



## 1 Samuel 8

### “Be Careful What You Wish For”

4\_14\_2024

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Anaheim Hills, CA | RockCC.com

## Transcript

00:00

There was this time of peace that we talked about last week as God had helped them defeat the Philistines in 1 Samuel chapter 7

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but now what we see in our passage is that the elders of Israel come to Samuel and they they ask for a human king so that they can be just like everybody else so that they can be like the other nations so essentially what we see is Israel is deciding here in 1 Samuel 8 that that God isn't good enough anymore

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that God has not been leading them well enough that that God is not enough for them and so they want to be like everybody else and they want a king just like they see in all the nations all the kingdoms that are surrounding them

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they fail to appreciate all that that God has done for them and they effectively they they abandon their reliance on him throw him to the curb and say we want a different plan

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so let's look at our passage together we're gonna read through the whole thing 1 Samuel chapter 8 then we'll come back and dig in and see what God has for us this morning as we go back and pick through in just a few minutes so to give us the big picture 1 Samuel chapter 8 we're gonna start in verse 1 go all the way down through

01:05

verse 1 it says that when Samuel became old he made his sons judges over Israel and the name of his firstborn son was Joel in the name of his second Abijah and they were judges in Beersheba yet his sons did not walk in his ways but they turned aside after gain they took bribes and they perverted justice

01:24

then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah and said to him behold you're old your sons do not walk in your ways so now appoint for 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

01:41

so Samuel prayed to the Lord and the Lord said to Samuel obey the voice of the people and all that they say to you for they have not rejected you but they have rejected me from being king over them according to all the deeds that they have done from the day that I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day forsaking me and serving other gods so they are also doing to you

02:03

but now then obey their voice only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them so Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him and he said these will be the ways of the king who will reign over you

02:19

he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of 50s some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and some to make implements of war and the equipment of his chariots

02:38

and he will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers he'll take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive orchards and give them to his servants and he will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants

02:54

and he will take your male servants and your female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys and put them to his work and he'll take the tenth of your flocks and you shall be his slaves and that day you will cry out because of your king who you have chosen for yourselves but the Lord will not answer you in that day

03:14

but the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel they said no there shall be a king over us that we also may be like all the nations that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles and when Samuel had heard all the words of the people he repeated them to the ears of the Lord and the Lord said to Samuel obey their voice make them a king and Samuel then said to the men of Israel go every man to his city

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these are the words of the Lord would you pray with me church God we thank you for your word we thank you that we can come together that we can consider what you would have to say to us this morning during this time so God we pray that as we look at Israel's interaction with Samuel God as we see Israel's demand for a king God we pray that we would learn that we would take some wisdom from this passage

04:03

that we would learn from their mistakes and God that we would humbly put ourselves before you that you would be our king and instead of turning aside to other things that we're so prone to do

04:14

God we pray that you would use this time that you would convict us in the way that you would have that you would choose to this morning God we pray that you would speak for your servants are listening it's in Jesus name we pray amen

04:28

Alright, well as we work our way through the passage, the first nine verses what we see here is Israel comes to Samuel and they come demanding a king.

04:36

There's this demand for a king in these first nine verses. So at the very beginning of the passage we see chapter 8 has another one of these kind of jumps in time that we saw just last week in 1 Samuel 7.

04:48

It tells us in verse 1 that when Samuel became old he made his sons judges over Israel. It seems that the peaceful situation that we described last week as we saw God giving the Israelites victory over the Philistines, this time of peace being ushered in among God's people, it seems that they've been living in that space for an extended period of time now.

05:10

However many years it had been, this peaceful situation from chapter 7 continued through these years. But we see that there's some worry that starts to pop up among the people of Israel. There's this natural ending that is coming to this time of peace and this time under Samuel's leadership as all of us do.

05:30

Samuel was prone to getting older, right? That's how life works. We get older as things go along and so the people of Israel are looking at Samuel saying he's no longer a spring chicken. He's coming to the end of his life and this time under Samuel's leadership was coming to an end.

