

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Scriptures for Today: 1 Samuel 8:1-22 – Israel desires a king like all the nations

Today's Message:

"A Worldly Desire"



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we saw the return of Samuel and the word of God. Even after the ark came home, Israel was not right with God. It was time for God's people to return unto the Lord – and they did! This week, we arrive at a pivotal chapter in 1st Samuel – a turning point in Israel's history. For years Israel had lived under God's direct rule through judges and prophets. Samuel had been God's appointed servant. But now Israel wanted something different. They wanted to be like the world. This is God's message...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text 1 Samuel 8:1-22

A. The Real Problem 8:1-4

1. A legitimate problem led God's people to make a really bad **DECISION**.

1Samuel 8:1 – ... it came to pass, **when Samuel was old**... made his sons judges...

1Samuel 8:2 – ... they were **judges** in Beersheba.

1Samuel 8:3 – And **his sons walked not in his ways**, but turned aside...

1Samuel 8:4 – Then **all the elders of Israel** gathered themselves together... Ramah,

"When Samuel was **old**" – a lifetime of faithful service to God; the way of all the earth

"He made his sons **judges**" – Samuel's succession plan; judges were selected

"His sons walked not in **his ways**" – Samuel gave them a faithful example to follow

"Lucre... took bribes... perverted judgment" – greedy, corrupt, unjust... UGH!

BIBLICAL EXAMPLES

- **Eli's sons (priests)** **1 Sam 2** Priests were hereditary; his sons forsook God.
- **Abraham + Sarah** **Gen 16** God promised a son; they did not wait on God.
- **Moses (the rock)** **Num 20** Water was needed; he struck the rock in anger.

KEY TRUTHS

- The Bible does not hide the **failures** of Samuel's sons. Why is this a **PATTERN**?
- There was a serious leadership problem that needed to be addressed.
- Do not allow a real problem to produce a worldly response. Do not be hasty!
- When something goes wrong, you should first turn to God! Talk to Him about it.

Response to Problems

When something goes wrong in your life, do you ask "What do I do?" or "What does God want me to do?"

This applies to:

Marriage
Parenting
Finances
Relationships
Temptations
Cultural pressures
Church Ministries

Personal Application

When was the last time you responded to a problem by creating a bigger problem?

Sometimes our greatest spiritual danger is not the **problem**...

... **it is the solution we choose** because we are impatient with God.

B. The Worldly Desire 8:5-9

2. Israel did not want God to be their king; they wanted to be like the **WORLD**.

Worldly

Biblical worldliness is adopting the world's values, desires, priorities, standards, or identity rather than allowing the word of God to determine them.

Identity Crisis

God had called Israel to be different for His glory. They were supposed to be God's people. They wanted to be like the world.

1Samuel 8:5 – ... **now make us a king** to judge us like all the nations.

1Samuel 8:6 – But the thing **displeased Samuel**... prayed unto the LORD.

1Samuel 8:7 – ... they have not rejected thee, but **they have rejected me**...

1Samuel 8:8 – ... **they have forsaken me**... other gods, so do they also unto thee.

1Samuel 8:9 – Now therefore **hearken unto their voice**: howbeit yet protest...

"Make us a king... **like all the nations**" – looked at the world and wanted what they had!

"Displeased... **prayed** unto the LORD" – first action response – bring it to the Lord!

"They have **rejected me**... **forsaken me**" – rebellious pattern of man – the entire Bible!

"Hearken unto **their voice**" – what a thought – listen to them – yet protest **solemnly**!

KEY TRUTHS

- The **problem** with Israel's desire:
 - ✓ They SAW the world (nations) – Lot (**Gen 13:10-13**); Achan (**Joshua 7:20-21**)
 - ✓ They DESIRED what the world had – Absalom (**2 Sam 15:4**); Demas (**2 Tim 4:10**)
 - ✓ They wanted to BECOME like the world – **Romans 12:1-2**; **1 John 2:15-17**
 - ✓ They were willing to REJECT God's best to get it – Contrast: Jesus (**Mt 4:8-9**)
- This is bigger than a political request – it is an **identity** crisis! **Leviticus 20:26**

Worldly Desire	Godly Desire
What do they have? How can I look like them?	What does God want me to have? How can I represent Him?
How can I fit in? What will make me accepted?	How can I be faithful to God? What will please God?
What do I want? What is my true heart desire?	What does God want for my life? Is Jesus Christ my true love?

C. The Costly Decision 8:10-22

3. God gave a solemn **warning**; they **REFUSED** to obey, so God gave them their desire.

The Warning

The king will take:

Your sons
Your daughters
Your fields
Your tithe
Your servants
Your animals
Your freedom

You are free to make this choice, but you are not free to choose the consequences.

1Samuel 8:10 – And **Samuel told all the words of the LORD** unto the people...

1Samuel 8:11-17 – ... He will TAKE... TAKE... TAKE... TAKE... TAKE... TAKE...

1Samuel 8:18 – ... **ye shall cry out in that day**... your king... LORD will not hear you...

1Samuel 8:19-20 – Nevertheless the people **REFUSED** to obey... Nay; but we will...

1Samuel 8:21-22 – ...the LORD said...**Hearken unto their voice**... make them a king...

"He will **take**" – 6 times! – the god of this world wants to take all you got! **2 Corinth 4:4**

"Nay; but **we will have a king** over us" – words of a rebellious toddler! "I don't care!"

"Hearken unto **their voices**" – sometimes God's judgment is **not stopping** us – **BEWARE**!

KEY TRUTHS

- We want choice without consequence. God made life differently. **Galatians 6:7**
- The **tragedy**: they had been warned + instructed = **they understood** the **COST**!

"... Hearken unto their voice, and make them a king ..."

Once their sinful desire became strong enough, the warning became an inconvenience.

*They did not need **more information** – they needed **a different heart** to love and obey God!*

What a scary place when God gives you what you desire when it is not Him and His best for you.