

1 Samuel 12:20

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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;

Analysis

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;

Samuel's response 'Fear not' (al-tira'u) offers comfort while maintaining truth. He does not minimize their sin - 'ye have done all this wickedness' - but points toward hope. The call to 'turn not aside from following the LORD, but serve the LORD with all your heart' presents the path forward: wholehearted covenant renewal despite past failure. Grace does not erase consequences but provides means of restoration. The emphasis on 'all your heart' prohibits the divided loyalty that led to their failure.

Historical Context

The prophetic pattern of judgment followed by hope characterized Israelite prophecy from Samuel through the exile prophets. God's willingness to continue relationship despite covenant violation reflects His chesed (covenant faithfulness) that outlasts human unfaithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

Hebrews 11:1 — Definition of faith

Study Questions

1. How does 'Fear not' combined with acknowledgment of sin model biblical comfort?
2. What does serving God 'with all your heart' require after significant failure?

Interlinear Text

אָתָּה מִתְּרַכֵּת אֶל שְׁמֹ�אֵל וְיַד אָמֵר
said And Samuel H413 unto the people H5971 Fear H859
H559 H8050 H408 H3372

אַל אֲנָה עֲשֵׁית מְלָא תְּרַכֵּת הַרְבֵּעַ הַזָּאת
not ye have done H853 H3605 all this wickedness H2063 H389 H408
H6213 H7451

בְּכָל יְהִי הַזָּהָר מִאָמֵר יְהִי הַזָּהָר אַתְּ תַּעֲבֹד מִמְּלֹא
yet turn not aside from following the LORD but serve H853 the LORD H3605
H5493 H310 H3068 H5647 H853 H3068

לְבָבְכֶם:
with all your heart
H3824

Additional Cross-References

Deuteronomy 11:16 (Parallel theme): Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them;

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