05:47

The end was on the horizon. And so Israel needed a plan for how they were going to proceed into the future. Samuel was old and his sons were not worthy successors it tells us. As we read about Samuel's sons, verse 3 it tells us that his sons did not walk in his ways but they turned aside after gain.

06:05

They took bribes and they perverted justice. As we read these words about Samuel's sons, it seems to me they conjure more images in my mind of Eli's sons that we remember mentioned earlier in this book.

06:18

The priest Eli, they sound more like his wicked sons than they do their father Samuel who had been such a wonderful godly leader for Israel for all these years. Eli's sons and Samuel's sons were actually guilty of similar attitudes and similar behavior.

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Both of them, both of these groups, both Eli and Samuel's boys were identified by their selfishness, by their desire to take rather than to give. Well that's not a good leader, is it? Someone who's just there to serve themselves, to gather for themselves, to see how much they can selfishly take?

06:52

Eli's sons, we saw this with them as they stole from the offerings that people would bring into the temple, into the tabernacle as they were supposed to come and offer these offerings before God. Eli's sons would come along and they would steal the best parts for themselves.

07:07

They would take what they wanted and they would leave the rest, the leftovers for God. Eli's sons also, to politely say it, they took the women who were there serving in the temple and met their fleshy desires by taking those women for themselves as well.

07:24

We see wicked evil in Eli's sons that we remember from chapters ago. But now we look at Samuel's sons and they're described in similar terms, maybe comes out a little bit differently but they're still self-seeking, self-serving leaders.

07:37

It says that they took bribes, that they perverted justice. These were corrupt leaders at their core. These could not be the men who God would have to lead his people moving forward into the future after Samuel's days come to an end.

07:52

So we continue through our story and in verse 4 it tells us that all the leaders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel and they said to him, behold you're old, your sons do not walk in your ways.

08:04

So now a point for us, a king, to judge us like all the nations. But this thing displeased Samuel when they said, give us a king to judge us. So Samuel prayed to the Lord. We see this interaction, the elders of Israel, the leaders of Israel come to Samuel and they're trying to make succession plans.

08:24

They're trying to put together a leadership plan for the future. Samuel, what are we going to do when one day your leadership comes to an end? What are we going to do then? They're expressing some confidence in Samuel as they come to him asking him to help with the plan.

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There's not a coup that happens here as they run off and try to come up with their plan and overthrow Samuel. They loop Samuel into this whole conversation but they acknowledge that the plan that Samuel had is not a good plan.

08:53

They acknowledge that Samuel's sons are not qualified to lead in the way that they would need them to. And so this is effectively a vote of no confidence in Samuel's boys to come and to be the next leaders in Israel.

09:07

But what they're effectively doing is they're also offering a vote of no confidence for God's leadership. Because up to this point in Israel's history, this isn't something where somebody is just automatically placed into a position of leadership.

09:20

The judges were placed in those positions. God was the one who appointed people to tasks of leadership. God was the one who provided leaders for Israel. And so

abandoning Israel's established culture in God being their king and God being the one who would put people in positions to lead.

09:39

This is the elders of Israel demanding major change. They come to Samuel and they say, no, no, we know the old plan, but we don't want to live by the old plan anymore. We need something new. Appoint for us a king.

09:53

Give us a king to judge us like all the other nations. You know, as I was studying and reading through and kind of processing through what's going on here this week, I thought it was ironic how both Israel and Samuel missed how their brilliant plan that they're coming up with here is so closely aligned with the plan that they were acknowledging was broken.

10:15

The reason why they needed a plan, the reason why Israel comes to Samuel and says, give us a king is because they were acknowledging that the previous plan that Samuel had put in place, it wasn't gonna work.

10:27

God had appointed judges individually to special roles, to be special leaders that were chosen by God to fulfill the work that God had given them to do. But Samuel had decided he was going to provide for the future leadership of Israel by making the leadership of Israel a family matter.

