

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### SAMUEL'S SONS (1 SAMUEL 8:1-5)

#### WHAT DOES A JUDGE DO?

Judges were **chosen by God** to lead an erring tribe and town (Deuteronomy 16:18-20) to repent and be restored to a right relationship with God.

- They are risen up by God to **meet a need during a time of crisis, then return to what they were doing when the crisis is over. They were to be fair, impartial, and pursue justice.**

#### THE DIFFERENCE WITH A KING

A king would **rule over a people group, hold on to his position for life, and pass his throne down to his descendants.**

- A king would **hold the judges accountable, establish a government and legal system, and be prepared to lead a battle against oppressive enemies.**

#### DID SAMUEL SIN IN HIS NEPOTISM?

It does not seem as though Samuel's sons were corrupt while serving as judges in Beer-Sheba, but they **"turned toward dishonest profit, took bribes, and perverted justice"** after being appointed over Israel.

- He did not knowingly place his corrupt sons into their new position, **but it was a position assigned by God—not man.**

#### THEIR DESIRE WAS NOT ENTIRELY WRONG

A king for the Israelites was part of God's plan, and He instructed them on selecting a king (Deuteronomy 17:14-20) nearly 400 years earlier.

- Judges 8 shows us how Israel was able to go 400 years in the Promised Land without a king. Gideon refused kingship over Israel by saying, **"I will not rule over you, and my son will not rule over you; the Lord will rule over you"** (vs. 22).

#### THEIR REASON WAS WRONG

The fundamental teaching of the Torah was that Israel was to be distinct from all other nations (Leviticus 20:26; Numbers 23:9), but now they are asking Samuel to **"appoint a king to judge [them] the same as all the other nations have."**

- **We should not desire to be like the world. Instead, we should be transformed into the image of God** (Romans 12:1-2).

### ISRAEL DESIRES A KING (1 SAMUEL 8:6-9)

#### THEIR REQUEST WAS EVIL IN HIS EYES

Samuel knew their request for a king was ungodly, but instead of becoming offended, angry, or responding too quickly, **he prayed to the Lord.**

- **Instead of holding on to our burdens, worrying, or reacting quickly or harshly, we should seek the wisdom of God** (Proverbs 2:6; James 1:5; 3:17) **through the Word and prayer.**

#### REJECTING GOD AND HIS PLAN

God tells Samuel, **"They have not rejected you; they have rejected me as their king."**

- Their rejection of God's plan and request for a king declares that they do not want the Lord to rule over them because **they thought a government could provide for their needs better than God.**

#### THE FATHER GIVES GOOD GIFTS

God gives good things to those who ask Him and withholds what may be harmful to us if we ask in ignorance (Matthew 7:9-11).

- For the Israelites, this was not a one-time mistake or one bad request; it was a long-standing pattern of sinful rejection. **God would give the Israelites what they wanted to teach them a lesson.**

#### INFORMATION CREATES RESPONSIBILITY

God promised them a king, yet Israel requested one for **earthly** reasons, so God would give them an **earthly** king. Before that happened, God instructed Samuel to **inform them** of the actions and deeds of the king who would rule over them.

- **God wants us to make informed decisions, and ultimately, we cannot say, "I didn't know!"**

### AN EARTHLY KING (1 SAMUEL 8:10-18)

#### WEIGHING THE PROS AND CONS

Israel thought they had problems that could be solved if they had a king, but God wanted them to know the problems that would arise with them having a king.

- **We should always "count the cost"** (Luke 14:28) **and carefully weigh the benefits against the problems before we make any decisions.**

#### CONTRASTING A KING WITH THE KING OF KINGS

When Samuel tells Israel about their earthly king, he says, **"He can take..."** six times. Most **earthly kings are takers and not givers.** They **come to be served and not to serve**, and the people will be his servants.

- **Jesus, the King of Kings, gives and does not take, and He came to serve, not to be served.** (John 10:10; Matthew 20:28)

### TOO LATE TO CRY OUT

Through Samuel, God is warning Israel that they would **"cry out because of the king [they had] chosen for [themselves], but the Lord [would not] answer [them]."**

- If we **"cry out"** to the Lord first and seek Him to meet our needs and fulfill our desires, and we wait on Him, then **there will be no need to "cry out" later when our plan does not work out.**

### THEIR DESIRES GRANTED (1 SAMUEL 8:19-22)

#### OUR DESIRES ARE FULFILLED IN HIM

These desires that the Israelites held are ingrained in all of us. **We all desire someone to intercede for us in the middle of a crisis, to go before us, and to fight our battles.**

- Unlike "all the other nations," **we find the fulfillment of all of our desires in a heavenly King and not an earthly one.**

#### A REFUSAL TO HEED THE WARNINGS

Despite the warning from Samuel, **the people of Israel refused to listen, and they demanded a king.**

- **We cannot refuse to listen to God and wise counsel, continue to pursue our own will over His, and then be surprised at the consequences.**

#### EVERYONE'S DOING IT!

They wanted to be like the crowd. They thought the nations around them had it figured out, and they wanted what everyone else had.

- Seeing that their minds were made up, the Lord told Samuel to **"Appoint a king for them." They had asked for a king, and God was going to give them exactly what they wanted.**

#### INVENTORY

- **Are we guilty of following the crowd?**
- **Are we pursuing earthly desires?**
- **Are we trying to fulfill our desires with the things of this world?**
- An earthly king forces those under him into servitude, but we willingly chose the role of servant to the King of Kings. **Have you surrendered yourself to Jesus?**