

It is into this scene that Saul will be affirmed to the nation that he is the one who has been called to be king.

Saul's Response:

1 Samuel 11:6

Whenever the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon the judges, it was *usually* to conjure the army of God.

Saul's calling from God to be king, his anointing from God to be king, is also now *affirmed* by the equipping of God to be able to carry out the tasks of king.

God equips those whom He calls.

2. Confirming the Called

(*Confirm* means establish the truth or correctness of)

Read 1 Samuel 12:6-13

Why do the leaders of Israel cite Israel's past in Egypt?

It is not an appeal so that Israel would see God's ability, rather it is an appeal to Israel that they would see their identity.

Israel is God's chosen nation, his covenant people (Israel is even referred to as God's firstborn son).

Before God calls Israel into obedience, he *confirms* to them of their identity.

3. Performing the Call

And What Does the Lord Ask of You?

Read 1 Samuel 12:14-25

It is simple, the Lord asks that the Israelites fear the LORD, serve him and obey his voice, and not rebel against his commandments.

Christian, those who believe in Christ as their Lord and savior, the message of our Lord is still the same to us today.

God's call for your life is not overly complicated, but simple.

God's call for you is doable

God's call for you is for your joy

Discussion Questions:

1. Before God asks his people into obedience, God reminds them of their identity. Is your identity secure in being a child of God, bought by the blood of Christ? When are some circumstances when this identity gets hindered?
2. In our message today we saw that God's call is rather simple for his people – walk with Him and serve Him only. Do you feel that you sometimes overcomplicate the Christian life? The nation of Israel overcomplicated things when they wanted to be like all the other nations. What hinders you from the simple life that the Lord has called you to?
3. What might be a way for you to come back to the simple life whenever unnecessary hinderances cluster your life?