10:47

He said, no, no, I know God has appointed all these people in the past. I'll just have my sons do it. And so he appointed his sons as judges of Israel. And it seems as best I can tell here that Israel comes to Samuel and says, Samuel, your sons are unfit.



11:01

They can't be the next leaders to lead our country, to lead our people. And so they ask for a king to lead them. Israel comes to Samuel and says, Samuel, this son succession thing, it doesn't work, Sam, what are you doing?

11:18

Let's appoint a king instead. But do you hear the problem there? How does succession...

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11:56

...So verses 7 through 9 we see now God responds to Samuel as Samuel has come and brought this request from the people of Israel to the Lord. We see now in verse 7 that the Lord says back to Samuel, obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them.

12:15

According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt, even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. Now then obey their voice, only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.

12:34

God is aware of Samuel's personal offense as he hears Israel coming and saying, Samuel the judge's thing isn't working, we don't want a judge anymore, we want a king. And understandably, Samuel hears that and he takes a little bit of offense to that.

12:49

So you're saying that the role that I've fulfilled all these years, it's not good enough for you anymore, you want a king instead. But God warns Samuel, he says, Sam, no, no, no, no, no, don't take this personally.

13:01

God's saying to Samuel, they haven't rejected you, they have rejected me. They've rejected me from being their king. You know, that whole reality seems a little bit foolish to me as we read through it because remember this is the same generation, probably a few years later, but this is the same group of people who had just seen in 1 Samuel chapter 7, just last week we talked about it, how God had protected his people, how God had delivered his people from the Philistines years earlier.

13:30

They have so quickly forgotten God's provision. You remember part of what we talked about last week, Samuel came along and after seeing God provide for his people and protect his people, he did something at the end of that passage, you remember he set up that big stone, he sets it up and anybody remember the name of the stone?

13:50

It was the Ebenezer stone, right? Not Scrooge, Rock. We set this stone up that reminds us of the fact that the Lord has helped us, that the Lord has come with us and provided for us, has brought us this far and he set that up to remind the people of Israel every time the water got deep they could look back at the stone, they could remember, no, no, God was good in the past, he's going to come through for us in the future.

14:16

Every time something got a little sideways on them they could remember, no, God has faithfully brought us this far, God will continue to provide for his people. The Lord is aware of Samuel's personal offense, he says, no, no, don't take this personally, they've not rejected you, they've rejected me, but this is the same group of people who had just seen God deliver them.

14:44

Years earlier they have seen God provide for them, they have seen God bring this time of peace that they've been enjoying over the past several years and now they have just as quickly forgotten God's provision for them.

14:56

But that's kind of par for the course for Israel, isn't it? Kind of seems like that's just, that's their cycle, that's what Israel does. Ever since God led Israel out of Egypt they've been in this cycle where God has protected them and provided for them and given them everything that they need and then they thank him by turning around and running off and worshipping someone else.

15:18

And they go and they build a golden calf for themselves and they worship it while God is on the mountain giving the Ten Commandments to Moses and meeting with Moses. We'll make another plan, we'll have another thing, we want to be like everybody else and so there's a golden calf that shows up.

15:34

So they go and they worship the Baal and the Ashtaroth, we see all these different things. One example that, there's plenty that I could have read here in this spot, but one example of this is in Judges chapter 10.

15:47

In Judges 10 verse 6 describes the people of Israel and it says, the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the Lord. They served the Baals and the Ashtaroth, the gods of Syria, the gods of Sidon, the gods of Moab, the gods of the Ammonites, the gods of the Philistines.

16:04

And they forsook the Lord and did not serve him. They've run down this path before. Spoiler alert, they're going to run down this path again. But in the midst of all of this, this is kind of their national political way of doing the exact same thing that they've done all these other times.

16:24

God, we hear what you're offering, we don't really want that, that's not enough for us. We're going to go over here and we're going to do our thing instead. Let's see how it works out for them. God orders Samuel to give them what they want, to give them what they're asking for.

