

**Preaching Christ....
...by the power of the Holy Spirit
...and the authority of the Word of God**

Date: 20 August 2023
Services: *Across the Diocese*
Series: All about Jesus
Title: Kingship to exile
Books: 1 Sam-2 Kings
READING: 1 Samuel 8

Outline

1. What is the passage about?

- a. Samuel's age and Samuel's sons
- b. We want a King!
- c. You don't want a King!
- d. Yes we do!

2. What does it teach us about God?

- a. Given half a chance, we'll reject God as King
- b. Given half a chance, we want to be like everyone else
- c. Sometimes – God gives us what we want!

3. How does it point us to Jesus?

INTRODUCTION

- Have you ever wanted something so **badly**, that it consumed all your **time** and came to totally dominate your **thinking**...?
- ... something that went *against* the advice of **others** but you didn't **care**... you knew **better**... //
- ...and then when you finally took hold of it, it was **great** at first, but as time you went on, you realised that all it had cost you along the **way**, and in fact all that it meant in the present... wasn't really **worth** it?
- like **Fred** (not his real name)... who liked fast **cars**... and after much **saving** went and bought his **dream car** and often went **drag racing** in the early morning hours... until one morning there was a terrible sound of **shattering glass** and **twisting steel** and a couple of mates lost their **lives** and he became a **paraplegic**...
- He **got** what we **wanted** – but he **lost** what he **had**.
- He got his **car**. Had his **fun**. But lost a **sound body**, his **independence** and **some mates**.
- Then there was a **Mary** (not her real name) whose parents were quite **strict** and reacted badly to her **nose stud** and all her **ear piercing** and what she **wore**... and after yet another **nasty argument** with her parents decided she wanted **out**. She took off in the middle of the **night**... and found her way to **Kings Cross** where she was taken in by the **nicest** of **people** who showed her how to make a **living** and **support herself**... and there she entered a **downhill spiral** of **prostitution** and **drugs**...
- She **got** what she **wanted**, but she **lost** what she **had**.
- She was **free** from her **parents**, but she lost her **dignity**, her **innocence**, her **health**, her **opportunities**... //
- Let me ask you this: – does God let us go our own **way** – even if it is going to **hurt** us?

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- That is a **little something** of what we'll explore today
- Today we tackle four great books... 1 and 2 Samuel and 1 and 2 Kings... but the way we are going to do it is by looking at 1 Samuel 8...
...because as Israel asks for a king in this chapter, we gain insight into the how and why of the catastrophic failure of Kingship for Israel.
- Now you'll recall that Judges – where we finished last week – ended with that dramatic verse – Judges 21:25 - *In those days Israel had no king; everyone did as they saw fit.*
- I want to begin today, simply by asking:
1) WHAT IS THIS PASSAGE ABOUT?
 - a. Samuel's age and Samuel's sons**
 - as chapter 8 opens, we read that the prophet **Samuel whom God miraculously raised up following the period of the Judges**, is getting **old**.
 - he wants a **succession plan** in place for the leadership of Israel – and appoints his two boys – **Joel and Abijah** as judges.
 - But 8:3 *his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.*
 - b. We want a King!**
 - So the **elders** of Israel gathered together and said – quite **bluntly** (8:5) – *you are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.*
 - Well not surprisingly, Samuel was **hurt**.
 - He took it as a rejection of **him**, certainly a rejection of his **sons**, and a rejection of the **model** God had given them for the leadership of Israel.
 - However, if **Samuel** was **hurt** – than **God** was even **more so...** he said to **Samuel** (8:7): *'Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king...* which (by the way) they have been doing since I brought them up out of Egypt!
 - And the **Lord** said to **Samuel**: *'Tell them then what having a King will be like!'*
 - c. You don't want a King!**
 - So Samuel went back to them and said – **'you don't want a king!'**
 - (8:11ff) He'll take your **sons** and **some** he will send into **battle**, **some** he will use to farm his **land**; and **others** he'll use to make his **weapons** and **chariots**...
 - He'll take your **daughters** and force them to be **perfumers** and **cooks** and **bakers**...
 - He will take your **fields** and **vineyards** and **olive trees** and give them to his **attendants**.
 - He will take your **servants** and your **cattle** and your **donkeys** and use them for **himself**.
 - He will take a **tenth** of your **flocks** – and **you** – you will become his **slaves**.
 - And when that day **comes**, and you cry out to the Lord for **relief** from the **King** you have **chosen**... **THE LORD WILL NOT ANSWER YOU! //**
 - Believe me – **you don't want a King! //**

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d. Yes we do!

