

FIRST SAMUEL

Lesson 14: Chapter 8, Give us a King

23 September 2016

Key verse: “now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.” (vs. 5).

What’s wrong with wanting to be like all the nations? —The friendship of the world is enmity with God (James 4:5). God knows that this desire to be like other nations will result in them falling “**into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition**” (1 Tim. 6:9). To become like other nations will result in sin which will damage their relationship with God (1 John 2:16).

If your desire (your will) for material things is greater than your desire for spiritual things, even if you continue to do right and live right and attend church and try not to sin, —your heart is not right with God. Your heart’s desire ought to be for spiritual things and the things of God—above all else. A desire to be like the world and partake of worldly things will cost you your right relationship with Jesus Christ (even if you don’t act on your desire).

VSS. 1-5 Samuel’s sons walked not in his ways. Since Samuel’s ways were right and he taught his boys the right way, God didn’t blame him for the actions and choices of his sons like He blamed Eli because he didn’t restrain them when they sinned (3:13) and he failed to teach them about God (2:12). Your child’s sinful actions will limit your effectiveness in ministering to others. (See 1 Tim. 3:4, Prov. 10:1, Prov. 17:25).

“**Now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.**” (vs. 5). Notice that they didn’t consult with God in this decision; they went to Samuel and told him what they wanted. This is human nature. When we’re wrong and we know it, we avoid going to God. They tried to bypass God when they came directly to Samuel, but Samuel didn’t have the authority to do what they asked. **The powers that be are ordained of God** (Rom. 13:1). (See also Jn. 19:11, Dan. 2:21, 4:32).

When men reject the leadership that God provides and choose their own leaders, it is just as bad as worshipping idols (See Hosea 8:3-4).

God gave them their king in His anger (see Hosea 13:9-11). He gave them a king to punish them. If you have a wicked leader running your nation, consider whether that man is your punishment for trying to forget God.

Sometimes God will give you a wicked pastor to try and get you back on your knees in prayer.

VSS. 6-7 Samuel didn’t like what the people asked of him, but he didn’t threaten them, didn’t worry, and didn’t quit the ministry. He prayed to God. Samuel did right. He was not responsible for the peoples’ actions because he did what God told him to do and said what God told him to say. If you are faithful to do that, when people reject what you’ve been preaching, they’re not rejecting you, they’re rejecting God.

Self-examination: is God reigning over your life on a daily basis? Do you only seek God when you're in trouble or have a need? If so, you have rejected his leadership in your life (Luke 19:14).

VSS. 8-9 This is an example of God's permissive will. God doesn't stop us from sinning. People say, "*If it's wrong, God will stop me.*" That is a myth that is used by Christians to justify their sin. God lets people have their way to show them that their way leads to trouble.

"Yet protest solemnly unto them." We have an obligation to point out sin and tell people when they're wrong. We must preach the truth whether people choose to hear it or not (Ezek. 2:7).

VS. 10 Samuel did exactly as God commanded him. He didn't use philosophy or give his opinion; he **"told all the words of the LORD unto the people."** People don't like that. Do it anyway.

VSS. 11-17 Samuel describes the kind of leader they have asked for. It's exactly the kinds of leaders we have over our nations today.

1. Your sons will work as his escorts, limousine drivers, and bodyguards (vs. 11).
 2. He'll establish a government system to control agriculture and munitions (vs. 12).
 3. Your daughters will cook and bake (vs. 13).
 4. He'll take what belongs to you (government taxation) (vss. 14-17).
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THE LORD WILL NOT HEAR

VS. 18 The people will cry out...and the LORD will not hear them.

ISAIAH 1:13-17. _____

PROVERBS 1:24-31. _____

JEREMIAH 14:10-12. _____

EZEKIEL 8:17-18. _____

HOSEA 5:6-7. _____

ZECHARIAH 7:11-14. _____

Has your nation pushed God so far away that now He refuses to listen to your prayers? (See Prov. 14:34).

"Repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent." (Rev. 2:5).