16:38

But he tells Samuel, before we do that, let's make sure there's this important qualification. God tells Samuel, make sure you warn them before we do this. And so verses 10 through 18, we see this warning about a king, this warning from Samuel about a king as he responds to the people of Israel.

16:55

So Samuel, a faithful prophet, a faithful man of God did what a faithful prophet should do. He clearly spoke the Lord's words to the Lord's people. He clearly communicated what God had to say on the matter, and so the people were fully informed when they made this decision.

17:13

What they choose to do with God's words was on them, but they knew what God had to say on the matter. Let's look at verses 10 through 17 again. We see this somber warning from Samuel to the people. In verse 10, it says that Samuel told all the words of the Lord to the people who were asking for a king from him.

17:30

He said, these will be the ways of the king who will reign over you. He'll take your sons and appoint them to his chariots, to be his horsemen, to run before his chariots. He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of 50, some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest and to make implements of war and the equipment of his chariots.

17:51

He'll take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. He'll take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive orchards and give them to his servants. He'll take a tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants.

18:06

He'll take your male servants and your female servants to the best of your young men and your donkeys. He'll take them and he'll put them to his work and he will take a tenth of your flocks. And finally, he says that you shall be his slaves.

18:21

Samuel relays this warning to the people of Israel. This king is going to take and take and take and take, take. I didn't go back and count. There's probably what, 10, 15, 20 times it says the word take in that little passage of a few verses.

18:36

This typical king that they're asking for, we want a king like all the other nations. Well, Samuel's warning them, a typical king would consider everyone and everything in his kingdom to be his for the taking.

18:49

If I want that, I'm going to take it. If I need that for some reason, I'm going to take it. It's mine. Verses 11 and 12 says that your sons will be placed into his army, that there will be manual work, manual labor for them to do in this king's service.

19:03

You sure you want to subject your boys to that? Well, what about your daughters? Verse 13 says your daughters will work for the king as well, that they'll be subject to his control as they have work and responsibilities and tasks that he employs them to do.

19:20

Verses 14 through 16, it continues on, it says that your land, your produce, your workers, your money, all of these resources, all of these things will be at the king's disposal. This request, we want a king, this request is going to cost you dearly.

19:39

This is not the idealistic request that you think it is. No, no, no, king's going to be great. Everything's going to go wonderfully. Samuel's saying, no, no, no, it's not. Verse 17, he even says that this is going to directly impact them, not just their sons and their daughters and their workers and their money and their fields.

19:58

This is going to impact not just their society, not just their pocketbooks. This is going to impact them directly. It says in verse 17, you will be his slaves. Whatever it is that he asks for, it's your job to fulfill it.

20:14

Are you sure you want to sign up for that? Don't you remember, isn't this what God just set them free from a few generations earlier in Egypt? Israel had seen this type of leadership before though, hadn't they?

20:27

Even these Israelites, they've seen this type of leadership before. Both Eli's sons and Samuel's sons were disliked and discredited, but they were characterized by many of

these same issues. It was the selfish taking of Eli's sons and Samuel's sons that struck the people so poorly.

20:47

No, no, we don't want them to lead us because they're selfish and they're just out to take and to take and to feed their own desires. Well, you know what? The king was going to be worse because not only was he going to do that, he was allowed to do that.

20:59

Eli and Samuel's boys, they were perverting the role that they were supposed to be fulfilling to take for themselves. The king has every right to do that. The king had every right to go and to do these things, but yet Israel continues to insist, we want a king, we want to be like all the other nations.

21:20

Verse 18, Samuel goes on to ominously warn the people. He says, this is the decision that you make, you're going to regret it. This isn't going to end well for you. Verse 18 says, in that day, when you have your king, you will cry out because of your king, who you have chosen for yourselves.

21:38

But the Lord will not answer you in that day. If Israel does indeed continue on, and spoiler alert, they do, if they proceed to reject God's kingship over top of them, who brought them out of slavery in Egypt, who set them free from the bondage that they are seemingly driving themselves right back into, they're going to find themselves as slaves again.

