



THE BOOK OF

1 SAMUEL



Sermon Series Notes

1 Samuel 8-13- Saul- The Man Governed by the Flesh

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v. 3- Accepted dishonest gain/perverted justice. Samuel wasn't asked to appoint his sons. For the same reason that Plato's famous society based on his treatise called *The Republic* will never work. A group of philosopher kings will fail almost immediately because of corruption and personal interest.

V. 4-5 Theocracy: Where God is the supreme ruler

appoint us a king... is it so terrible that they wanted a king? Genesis 49:10 (Jacob) Israel- blesses his sons. Because of Reuben's sin; he gives his blessing to Judah and in 10 says: *the scepter will not depart from Judah, nor the ruler's staff from between his until he comes to whom it belongs and the obedience of the nations is his.* Deut. 17:14-20 Spells out the rules for the king.

Problem- *like the other nations have.* It wasn't necessarily an issue that they wanted a king but it was the **attitude and timing** of their request.

Judges: *every man did as he saw fit.* Phil 2:21 –*everyone looks after their own interests.* Default of man. Eg: **"My heart is the ruler of all, my being. If my heart tells me it's true, that's good enough for me."** —Jennifer Lopez

-journalist Eric Gillin in an interview with Church of Satan highpriest Peter H. Gilmore...

"What [satanists] essentially believe, is that life should be lived in the pursuit of pleasures, and we only get one chance to do it. Sounds like America to us."

Why this is a problem - *The heart is deceptive and desperately wicked, who can know it? He who trusts in his heart is a fool.* Romans 8:7 *The mind **governed** by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so*

constant counseling advice- are you governed by God or by feelings? faith over feelings.

v. 6-8 Heart is that they are rejecting God's rule over them.

V. 9 Consequences

V. 10-18 spells it out. It's costly. He'll **TAKE** the best of your labor. It's been said that the average tax payer works from Jan. 1st to May 24th to pay the government! "This year, Americans will work the longest to pay federal, state, and local individual income taxes (43 days)," the report stated. "Payroll taxes will take 26 days to pay, followed by sales and excise taxes (15 days), corporate income taxes (12 days), and property taxes (11 days). The remaining 7 days are spent paying estate and inheritance taxes, customs duties, and other taxes. In 1900, Tax Freedom Day was Jan 22nd!"

V. 19-20 –Their response – I refuse to listen to the word of God. I want a man to fight my battles and I want to be like everyone else. Contrast *Deut 20:4- For the LORD your God is the one who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies to give you victory.*"

Dr. William Evans of the Hollywood Presbyterian Church- His 8 year old girl, said to him, "Daddy, I want to get some ballbearing skates. All the other children have ballbearing skates " He said, "But dear, you have a pair of skates." She replied, "Yes, I know Daddy, but they are rollerbearing skates. They won't go as fast as the others will." He was a minister and did not have too great an income so he said, "Well, my dear, I'm afraid you will have to make do. We can't afford to buy any right now." But she wouldn't let him be. That night when he came home from his work, there was a little note at his place on the table. It said. "Dear Daddy, I still want the ballbearing skates." When he went to bed that night there was another note pinned to his pillow. It said, "Daddy, would you buy me some ballbearing skates?" He did what we would have done; he scraped up the money somehow and got the ballbearing skates. When he gave them to her, she was delighted. She threw her arms around his neck and hugged him and kissed. Then she put on the skates and started out the gate and around the corner. That was the last time they ever saw her well and alive. As she went around the corner, the skates were too much for her and she slipped and fell down, hitting her head against the sidewalk. They brought her home in a coma. She died at the hospital before the night was out. "Since then," Dr. Evans said, "when I want something of God and it seems as though he is not willing that I should have it but I keep crying out for it, the Spirit of God reminds me, "Are you asking for ballbearing skates?" " This is what happened in Israel. It is a principle that is at work in all of our lives. (Stedman)

v. 21- 2nd Samuel 9:2- Samuel goes to the Lord for the 2nd time, not to give God new information but **to get direction**. Saul- means requested one. Wealthy, a head taller, impressive. KJV- not found a goodlier person than he!

Prof. of psychology at Princeton in 2012 US News article: *here are certain traits that voters are attracted to, he says. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney, for example, naturally has a leg up on former House Speaker Newt Gingrich because he is taller, has better hair and high cheekbones. The taller candidate wins 80% of the time. And if he is has great hair, all the more so!*

Even Samuel wasn't immune to this: Read: **1 Sam. 16:1-7**

1 Sam. 9:3-6; 14-21 looking for donkeys, he becomes king. **Counseling:** All circumstances are leading us either closer or further away from God

1 Sam 10- Anointed King

1 Sam 11- God is gracious and uses Saul, like he used Samson.

1 Sam 12- Saul transitions authority to Saul. He gives a history of how God delivered through its leaders.

Why do we want to be governed by our choice rather than God?

A. **Fear instead of faith** (1 Sam. 12:12-13)

a. **Antidote is faith.** Faith is taking God at his word.

B. **Fear led to Control-**

- a. As a result, governed by the flesh. Not the spirit

Solution:

Be governed by God. The Lord MUST be on the throne of your life.

(Kent Hughes). Jesus: *I am a king, but not like the nations have.* Other kings enslave, not give us security, peace. Those kings are marked by the word TAKE, but Jesus is marked by GIVE.

So, HOW?

Instead v. 14-15 Don't fear circumstance, **fear the Lord.** The believer's fear is **reverence** of God. Hebrews 12:28-29 is a good description of this: *"Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe, for our 'God is a consuming fire.* (Gotquestions.org)

V. 21- **Stand firm** –if you don't stand firm, you won't stand at all. Is. 7:9

V.22 it isn't your ability to fulfill the terms of the relationship, it is God's ability.

V. 23 Have a **mighty person** of prayer in your life, directing you. God's man/woman

Be teachable.

V.24 A. Service reflects your belief.

B. Constantly consider what great things he has done for you.

V. 25 Don't persist in evil. Be quick to repent. (though a righteous man falls 7x Pr.24:26)