

Week of 5-21-2023
Series: The Story, Ch. 5, Pt. 1
Sermon: Give Us a King!
Text: 1 Samuel 1-15

Sermon Outline:

The people say...

1. We're tired of all this change; we want something permanent. (8:7)
2. We're tired of being different; we want to be like everyone else. (8:19-20)
3. We're tired of God's way; we want our way. (9:1; 10:19-24; 13:8-13; 15:17-23)

But God says...

1. I have not changed; I've saved you for My name's sake. (12:6-22)
2. I have set you apart, for your sake and Mine. (12:22)
3. I have raised up my King; so, follow Him. (2:35; 10:11-12; 13:14)

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-7. God told Samuel that Israel had rejected "me from being king over them." It's easy to criticize them, until we realize that we do the same.
 - Is there an area of your life where you are rejecting God as King?
 - If so, what other king have you set up and what have been the consequences?
2. Read 8:19-20. Israel wanted to be like the other nations. But God's people are to be set apart, different, and counter-culture. However, if you don't understand the "why", then over time you'll get bitter, angry, or discouraged at reminders to live according to God's Word. But if you understand your role in God's kingdom, in God's plan to reconcile all things to Himself in Christ, then you'll understand the purpose of being different. You'll begin to see that God is changing you as He is using you. You'll begin to savor being set apart. In the way Special Forces troops take pride in being different.
 - Which are you?
 - Do you love or loathe the idea of being set apart?
 - Or do you feel energy or burden with the idea of being counter-culture?
 - Why do you think you feel the way you do?
3. Read 10:8 & 13:12. Many prefer following God in their own way and in their own time.
 - Have you ever tried to rush or 'force' God's will?
 - Where in your life might you doing "God-ish", "Bible-ish", "Faith-ish", "Sacrifice-ish", etc.?
4. Read 12:6-25. God does not change. The same God in Genesis is the same God in Exodus. And He is the same God in each of the other 64 books of the Bible. And He is the same God today.
 - Discuss how life-changing it can be to read the Bible on a *daily* basis, while simply embracing (*each day*) that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8)

Personal Reflection: None of the kings would work. But ultimately the position of king was established in order that God Himself would come to establish a kingdom where Jesus Himself is King. Consider how amazing is the sovereignty and love of God.