22:01

In Egypt, they had been captive under the Pharaoh and under the leadership of the nation of Egypt, but this time, their cries are not going to be heard. Exodus chapter two

tells us that the people of Israel cried out to God and got heard their pleas and God acted on their behalf.

22:20

What Samuel's saying here is, no, no, God's not gonna come rescue you this time. The Lord will not answer you this time. Verse 18, it explicitly says that the Lord will not answer you in that day. This is the bed that you wanna make, you're gonna lie in it.

22:35

So be careful about this decision that you're making, Israel, that they come with this demand for a king in the first section. We see this warning now from Samuel about a king, but finally, verses 19 through 22, we see an accommodation by the King.

22:51

You want a king, we want a king, we want a king. God says, no, no, I'm the King, but I'm gonna give you what you ask for. This accommodation by the King. We see ignored warnings and belligerent demands here in these last few verses.

23:04

Verse 19, it says that the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. They said, no, there shall be a king over us, that we may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.

23:18

And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. And the Lord said to Samuel, obey their voice, make them a king. And Samuel said to the men of Israel, go, every man to his city.

23:32



The people of Israel hear Samuel's warnings, but they're not dissuaded by Samuel's warnings. I don't know why they choose not to obey. It seems like perhaps they don't believe the accuracy of what Samuel's saying here.

23:45

Because Samuel's pretty clearly making the case, guys, you don't want this. This is gonna turn out poorly for you. You complained about being slaves all those years earlier. Now, you're signing up for it.

23:58

This is the contract that you've drawn up for whatever reason they didn't accept what Samuel was warning them about. Instead, they become more emboldened in their demands. They're vehemently demanding, we need a king.

24:13

In verse five, we saw they came and they requested a king. In verse five, it was, Samuel appoint for us a king, that he might lead us. Now, in verse 19, they're more insistent. They say there will be a king over us in verse 19.

24:27

They dig their heels in. Samuel, we hear everything that you're saying. We don't care. We're gonna do what we want. We're going to have this king. Do you notice the root of the danger? Do you notice the root of the problem here?

24:43

God had been their king. When God had been their focus, things had gone well for them. When they had obeyed what God had laid out for them, things went really well. And when they turned their attention off of God and they started to look at other things in life, they get off track.

24:59

What they're doing here is they're looking around at all the other nations and they're saying, God, we hear you, really great that you're our king, but we don't want you to be our king. We wanna be like everybody else.

25:10

We wanna be like all the other nations around us. We see the Philistines, they've got a king. We see the Amorites, they've got a king. We see the Moabites, they've got a king. We see all these groups.

25:19

We wanna be like all the other nations, but here's the deal! They weren't like all the other nations. These were God's special people. These were God's chosen and blessed people who had been given special privileges that they were chosen and selected as different.

25:40

They had privileges that others didn't have, but they threw all those things away because they wanted to be like everybody else. And I read that, I'm looking at that this week and it makes my brain hurt.

25:54

It makes me angry at them because I see that and I can't help but respond in any way other than what is these idiots problem? Like why does it seem like just abandoning God and going and being like everybody else?

26:06

In what world is that a good idea? And we see that and it's really easy for me. Maybe you're a little more generous than I am, but I see that and I go, why? What are they doing? And then as I was having those thoughts this week, as I was thinking those things, God gave me a good whack on the forehead as He sometimes does.

26:29

I said, you know what, you guys do the same thing sometimes. Drew, you're guilty of doing the same thing sometimes. Many churches are guilty of doing the same things today. You know, if we try to play the world's game of entertainment and flashy, we can't win that game.

26:47

There is not enough money in any church anywhere in the world for us to go toe to toe with a Taylor Swift concert in an entertainment value and flashy, right? We can't do it. Can't be done. For us to try to compete with the world in worldly entertainment, that's a game we're going to lose.

