

The Essentials: Samuel

Session 3 – 1 Samuel 8: 1-22

Opening Collect

Together: Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Watch Video

Read: 1 Samuel 8: 1-22

Discussion:

1. Read v. 5. Why do the Israelites want a king? Security? Independence? Envy and comparison? Discuss with your group.
2. Through Samuel, God tells the Israelites exactly what will happen if they have a king. Why does this not impact their judgment? Have you had times where clarity did not actually change your decision making?
3. Given our understanding that Jesus is king of kings, we realize that kingship is not in and of itself bad. Read vv. 11-17. What makes this kind of king bad in light of Jesus' kingship?

Check in and Closing Prayer

1 Samuel 8:1-22

When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. ²The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second was Abijah; they were judges in Beer-sheba. ³Yet his sons did not follow in his ways but turned aside after gain; they took bribes and perverted justice.

⁴Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah ⁵and said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations." ⁶But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to govern us." Samuel prayed to the LORD, ⁷and the LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to 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. ⁸Just as they have done to me^u from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹Now then, listen to their voice; only, you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them."

¹⁰So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹He 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, ¹²and 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. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers. ¹⁶He will take your male and female slaves and the best of your cattle and donkeys and put them to his work. ¹⁷He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸And on that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you on that day." ¹⁹But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, "No! We are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰so that we also may be like other nations and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles." ²¹When Samuel heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. ²²The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to their voice and set a king over them." Samuel then said to the Israelites, "Each of you return home."