

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 8:1-22

"Demand & Rejection of a King" – June 4, 2017



Introduction

In chapter 7, Israel reached rock bottom and in their helplessness cried out to God. Finally aware of their desperate need, they turned from their sin, to God, and found salvation. But as soon as they repented of self-reliance and trusted in God's good rule...they relapsed, falling back into the idea that life was better with them in charge instead of God. Paul looks back at Old Testament events like this and writes, "These things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:10-11). From Israel's example, 1 Samuel 8 warns and encourages us so to keep us from relapsing into proud self-reliance.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

- I. We need the strength of God...because swimming upstream is hard (8:1-8)
- II. We need a heart change...because information is not enough (8:9-18)
- III. We need to trust in God *alone*...for unchecked fear leads to a hard heart (8:19-22)

Read & Discuss

1) Read [1 Samuel 8:1-8](#)

Just as God called Israel to be holy as He is holy, God calls the church to be holy. To be holy means more than being morally pure – it also means to be different, set apart for God's purposes. Going against the current of the world can be exhausting...so how can we find the strength that God provides? How does God use Scripture, prayer, and the people of God to renew our strength when we are weak? When Samuel felt the sting of rejection, God reminded him that they weren't rejecting him, but God as king. What difference does this make when our loved ones reject the good news of Jesus?

Additional reading: 1 Peter 1:16, 2:9-11; Isaiah 40:30-31; Psalm 119:28; Proverbs 13:20

2) Read [1 Samuel 8:9-18](#)

Israel had believed the empty promise of sin that life would be better apart from God, that true freedom is found in our self-rule. But God lovingly warns them about the bitter end of their decision. The king they'd choose for themselves would take that which was precious to them and in the end, they'd end up as slaves of the king (v17). God's warning illustrates the nature of sin in our own lives: it promises freedom, but leads to slavery;

promises satisfaction, but leaves us discontent; promises meaning and fulfillment but leaves us empty. Sin *always* lies to us. God had warned the nation and given them the information to do right, but the *still* refused to obey. Can you think of times in your life you knew the right thing to do, but struggled or failed to do it? Why is mere information or education not enough? Read Romans 6:1-7. Freedom in the Christian life doesn't mean being able to do whatever we want, but finally being able to say 'no' to sin. How does being united to Christ lead to our freedom from sin's tyranny?

Additional reading: John 8:34; Romans 6:1-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17; Ezekiel 36:26-27

3) Read [1 Samuel 8:19-22](#)

Israel persisted in their demand for a king even after God had warned them. And so, in an act of judgment, God gives them what they wanted. They'd have to learn the hard way and taste sin's bitter end before they'd return to God. How did fear lead them to dig their heels in until their hearts became hard? How do we tend to our fear and fight to trust in God alone when we're anxious?

Additional reading: Romans 1:21-28, Romans 8:31-39; Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 62

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

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