27:08

But there's good news for us this morning, because we don't have to go toe to toe with the world on worldly entertainment, because we have something more important than just entertainment, than just flashy, than just big lights and loud music and exciting things.

27:22

We have the inspired word of God that God has made available to us, right? We get to be excited about that, because what we have is worth more than lights and music and flashy. We have the word of God.

27:38

We have a Savior who offers eternal life to sinners that don't deserve it. We get to live in a space where, you know what, we don't have to compete with some concert. We don't have to compete with some business that's just there to give you flashy and shiny for a few hours and suck you in.

28:02

Jesus offers eternal life. In John chapter 6, Jesus specifically addresses this reality. Jesus specifically talks about these things. In John chapter 6, if you're not familiar with what was going on there, kind of in the context of what was going on, John 6, we see Jesus feed the 5,000.

28:19

This mass of people, Jesus performs this incredible miracle, and thousands of people are fed with a little boy's lunch. Miracle is done. Crowds are coming in. People want to be near this guy that does these incredible miracles like Jesus is doing.

28:38

But in the midst of that conversation, Jesus offers some difficult teaching. Jesus challenges them. He says, no, no, you're not just here for the show. I'm not just here to entertain. Following me is going to cost you.

28:52

It's going to cost you dearly to follow me. It's going to cost you everything you've got in life. And so he offers some of this difficult teaching to kind of reset their focus a little bit. And he sees the crowds just go, wait, what are we?

29:06

No, we don't want that. I don't have any interest in that. And so masses of people just, they pack their stuff up and they go. It's not what we're interested in. No, thanks, Jesus. The entertainment goes away.

29:19

They go away. So now in John chapter 6, verses 66 through 68, tells us after many of the followers of the crowd turned back and no longer walked with Jesus, Jesus says to the 12, to his disciples, do you want to go away as well?

29:37

Are you going to leave with them? And verse 68, Simon Peter speaks up. I love Peter. He'll always speak up and he'll always speak his mind. In 68, he says, Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go?

29:50

You have the words of eternal life. Jesus, we're not here for the entertainment. We're not here for the free food. We're not here for, yeah, food's good, right? Wait, we're all thankful breakfast happened.

30:03

But we don't come to Jesus because of breakfast. We don't come to Jesus to see the show. We come to Jesus because he holds the words to eternal life. Jesus is the one who died and didn't stay dead. He came up out of that grave and he proved that he has power over death, that he has power over sin, that he can give hope to sinners like me and like you.

30:23

That is the reason why we come to church. We're not here because it's flashy and it's entertaining. It's why it's so disappointing when churches focus more on the flashy lights and the gimmicky attractions than they do on the words of eternal life.

30:38

It's the church version of cotton candy. You can go to a church and it might be really fun for a while, right? There might be some really interesting, some really entertaining. You get that sugary sweet high, but a church that's more focused on entertainment than it is on proclaiming the word of God is gonna leave you with a belly ache eventually and perhaps a lot more.

31:06

You just, cotton candy day after day after day, it's gonna cause a problem. I don't know what your problem's gonna be, but we got a few medical people in there, right? That's gonna cause a problem, right?

31:15

Cotton candy after day after day after day, no good. I got some head shakes. It's no good. Israel is coming to Samuel and saying, we wanna be like the world. But we wanna be like the world is a dangerous path for us to walk.

31:36

It's one that Israel is determined to walk as they pound their fist, they're demanding to Samuel by the end of this chapter, we want a king, we need a king, we're going to be like everybody else. And the chapter ends, that's it.

31:52

Samuel dismisses everybody to go back to their hometowns. He says, go home, I don't know if Samuel's just having one of those parent moments that he says, everybody to your rooms, I don't wanna see you right now.

32:02

But he sends them home. He warns them and he sends them home. There is no immediate action here from Samuel as he responds to this. God says, give them what they want, and Samuel sends them home. So we've got these questions at the end of our passage this week.

