

Give Us a King – 1 Samuel 8:6

- I. Introduction
 - a. The period of the judges is full of rebellion and unfaithfulness to God. (Judges 21:25)
 - b. At the end of this period, the people ask for a king. There is some legitimacy to the request but it comes from wrong motives.
 - c. Through failure and rebellion of man, we learn quite a bit God's character and what He wants with His people.
- II. The Request
 - a. Failure leaves an opening for rebellion (vs. 3-5; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Mt. 23:2-3; Acts 23:4-5)
 - i. The people's request is not right. However, they start the request by appealing to something that is true.
 1. This is applicable for us. It is so important for leadership to walk in integrity. This can be elders, deacons, bosses, parents, etc. It is important because if those being led find consistent failure in leadership, the path of rebellion is so much easier.
 - ii. Though they come with a legitimate claim, they ought to have given honor where it was due. That honor belongs to God.
 - iii. We can also put this in the context of applying God's word to our own lives. Mankind is not perfect and we do not always act as we ought. But don't ever place those inconsistencies on God.
 - b. They brought a demand and not a request (vs. 5; Acts 15; 1 Pet. 5:5)
 - i. The people do not come in humility. They come having already decided what the solution is!
 1. Just because failure has occurred, it does not give you an avenue to rebel.
 - ii. Part of having a humble heart means that you are able to listen and reason. It means that you are after truth and the best path forward.
 - c. Their argument is based on what others are doing (vs. 5, 20; Deut. 12:30; Mt. 23:15)

- i. Their claim against Samuel's sons is used almost as a coverup. After God gives the warnings against their request, they no longer appeal to Samuel's sons as being the root cause of their request.
 - ii. Much of the Old Law is written in a way that when God says to do or not to do something, it is because other nations are doing it.
 - 1. Bring that forward to the New Covenant. There are many tactics used by others in the religious world that see results. But the ends do not justify the means.
- d. They called for something God promised but not according to His will (Deut. 17:14-15)
 - i. Just because you arrive at the same conclusion as God doesn't always mean you arrived at the place you need to be spiritually. When God says something is wrong, it is wrong because it separates you from God. Same for what He says is right.

III. The Warning

- a. God always tells us the whole truth (vs. 11-18)
- b. He even tells us the hard truths about following Him (Mt. 8:19-20)
 - i. This is a part of the character of God that we often miss. He cares for us in that He is open and honest with us. We ought to reflect that part of God's character when we work with others.
- c. It is the Devil's work to lie about reality of his way (Gen. 3:4)
 - i. If the Devil had been open and honest with Eve, it is likely she wouldn't have gone through with eating the forbidden fruit.
- d. Just because we tell someone the truth doesn't always mean they will change (Lk. 16:27-31; Rom. 1:16)
 - i. We ought never sugarcoat the truth.
 - ii. If someone doesn't respond to truth in the way you want, don't be disheartened. God's word is still "power unto salvation." Open and honest hearts (good soil) is always out there. Keep planting.

IV. The Granted Wish

- a. Beware of dogmatic arguments (vs. 19; Prov. 12:15; 1 Kgs. 18:27)

- i. "No, but we will have a king!" Have you ever made such an argument? May we always listen to counsel.
- b. Sometimes we must give someone what they are asking for even when we know better (Lk. 15:12-13)
 - i. God has all wisdom and the best counsel for us. Yet, He allows us to make bad decisions in the hopes that we learn from our mistakes and repent. (Ps. 32 and 51)
- c. There is great comfort in seeing God's plan fulfilled even in the midst of the rebellion of men.
 - i. All of the frustrations and wickedness we see in this world are of no consequence to the will of God. He ALWAYS accomplishes His will.