

1 Samuel #07

1 Samuel 8

Proposition: We must find our security in God alone

Title: The Stewardship of Citizenship

Proposition: We must follow our King

one day a man went to visit a friend who lived on a farm...

As he passed the barn, he saw something that both amazed and stupefied him...

Drawn right on the barn were 20 targets... each target had a hole right in the middle of bull's-eye... there were no other holes in the barn...

“John, b/4 we do anything else... who in the world did that shooting on the side of your barn?”

“It easy. I shot first, and then I drew a target around the bullet hole.”

That humorous story illustrated the situation many of us in this room are facing today. We do everything we can to give the impression that our lives are on target, when in reality all we've done is learn how to paint well...

We've sought to camouflage our emptiness and failure with materialism

instead of attacking problem, we attack people...

We don't solve problems, and blame in on the Lord leading us...

We blame our failures on someone else...

We try to live by our rules, by our logic, by our feelings...

There is a solution... and it's found in 1 Samuel chapter 8

READ vv. 1-6...

<<HTS = What A King Provided>>>?

1. A king provided status
2. A king provided laws and leadership
3. A king provided military victories

and the reason Samuel gets upset about this is because the Jews were supposed to be a people who had God as their King...

A God who provided them their status and importance... a king who would give them in identification they couldn't beat... they would be known as His...

“You shall be holy to me, for I the LORD am holy and have separated you from the peoples, that you should be mine.” – lev 20:26...

The LORD has declared today that you are a people for His treasured possession, as He has promised you, and that you are to keep His commandments, and that He will set you in praise and in fame and in honor high above all nations that He has made, and that you shall be a people holy to the LORD your God, as He promised...

Not only did they have God giving their status and identity...

They also had God providing leadership and laws...

Deuteronomy 4:2 – You shall not add to the Word that I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God...

Therefore, you shall keep His statutes and His commandments

which I command you this day, that it may go well with you and with your children after you...”

God also promised to defeat their enemies...

And He has proved that countless times...

Pharaoh and the armies of Egypt at the Red Sea...

The walls of Jericho...

Time and again, God led His people to military victory...

So everything they want in a human king, they already have in God...

And that's the issue that got Samuel upset...

These are the people of God, who have everything they could want... and they are rejecting that and clamoring after a human king...

They don't realize they are exchanging the most wonderful King ever... for a cheap, plastic, sinful substitute...

You know, they are a lot more like us than we like to admit, I'm afraid...

Our God provides us with a status we could never earn... we are joint heirs with Jesus Christ...

We are saints of God and priests to the most high God...

He has “loved us and freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom of priests to His God and Father...” – Rev. 1:5...

We are heirs of His kingdom – “so that being justified by His grace we might become heirs according to the hope of life...” – Titus 3:7

but let's be honest... those status and importance are not things that bother us...

It's the fact that he also calls us not to status of ruling... but servant... a status of slaves... we admit He owns us... that He is the Master... and we are the servant...

We are not too crazy that this King of us calls us to take up our crosses and follow Him...

The king we follow promises us things like...

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account... rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” – Matthew 5:9-12

the Status our King has placed on us is servants of the most high God... and the most high God part is great... it's the servant part we choke on...

Our King has given us direction and leadership...

There is no question that He claims all of our lives...

Commanding us what to think... who to conduct our business... how to pay our bills... how to interact with government... he rules every relationship... from husband and wife, to parents and children, to students and teachers, to bosses and employees...

This King of us gives us commands... that's not the issue... the issue is we don't like some of His commands...

Like loving people we rather not love – 1 John 4:21, “And this is the command we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love His brother.”

Commands like, “fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord...”

Commands like, “Forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ’s sake, has forgiven you...”

Commands like, “Confess your sins one to another...”

Commands like, “Show hospitality to one another with our grumbling...”

Folks, honestly, how long has it been since you had a family or a couple or a single Christian over to your house for snacks and games? When was the last time you went Dutch-treat after church w/ some one you don’t know very well here? How can we say we are obeying Him when we don’t keep His commandments?

Commands like, Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight.” – Romans 12:16

Not only that... our God also provides us with victories... but they are victories we most often cannot see...

The weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh...” – 2 cor. 10:5...

The victories we gain are when we die to ourselves... when we esteem others better than ourselves... when we confess our sins... when we admit we are just servants in the kingdom of a mighty King...

The victory He wants to give us are victories where we die to ourselves and our pride and share His Word with a stranger... or a loved one... or a co-worker...

The victories He gives us are victories where we have to reckon that we didn’t help Him at all... victories over our flesh... our desires... our goals..

Those are the victory He is providing for us...

So, there are other options for us... you know, God isn’t the only king out there...

The Jews are looking for a king in a human...

We look for a king in our children... they become our reason for living... our status (which is why many Christian parents push their kids so hard to be smart, athletic, or pretty, or whatever... b/c of how it makes the **parent** feel)...

We look for a king in our finances... security... protection...

We look for a king in our entertainment... if you could only get a bigger TV... or more channels... more time off from work..

We look for a king in our schedules... being busy makes you feel important... got too many things to do and not enough time b/c I’m so frightfully important...

We look for a king in our friends... they make us free important, and smart, and needed... and my friends agree w/ me that I’m just about perfect... and my friends & I are so very easy to love... unlike that other person in our church family who is difficult to love... yuck...

So we need to agree that the Jews here are not the only ones who

go out looking for another king... we do to...

Let's see what happens... maybe this will all turn out well...

READ vv. 7-9 uh oh...

Not only does Samuel think this is a bad idea... God thinks it's a bad idea...

READ vv. 10-18 (emphasize "take")...6 times in one address are we told that these other kings will take... and what is being taken is their future... their prosperity... their status...everything they had with God will be taken from them...

The King Jesus gives... king others all take...

God brought them up out of slavery in Egypt... and now they are voluntarily going back into slavery...

This is not good...

But they don't care...

READ vv. 19-22...

They hear the warning and reject God as their king...

Make them a king = God's judgment...

For us...

<<<HTS "Having Any King But God Means...">>>

<<<HTS: "We have rejected Him">>>

<<<HTS: "We will suffer and be slaves">>>

are your children really so important to you that you can't come to a mid-week church service? Friends, that's not freedom... that's slavery...

Is your self-image so important that you can't invite some of this church family out for a bite to eat with you? Friends, that's not freedom... that's slavery...

<<<HTS: "God is not obligated to help us.>>>

make your children your king? Don't expect King Jesus to bail you out when they are breaking your heart...

Make your money your king? Don't turn to King Jesus to help you when that money is gone...

Make your finances...

Make your power...

Make your s

who determines what you do?

Who determines what words come out of your mouth?

Who decides what thoughts kick around in your head?

Who decides if you are going to be humble?

Who determines who and what you are going to love?

Who determines what you do and where you go on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings?

Who decides what you listen to in the car?

Who decides what you watch on TV?

Who decides what attitude you have at work?

Who determines how you spend your money and where you spend your money?

Jesus is either Lord of All... or He is not Lord at all...

So... I will end this message by quoting Joshua.... chose you this day who you will serve...

You have a King... that's not the question... the only question is, "are you willing to have God as your King? Where you find His calling on your life to be a servant enough status for you? Where serving a crucified God is your highest pleasure? Where His laws and His leadership rule your life? Where You are confident in His ability to protect and deliver you from your enemies?"