- Yes we do! We do want a king over us!
- Then we will be **like** all the other **nations** with a **King** to **lead** us and to go out **before** us and **fight** our **battles!** *////*
- And you know what the Lord **said?** *//*
- **Give** them a **King.** *//*
- **Give** them a **King.** *//*
- And so **they got what they wanted... but they lost what they had...**

2) WHAT DOES IT TEACH US ABOUT GOD?

- It was a sobering moment wasn't it when God said – *they have rejected me as their King! – as they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt!*
- But it clearly shows that >>>
 - a. Given half a chance, we'll reject God as King**
- Wasn't that the issue with **Adam and Eve...? not submitting** to God's **rule over them?**
- Wasn't that the issue throughout the entire **history** of **Israel** which led to their **banishment** from the **promised land?**
- Jesus tells a parable in Luke 19... a noble man goes off to be appointed **King** and the people send a delegation after him saying – '**we don't want this man to be our King...**' Jesus was referring to **himself** in that parable!
- given half a chance, we'll not only **reject** God as King, but **string** him up on a **cross!** *//*
- But the most **common way** God is rejected as **King today?**
- **Apathy, distraction, neglect... replaced with that very impressive gods of me, myself and me!**
- Given **half a chance**, we'll **reject** God as **King!**; and >>>
 - b. Given half a chance, we want to be like everyone else**
- it's another sobering moment in this passage (8:19) : *we want a king over us; then we will be like all the other nations!*
- The very thing they were called **not to be!**
- You will remember the commission God gave them in Exodus 19:5 '*if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.*'
- they **were** to **stand out...** they were **meant** to show the **brilliance** of being in **relationship** with **God.**
- And the fact that they **didn't** have a king like all the other nations was meant to show their **uniqueness** as a **nation** – and that **God** was their **King** and the **only King** they **needed!** *//*
- But **now** – **now** they want to be like **all the other nations.**
- They wanted to **abandon** their unique **role** in the **world.** They didn't **want** to stand out **any more.** *//*

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- Israel wanted to walk **away** from their **distinct** role... “we want to be like everyone else”. ///
- And **sometimes** – I want that too!
- I don’t want to be **different** any more. Its too **exhausting**. I **just** want to be like **everyone else**. // **AND YOU??** //
- But – here is the last point about what this passage teaches us about God >>>
 - **c. Sometimes – God gives us what we want!**
- 8:21-22 - *When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. 22 The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king."*
- **Why did he do that?** Was it **resignation**?
- Was it to **shut them up**?
- Or was it **judgement**?
- He **gave them** what they **wanted**.
- They **asked** for a **King**. He told them through Samuel that they **wouldn’t like** what a **King** would **bring**. They **refused** to **listen** and **persisted** in their **request**. So he **gave** them a **king**.
- and did you notice the **sobering v18?** – *when that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the Lord will not answer you in that day...*
- that wasn’t the last word from the Lord to Israel... but it is a **stern warning** that when we **go our own way** we may just **reap** the **consequences**...
- **And you know what?** Subsequent kings **WERE** everything Samuel warned they would be.
- **Saul** was **good** for a **little while**, **David** and **Solomon** had their **high moments** – but with a **few exceptions**, it was all **downhill** from **there!**
- Following Solomon, there was sharp disagreement about who should follow him, that the kingdom divided into the northern Kingdom, which was known as Israel and the Southern Kingdom known as Judah. (And on the back of the discussion questions this week, I’ve included those who were kings of the north and kings of the south).
- But the rebellion in both the north and south resulted in the collapse of both Kingdoms.
- the Northern Kingdom fell to the Assyrian Empire in 722 B.C
- and the Southern Kingdom finally fell to the Babylonians following an 18 month siege of Jerusalem in 586 B.C.
- their kings didn’t **listen** to God, nor to his **prophets**. They **mixed** their **religions** with the nations **round about**. They set up **false altars** to **false gods**. They led people **away** from the **Lord** – and so - **eventually** - **out** of the **promised land** and into **captivity**.
- **ISRAEL GOT WHAT THEY WANTED, BUT THEY LOST WHAT THEY HAD!** //
- They **lost** their **unique relationship** with **God** as their **only King**.
- They **forfeited** their **unique role** in the **world**. They **lost** their **temple**. They **lost** their **city**. They **lost** the **presence** of the **Lord**. They **lost** his **protection**.
- **BUT – THEY GOT THEIR KING!**

