

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

SEPTEMBER 17TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### GIVE (1 SAMUEL 8:1-9)

#### JUDGES

Samuel has judged Israel well, but now he is old. He appointed his sons as judges over Israel, but they were corrupt.

- **This isn't the first time we see sons not following in their father's footsteps, and it won't be the last. Eli had ignored his son's sins. Had Samuel done the same thing?**

#### UNAUTHORIZED CHANGES

The appointment of a judge was usually a selection of God. Samuel appointing his sons, with their blatant sin, may have emboldened the elders to request a different change.

- **When we decide to do something different than God's plan, we can expect problems. Beware of the quick fix that is still outside of God's plan.**

#### GIVE US A KING...

The elders' request may look like a good answer to the corruption that had plagued their previous leadership, and kingship was part of God's plan for their future.

- **Samuel was offended by their proposal and went to God with his concerns. Prayer is always a good response when we feel attacked.**

#### GOD RESPONDS TO SAMUEL

Samuel may have been offended, but God points out that the proposal rejected God as their king. Samuel's emotions had limited his ability to hear the motive behind their words.

- **When we are so offended by the world, is it because they have rejected us? Our hearts should be broken for them, not bruised by them.**

#### GOD RESPONDS TO ISRAEL

God had been their ruler throughout their history. He provided leadership and rescued them when they called out to Him. The people were choosing idolatry over God... again.

- **God would let them have THEIR king. God will let us have our idols, too, but it will always come at a price.**

### TAKE (1 SAMUEL 8:10-17)

#### WHAT WAS EXPECTED

The Israelites want a king because of what he will give them. God's response is to tell them that the kind of king they want is more about taking than giving.

- **How often do we go around God's plan to satisfy our "needs?" Shortcuts don't always lead to our desired destination.**

#### WHAT WOULD BE TAKEN

Kings will (legally) take their sons and daughters, the best fields, vineyards, and olive groves, their menservants and maidservants, and the best of their cattle and donkeys.

- **What the kings would take would be for their officials, attendants, and themselves. We want the world... until it takes everything from us.**

#### SHORT MEMORY

The Israelites had been under a king in their past—Pharaoh, king of Egypt. They had forgotten the painful experience. They had forgotten they had once been slaves.

- **Why would we want to return to the downward spiral of sin? Can we remember what it was like? How much more can we afford to lose?**

### COST (1 SAMUEL 8:18-22)

#### WHEN THAT DAY COMES...

The Israelites had been in an immediate response relationship with God. They would cry out after some great tragedy they had brought on themselves, and God would respond. Now, the king they had chosen for themselves would bring the tragedy. They will cry out, but God will not answer... on THAT DAY.

#### REFUSED TO LISTEN

Despite God's warnings, the people choose the path of self-rule and reject God. Their desire to be like "all the other nations" would ignore the God that had been their deliver, protector, and provider since the time of Moses.

- **Can we learn from their mistakes? Have we learned from ours?**

#### APPOINT A KING FOR THEM

God gave them what they wanted, and it would be a dark day for Israel. However, God did not abandon them. Despite their rejection of Him, He continued to be their God.

- **Most of the mess we are in is our mess. We asked for it, and it all went sideways. God is still our God. We can still call out in surrender, and He WILL listen.**

#### SELF-RULE

- We long to be our own rulers.
- **It's about self-interest and taking for our benefit and glory rather than giving.**
- **This is the world where people brutalize and enslave others. We read about it and can see it every day. Do we choose to be our own kings instead of following Christ?**

#### TRUE KING

- God was the King of Israel. They rejected Him.
- **Jesus is the King of kings.**
- **In Christ, we see the King coming to rescue us from the tyranny of self-rule. He does not take but gives His life on behalf of everyone who would follow Him.**

#### ONE KING

- Christ desires to be our King.
- **He knows what is best for us. He serves the least in His Kingdom and gives eternal life to those who love and trust Him.**
- **We deceive ourselves if we think we can divide our commitment between the message of the world and the call of God. When we follow Christ, we become the messengers to the world. Who will we follow? What will it cost?**