32:17

Who's the king gonna be? How's he gonna be chosen? What's gonna happen to the people of Israel? And so for now, we just need to leave those questions to just sit. They just need to sit unanswered for a moment.

32:28

But as we wrap this up, I think there are some things that we need to learn from 1 Samuel chapter 8. Because what we see in this chapter, we see a determined group of Israelites demanding what they think they need, what they thought they needed in direct opposition to the clear warnings, the clear teachings of what God would have to say on the matter.

32:51

Israel responds to this situation. They say, we don't want to follow God, we wanna follow a king. We don't need God, we need a man. It seems like there's a pretty common mistake that we as humanity make, that we see Israel making here.

33:06

But I think we often, we stumble into this same space that Israel's in right now. We wrongly assign blame or credit to the physical when what's actually more important is the spiritual. We focus on the temporal, we focus on the things that we can see and touch and smell and hear.

33:26

Israel perceived that they had a leadership problem and so they jumped into action. They said, Samuel's gonna be gone soon. We need a leader, let's come up with a plan, we'll have a leader. We need a king, that was the solution, right?

33:39

We need a plan, king would be perfect. Everybody else has got a king, we need a king. And rather than pause to reflect on what God would have them to do, they immediately jump into action and they come up with a plan.

33:53

You know what, we do the same thing sometimes, don't we? We have waters get deep in our life. We have a situation rise up in our life and instead of taking a step back and saying, God, what would you have me do in this?

34:09

We make a plan, right? You get your legal pad out, you start making pros and cons and what about this and what about that? We come up with a payment plan or a diet plan or a treatment plan or a, we're gonna fix this.

34:23

And so we go into action mode. Do we have any fixers in the room? Right, my natural inclination is we gotta come up with a plan, I'm guilty of this as well. We just go into action mode. Sometimes we even do this in the exact way that we see the Israelites do in 1 Samuel chapter 8.

34:45

This is gonna get really close to home, so hang on or curl your toes up so they don't get stomped on or whatever. But what we see in Israel is they say there's a problem with our nation and we need a man to lead us.

35:01

Anybody ever had that thought before? You know, our state is broken and we need a new person to lead us. Our country is broken and we need a new person to lead us. We need a person that we can put our hope in.

35:11

We need a person, there needs to be a man or a woman that we can vote, that we can put into office that can fix all the problems. Let's turn all of our hope, all of our focus to finding the next man or woman who will lead us.



35:24

And we just turn deeply political because that's the way that we think we can fix it. We think we can fix it by just finding the right person. If everybody would just agree with me and vote for the guy that I want you to vote for, we place all of our hope for the future, all the hope for the future of our country, our state of our own lives, we place all of our hope for the future of God's work on some elected official, but I've got bad news for you.

35:49

There is no candidate on the ballot that is going to meet all of those needs. There is no man, no woman anywhere ever who is going to give you everything that you need. There's one man who is able to give us everything that we need and he's not on the ballot.

36:07

You feel free to fill in his name. If you wanna put Jesus on there, you can join me. We'll just fill it in, and see if we can get Jesus elected together. But there is no person that's gonna fix all of our country's problems.

36:22

But you know, the reality is many of us, we turn our attention towards the physical problems, towards the tangible issues, towards the things that they argue about on the radio or the TV or whatever.

36:32

We focus on the physical problems when the reality is our biggest problem is not a physical problem, it's a spiritual one. And the same way that Israel is guilty of looking at this circumstance that they find themselves in and saying, no, no, no, we don't care if God has said He'll lead us, we need a man to lead us.

36:49

We need a person that we can put our hope in. We need some flesh and bones that we can put our hope in and say, no, no, He's gonna take care of things. And the same way that Israel proves themselves to be pretty foolish when they face this crisis and they say, we need help, quick, let's go find a person.

37:08

God, see you over there, we're not interested right now, we'll take care of this one, we're just gonna go get a king. But then we do the same thing. Then we look at the problem in our life and we go, no, no, no, I just need to come up with a plan.

