



The People Demand a King

(1 Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22)

1 Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22

- When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.
- ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations."

1 Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22

- ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord.
- ⁷ And the Lord said 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.
- ⁸ 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.
- ⁹ Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

1 Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22

- ¹⁹ But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."
- ²¹ And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord. ²² And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."

-LEADERSHIP-



I. Lessons in Leadership

(1 Samuel 8:1-22)

Uphold Godly Standards

(1 Samuel 8:1-5a)

- "When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. ³ Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice.
- ⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵ and said to him, "Behold, you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways."

Do Not Shirk Individual Responsibility

(1 Samuel 8:5b)

- “Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations”
- Don’t follow the ways of the world. Be of the world, but not in the world.
- “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.” (Romans 12:12)

Wait Upon the Lord for Direction

(1 Samuel 8:6)

- "But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the Lord.

Have No Other Gods

(1 Samuel 8:7-9a)

- And the Lord said 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.
- ⁸ 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. ⁹ Now then, obey their voice"

Provide (and Receive) Wise Counsel

(1 Samuel 8:9b)

- “only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

Provide (and Receive) Wise Counsel

(1 Samuel 8:10-18)

- ¹⁰ So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. ¹¹ He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. ¹² And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants.
- ¹⁵ He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. ¹⁶ He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day, you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

Do Not Idolize Leaders

(1 Samuel 8:19-20)

- ¹⁹ But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, ²⁰ that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."

Stubbornness Leads to Hard Lessons

(1 Samuel 8:21-22)

- ²¹ And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the Lord.
- ²² And the Lord said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city."
- Takeaway: The majority is not always right

Takeaways:

Regarding Powerful (Human) Leaders

“Absolute power corrupts absolutely”

“Despotic power is always accompanied by corruption of morality.”

--Lord Acton (1834-1902)

(Human) power corrupts.

And (human) absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Takeaways:

What leads to praiseworthy leadership?

- The people putting God first in their lives and expecting the same in their leaders
- The people upholding Godly standards and keeping leaders accountable to do so as well
- The people demonstrating humility and expecting the same in their leaders
- The people living holy lives and expecting the same in their leaders
- The people embracing responsibility for the common good . . .
- The people putting others first . . .
- The people refusing to idolize their leaders . . .
- Diagnostic: The people looking for the “fruits of the Spirit” in their leaders

“Real” Leadership is Revealed in the Fruits of the Spirit

- “But the fruit of the Spirit is
 - love, joy, peace,
 - patience, kindness, goodness,
 - faithfulness, gentleness, self-control;
 - against such things there is no law.” (Galatians 5:22-23)
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- Note: Jesus is both a strong and a compassionate leader who also exemplifies the Fruits of the Spirit.



Saul as “The Most Likely to Succeed”

(1 Samuel: 9:1-10:16)

Saul's Kingship Begins Well

(1 Samuel 10:17-11:15)



Let Us Pray

