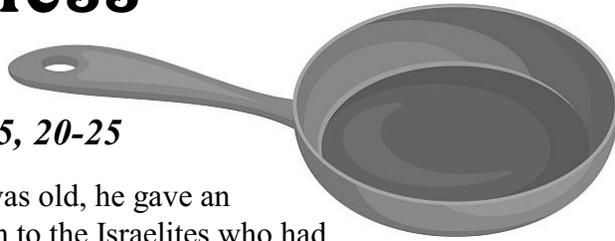


Blameless



1 Samuel 12:1-5, 20-25

When Samuel was old, he gave an impassioned speech to the Israelites who had wrongly asked for a king like all the other nations. He pointed to his own life and testimony: “I have walked before you from my childhood unto this day. Behold, here I am: witness against me before the LORD...whose ox have I taken? Or whose ass have I taken? Or whom have I defrauded? Whom have I oppressed? Or of whose hand have I received any bribe to blind mine eyes therewith?” (*1 Sam. 12:2-3*).

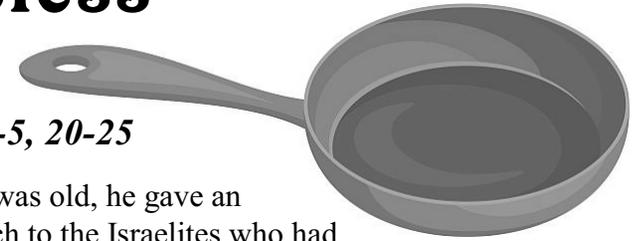
The people answered, “Thou has not defrauded us, nor oppressed us, neither hast thou taken ought of any man’s hand” (*1 Sam. 12:4*). The people bore witness to the fact that Samuel was blameless. This does not mean he was sinless, but it means that his outward conduct was so upright that the people who knew him could find no fault.

Today, elders and deacons are to be blameless (*1 Tim. 3:2,10*). The word “blameless” (*anepilēptos*) in 1 Timothy 3:2 means “cannot be laid hold of.” Suppose your enemy wants to hit you over the head with an iron frypan. To do so, he must lay hold of the handle, and if there were no handle, he would have a problem. If an elder misappropriated money, then that would be a **handle** that could be used against him. A blameless man provides no handle, no outward misconduct that can be used to defame his character.

Daniel was a blameless man. His enemies tried to find some fault or corruption or malpractice, but they found none: “[Daniel] was faithful, neither was there any error or fault found in him” (*Dan. 6:4*). Finding no real crime, they conspired to have him committed by King Darius to the lion’s den for faithfully praying to the true and living God each day! ***May we imitate this faithful man of God!***

~George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org

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