

I. Intro

A. We started last week with a new message series

1. "The Life of Samuel" is a look at one of Israel's earliest prophets
2. Samuel grew up in a dark time for Israel
 - a) Everyone made up their own rules for God worship
 - b) Everyone worshiped *superstition*
3. The greatest example of this *superstition* was when the ark was stolen
 - a) Israel used the ark like a good luck charm and lost a battle
 - b) The Philistines won, took the ark, but quickly returned it when they got sick
 - c) Samuel preached repentance, and Israel turned back to God

B. This week, our story continues in 1 Samuel 8

1. Samuel is a grown man with children of his own
2. Samuel didn't have a strong father figure; it probably affected his parenting
3. Samuel's boys were judges over Israel, but they took bribes and perverted justice
4. Israel takes this opportunity to ask for a king "like every other nation"

C. As we read the story, watch how Israel prays AND how God answers

1. Israel is convinced a king can fix their problems
2. They are wrong, but God answers their prayer with a "yes" anyway
3. And, this entire exchange was handled through the prophet, Samuel

II. Text

A. 1 Samuel 8:1-9

1. Israel asked Samuel for a king because his sons were evil
 - a) This request kicks off a 600 year roller coaster for Israel
 - b) They were convinced their problem was someone else
 - (1) "The judges are wicked"
 - (2) "Foreign nations are evil"
 - c) They blamed everyone for their problems but themselves
2. Samuel takes this request to God
 - a) Samuel takes it personally, because these are his boys

- b) God reassures Samuel that the issue is Israel
- c) The issue is Israel because they want "a king"
- 3. Asking for a king proves Israel doesn't trust God
 - a) From the Exodus, God has always been Israel's king
 - b) But, Israel wanted someone they could see, touch, and manipulate
 - c) Their request is the same reason why we have contracts in business today
 - (1) We want something to see and touch because we don't trust people
 - (2) We need tangible assurances so we can manipulate them if things go south
- 4. So, if Israel's prayer revealed their trust issues, what do your prayers reveal?
 - a) What do your prayers reveal about your trust in God?
 - b) What do your prayers reveal about the maturity of your faith?
 - c) Are your prayers filled with requests for God to prove He is faithful and good?
 - d) Are your prayers filled with requests for everyone around you to change?

B. 1 Samuel 8:10-22

- 1. God told Samuel, "Explain to them what will happen if I answer their prayer"
 - a) A king will take your land, your crops, and your animals
 - b) A king will make your daughters work, and your sons fight
 - c) A king will not save you, a king will rule over you
- 2. Even though God warned them, Israel demanded a king anyway
 - a) God said yes even though it was the wrong prayer
 - b) It was the best way to show them their immaturity and His love
- 3. Think about this story through the lens of the prodigal son (*Luke 15:11-32*)
 - a) The son wanted his inheritance more than his father
 - b) The father knew the inheritance would ruin his son, but he said yes anyway
 - c) The yes from his father taught the prodigal two things
 - (1) It showed him how foolish his request was
 - (2) It showed how wise and loving the father was
- 4. This says a lot to us about God's character and how He answers our prayers
 - a) God cares more about the heart behind your prayer than the words you say

- b) God is more concerned with you changing than you getting your way
- c) God answers immature prayers, but not for the reason you think

C. 1 Samuel 9:1-10

1. This is our first introduction to the new king of Israel
 - a) He is a very tall, very handsome guy
 - b) He comes from a wealthy family and has a lot going for him
 - c) He is also wandering around the country looking for donkeys
2. The writer is using Saul to compare and contrast Israel's values vs God's
 - a) The book starts with Samuel: a kid, born into barrenness, with a weak home life
 - b) The book introduces Saul: a good-looking guy, from a great family, with money
 - (1) The contrast is, Israel is concerned with what you can see, but God is concerned with what you can't
3. You will see this literary tool used throughout the Bible
 - a) It's easier to understand God's kingdom when it's contrasted with our world
 - (1) Think about the cross: *God's love on display using the brutality of murder*
 - (2) Think about the parables: *Jesus taught about heaven using farm metaphors*
 - b) Watch for these comparisons because they open your eyes
 - (1) They show you where your thoughts and prayers are immature
 - (2) They humble you because you realize how little you actually know

D. 1 Samuel 9:11 - 10:8

1. Summary
 - a) Saul and Samuel met, and God said "that's the new king"
 - b) They shared a big dinner and Saul was overwhelmed
 - c) Samuel anointed Saul as king and prophesied:
 - (1) He would meet two men who will say "we found the donkeys"
 - (2) He would see 3 men with goats, bread, and wine; they would share
 - (3) He would see prophets, be hit with the power of God, and prophesy
 - (4) God would change his heart and make him a new man
2. This encounter is important because Samuel is clarifying how God chose the king

- a) In every other culture, the king was god...the king set the rules
- b) God is saying, through Samuel, "My king will be different"
 - (1) Israel's king will receive authority from God
 - (2) Israel's king will model God's kingdom on earth
 - (3) Israel's king will submit to God, not be god
- c) He is giving Israel the best king they have to offer, but it still won't be enough
 - (1) This guy is from a good family, and now he is empowered by God
 - (2) The problem is, even our best doesn't make a good king
- 3. Jesus said, "nobody can serve two masters..."
 - a) The idea is that your heart has a throne and only one king can sit at a time
 - b) You can try to be the king, but even the best among us make a lousy king
 - c) God is using this story to show you that you need a better king than yourself

III. Conclusion

A. 1 Samuel 10:17-27

- 1. On the day of Saul's inauguration, he is hiding
 - a) Things haven't even started and Saul is too weak to stand in front of the people
 - b) This shows us that there is more to a man than what he looks like
- 2. When all is said and done, its like anything else
 - a) Some people are happy and some are upset, but things are changing
 - b) Samuel is God's mouthpiece through it all
- B. This is our final thought for the day
 - 1. This all takes place before Jesus, the cross, and Pentecost
 - 2. The Holy Spirit is not inside people, guiding them
 - 3. Israel relied on casting lots and the word of a prophet
- C. I pray that this story reminds you of what we have in Jesus
 - 1. Gone are the days of having to find a prophet, or pastor, before you come to God
 - 2. Gone are the days of animal sacrifices and pilgrimages to the temple
 - 3. The work of Jesus means you have full access to the full kingdom of God
 - 4. Today, rejoice in what Jesus has done