

Family Devotional

Israel's First King

7-19-20

Scripture Reading

1 Samuel 8:1-22

Samuel was a prophet who judged Israel. He guided the nation of Israel based on the things God told him. We see in this passage, though, that the nation of Israel wanted to king so that they could be like the nations around them. God tells Samuel (and us) that his design was for *Him* to be king of this nation, but he going to give them this king they so badly want. Samuel warns the nation what having an earthly king will be like (oppressive), but they demand a king anyway. Though this is against God's design for them, he allows them to have a king.

The nation of Israel is God's chosen people meant for his purposes and to bring him glory. They were meant to be holy, set apart for God, which meant they would seem different. They didn't want to be different, though. They wanted to be like the nations around them, and that's why they wanted to have an earthly king. God gave them what they wanted.

When we see this, we should see ourselves. Christians are meant to be a holy people, set apart for Christ and his purposes, but we often want to look like the world around us. Our speech, conduct, and relationships should all be motivated by our calling: to make Jesus famous on this earth. However, sometimes, we just want to be like everyone else and experience all the things they do. And sometimes, God just lets us do it.

Extension

- 1) Why did the Israelites want an earthly king instead of a heavenly one?
- 2) How are we sometimes like the Israelites in this way? How do we want to be like the people around us?
- 3) What happens when we go our own way instead of living our lives the way God has called us to?

Pray

Read 1 Peter 4:9. Praise God for his perfect design for us. Confess to God how you have chosen the world's ways over his ways. Thank him for making us a chosen people set apart for his purposes. Ask God to help you in living our his calling on your life.