37:28

I just need 10 steps. I just need a budget, I just need to eat better, I just need to, like we come up with these things. I think the warning for us this morning is don't make the same mistake that Israel makes.

37:43

Don't do the same thing that Israel does. Rather than focusing on we're gonna jump into action mode, rather than going to the temporal first, let's slow down and let's turn our attention towards the eternal.

37:59

Let's turn to the spiritual first. We're gonna finish, I wanna read for you a verse from Matthew chapter 6 in just a second. But Matthew chapter 6, if you're not familiar, Jesus is there and He's talking to the crowds and He's telling the crowds that God is going to provide for them and they've got all these needs and I have to imagine that they're arguing, yeah, but, but we need food, but we need clothes, we need all these things.

38:25

God, we have so much that we need to worry about and take care of in our life. And Jesus looks at His disciples and says, guys, slow down. You see those birds? You

notice how God takes care of the birds, that the birds are fed every day, even though they don't have refrigerators with piles of food, they're taken care of.

38:45

Yeah, yeah, but we need clothes, yeah. You see the field over there? You see how God clothes the field with flowers, that God provides these beautiful adornments that God clothes the fields. But you're gonna sit here and tell me that you need to make sure that you're provided for because God's somehow not gonna provide for you?

39:05

After looking at all those things, Jesus in Matthew 6:33 tells His followers, He says, no, no, no, stop focusing on all those things. Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Then all these things will be added to you, that the food will sort itself out, the clothing will take care of itself.

39:23

God's gonna provide those things in God's way, in God's timing, but first, first, seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Then all these other things will be added unto you. Our temptation is to go to the temporal when we need to go to the spiritual.

39:44

Seek first the kingdom of God. That's the take home for us this morning. When water gets deep, do you look around? Or do you look up? For those that are tempted to look around, tempted to jump into action this morning, I've got good news for you, I've got help that's set up for you this morning.

40:07

Our prayer team is gonna be down here at the front. They would love to pray with you about whatever it is you got going on. Take those problems to God, not to your task list. We've got our prayer wall out the back doors.

40:17

If you turn right, you write those prayer requests down, we would love to pray for you with whatever it is that you've got going on in life, but we need to slow down. We need to look up, because Israel didn't.

40:32

And by the way, the rest of 1st and 2nd Samuel is gonna be us unraveling how poorly that goes for them as they decide they knew better than God did. They eject God from the kingship, and they say, no, no, we'll just have some men lead us.

40:46

It doesn't go well. So our warning for us this morning is just take God at his word. When God says do something, don't think that your way's better. Say yes, Lord, and say thank you. Let's live the way that God calls us to live.

41:02

Would you pray with me? God, we thank You for Your Word. We thank You for the opportunity to come and to consider the mistakes of the nation of Israel and God to consider the warning that You would have for them and God, I believe for us this morning.

41:17

God, help us to consider the reality that when we put other things in the way of the role that You're supposed to hold in our lives, God, we can make things really ugly, really fast. But, God, You invite us to so much more.

41:33

You invite us to be a part of Your kingdom. You invite us to follow You, God. You declare Yourself that You are our King, that we are Your people, Your special and chosen people. If we receive Jesus as our King, as our Savior, God, You, God, You have adopted us as Your sons and Your daughters.

41:54

God, You have placed us in a special position of priority among all the creations of the world. God, we pray that as people who enjoy those benefits, God, we pray that You would help us to remember that and to live with that as the reality that we stand in.

42:16

God, that we wouldn't just run off and think that somehow I'm going to come up with a solution that's better than God's. God, put us in our place and remind us that You are our King, that You are the one who leads, and we are the one who follows.

42:30

Thank you. God, we exist for you. It's in you that we live and move and have our being. We pray that everything that we say, everything that we do, that it would point people to you and that we would live lives worthy of the calling that we've received.

42:51

God, we love you. We thank you for loving us. It's in Jesus' name. Amen.