

RIGHT IN THE EYE

RIGHT IN THE EYE, PART 2: ONE KING LEADS TO ANOTHER

The dark underbelly of the American dream is, “I can do what I want, when I want, with whom I want as long as it doesn’t hurt anyone.” We don’t want “kings” in our lives, whether those kings are parents, bosses, the government . . . or God. We want to do what’s right in our own eyes. But in our attempts to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want, we end up serving little kings like appetite, lust, fear, comparison, insecurity, generational dysfunction, addiction, loneliness, and greed.

BIG IDEA: Don’t be deceived: people who do *what they want, when they want, with whom they want* eventually discover that one king leads to another.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Talk about some cultural examples of people getting what they want, but giving up their freedom in the process. Why do you think we tend to glamorize that kind of life?
2. Have you ever had a “last night of church camp”-type experience in which you were filled with emotion and made a commitment to break a bad habit or stop doing bad things? If so, were you able to follow through on your commitment? Why or why not?
3. During the message, Dave said, “*You were created to be ruled over, which means when you say no to one king, you end up saying yes to another king.*” Respond to that statement. Does it offend you in any way? Why or why not?
4. As you think about your family history, where do you see generational dysfunction caused by people doing what was right in their own eyes? What have you done to try to break the cycle?
5. Think about the “little kings” in your life. Why is it easier to say no to God than to say no to the things you substitute for God?
6. What is one area of your life where you see the pattern of forsaking God, following the people around you, and surrendering your freedom? What can you do to begin to break that pattern? How can this group support you?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Last week we learned how it is impossible to do what you want, when you want, and with whom you want without hurting others, including yourself! The Book of Judges shows exactly how the Israelites suffered through the cycle of Disobedience – Disaster – Deliverance. *Go Deeper in your study by reading Judges 21:25, Joshua 24:14, 16-18, 21 and Judges 2:11-15; 3:8.*

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes. Judges 21:25

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our fathers up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord, because he is our God.” Joshua 24:14, 16-18, 21

Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the Lord to anger because they forsook him and served Baal and the Ashtoreths. In his anger against Israel the Lord handed them over to raiders who plundered them. He sold them to their enemies all around, whom they were no longer able to resist. Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them, just as he had sworn to them. They were in great distress. Judges 2:11-15

RIGHT IN THE EYE

The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim king of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for eight years. Judges 3:8

2. When, and about what, have you said, “Lord, I surrender all to you, except...” How would you fill in the blank? Why the reservation?
3. When you say “no” to the Creator King, is it because you have traded our King for another “little king?” How has appetite, hurt, lust, insecurity, family dysfunction, alcohol or drugs, loneliness or greed taken over your life?
4. Why do you think it is easier to say “no” to God and “yes” to some destructive habit or behavior, when you can have the maximum freedom found only under the authority of God?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

You weren't created to rule yourself. As long as you attempt to, you will eventually find yourself at the mercy of the little kings in your life because “I won't” eventually leads to “I can't.” Maximum freedom is found under the authority of the Creator-King. The great news is that when you cry out to God, he is willing to rescue you. But because he knows the power of the little kings, he requires unconditional surrender.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.” Judges 24:14