

Lesson 2: Israel Demands a King

Text: 1 Samuel 8:1-9 And it came to pass, when Samuel was old, that he made his sons judges over Israel. Now the name of his firstborn was Joel; and the name of his second, Abiah: they were judges in Beersheba. And his sons walked not in his ways, but turned aside after lucre, and took bribes, and perverted judgment. Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations. But the thing displeased Samuel, when they said, Give us a king to judge us. And Samuel prayed unto the LORD. And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them. According to all the works which they have done since the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even unto this day, wherewith they have forsaken me, and served other gods, so do they also unto thee. Now therefore hearken unto their voice: howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them...

Purpose: God moved the writer of 1 Samuel to pen these words as a constant reminder to Israel and to us that rebellion always leads to pain and strained fellowship with God.

Proposition: God wants you to be careful what you demand from Him, because He knows what is best for you.

Interrogative: What truths will motivate us to be very careful about what we demand from God?

Scene 1: God's will for Israel:

Exodus 19:3-6 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel; Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself. Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel...

- Israel received grace. They were God's chosen people.
 - Scripture through them
 - Covenants to them
 - Promises for them
 - Law to and for them
 - God's glory in their midst
 - Redemption through the Messiah.

1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them...

- Israel's laws were established by God, and He alone was to be their king. We call this a theocracy.

Scene 2: Israel's chaotic condition:

Judges 17:6 In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes...

- Idolatry
- Immorality
- Violence
- Injustice
- Polygamy
- Erratic behavior
- Intermarriage with idolaters
- Selfishness
- Famines and oppression from their neighbors

Scene 3: Israel's selfish demand to God:

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Scene 4: God's response:

1 Samuel 8:7 And the LORD said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them...

- Their heart is not with me, so give them what they want.
- I will not fight them, but I will warn them of the seriousness of their decision, and the consequences that will follow.
- God wanted to warn the people, leaving them and all generations to follow a testimony of the damaging consequences of following your own heart rather than God's revealed will.

Scene 5: Their difficult consequences:

1 Samuel 8:10-22 And Samuel told all the words of the LORD unto the people that asked of him a king. And he said, This will be the manner of the king that shall reign over you: He will take your sons, and appoint them for himself, for his chariots, and to be his horsemen; and some shall run before his chariots. And he will appoint him captains over thousands, and captains over fifties; and will set them to ear his ground, and to reap his harvest, and to make his instruments of war, and instruments of his chariots. And he will take your daughters to be confectionaries, and to be cooks, and to be bakers. And he will take your fields, and your vineyards, and your oliveyards, even the best of them, and give them to his servants. And he will take the tenth of your seed, and of your vineyards, and give to his officers, and to his servants. And he will take your menservants, and your maidservants, and your goodliest young men, and your asses, and

put them to his work. He will take the tenth of your sheep: and ye shall be his servants. And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the LORD will not hear you in that day. Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, Nay; but we will have a king over us; That we also may be like all the nations; and that our king may judge us, and go out before us, and fight our battles. And Samuel heard all the words of the people, and he rehearsed them in the ears of the LORD. And the LORD said to Samuel, Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king. And Samuel said unto the men of Israel, Go ye every man unto his city.

- **He will abuses his authority**
- **He will take your things**
- **He will use you for his own benefit**
- **You will have constant conflict with your neighbors**
- **A broken fellowship with God.**

Psalm 106:12-15 Then believed they his words; they sang his praise. They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul.

Practical lessons:

- God's ways do not always seem the best, but they are.
- The world's way is the common way.
- God's ways are for our own good.
- We are prone to demand things without any idea of the consequences.
- God's people are to be distinct from their unconverted neighbors.
- We are to be governed by God and His laws, not by the will of men who rule selfishly.
- You can pick you sin, but not your consequence.
- You always reap to a greater degree than you have sowed.
- God does not walk in fellowship with those who demand their own way.

Conclusion:

- Will you take the time to think about your own walk before the Lord?
- Have you chosen a path that is like these people, one that is common, but will lead to pain and suffering?
- Are you compromising and looking for something that may in the end hurt you?
- Be careful what you ask for, because if you ask enough, God may give it to you to your downfall.