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- And **sometimes – sometimes** – God just **gives** us what we **want**.
- **Adam and Eve** – wanted the **knowledge** of **good** and **evil**.
- **They got what they wanted, but they lost what they had.**
- They lost their **innocence**. Lost their garden. Lost their **intimacy** both with **God** and with **one another**.
//
- The **prodigal son** got **his** part of the **inheritance** he so desperately wanted so that he could **get away...** but he **spent** all the **money** and the **friends** who he thought were **friends deserted** him and he wound up eating **husks** in a **pig pen**.
- **HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED, BUT HE LOST WHAT HE HAD. //**
- **SOMETIMES, GOD GIVES US WHAT WE WANT.**
- And we are left to **deal** with the **consequences** of our **foolishness** or our **disobedience**.
- ✕In the words of **Paul** – (Rom 1:21) *although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, 24 therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts... 28 he gave them over to a depraved mind to do what ought not to be done...*
- **YES, SOMETIMES, GOD GIVES US WHAT WE WANT.**
- **AND WE GET WHAT WE WANTED, BUT WE LOSE WHAT WE HAD.**
- Like the man for whom his **career** was **everything**. He longed for this new **dream position**. **He got it.....** But it **got him** in the end. His **family suffered**. His **marriage ended**. He **hardly** saw his **children**. He became **desperately unhappy**.
- **HE GOT WHAT HE WANTED BUT HE LOST WHAT HE HAD.**
- Or the woman who set her heart on the man she wanted even though both **she** and **he** were married to **other people**. They had a **dream weekend** together, but were **found out**. She became **pregnant** to **him**. **Both marriages, both families were destroyed**.
- **SHE GOT WHAT SHE WANTED, BUT SHE LOST WHAT SHE HAD.**
- Brothers and sisters in Christ... is there anything in your life you are pursuing at present that you know **isn't right**? You **know** it's not **God's will** – not his **best** for you?
- It may be merely **unwise**, or it may be something **disobedient**.
- **DON'T PURSUE IT ANY FURTHER!**
- God may just **give** what you **want** and **leave** you with the **consequences**.
- **YOU MAY GET WHAT YOU WANT... BUT LOSE WHAT YOU HAVE! //**

3) HOW DOES IT POINT US TO JESUS?

- And this is really very **simple** – but **profound**.
 - ✕**Jesus THE King!**
- For it reminds us of the **ultimate King**. The one completely **unlike** the king, **Samuel described**.
- **The perfect King**. The one in the **line of King David**.
- **Jesus is that King**.

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- The **opposite** to the **King** the **people wanted**. The one who came not be **served** but to **serve**. The **king** who instead of **taking** from his people actually gave his **life** for them in their **service**.
- The king who **by that death, atones** for all our **stupid failures** of the **past** and **forgives** our **sin** and **puts** our **lives back together** when we've **mucked up**...
- And the one who God has **now exalted** to the **highest place** and given the name above **every** name that at the name of **Jesus** every knee should **bow** and in **heaven** and on **earth** and **under the earth** and **every tongue confess** that Jesus Christ is **Lord** to the glory of **God the Father**.