

LEADER TIPS

Sermon Scripture References

Deut. 17:14-15; Ps. 139:4-6; Ps. 38:9-11; Gn. 28:13; Ex. 6:8; Ex. 16:18; Josh. 1:13; Lev. 20:24; Ex. 6:7; Hosea 11:1-4, 7-8, 9-11; Rom. 8:38-39;

Sermon Description

In this transitional chapter of 1 Samuel, leadership takes an unexpected turn for the worse as Samuel wrestles with the Israelite's desire for an earthly king over God as their king. After years of spiritual renewal, godly leadership, and peace, Israel determines the solution to a leadership crisis is a new king like the surrounding nations. "Give us a king!" is Israel's demand and exposes Israel's desire for a visible, worldly security thereby dismissing their difference as a chosen race whom God reigns as king.

As disappointing as this moment is, Israel is reflection of us. 1 Samuel chapter 8 is a reflection of our tendency to look to other means of security in times of crisis and dismiss our difference as Christ-followers. Thankfully, this reflection of dismissal is not met with an absence of hope. Instead, we see God's heartfelt love for his people throughout the scriptures and a continued promise of renewal to ultimately restore his people through a dynasty that His one and only Son would ultimately reign forever.

Text Insights

DISCUSSION PRIMER

Although Jesus calls and redeemed to be different—to reflect the nature and ethics of God's kingdom—yet, at times, we dismiss our difference. Why?

SERMON OUTLINE

WHEN MESS MEETS MERCY: THE GOSPEL OF 1 SAMUEL
"DISMISSING OUR DIFFERENCE": 1 SAMUEL 8:1-22

Big Idea: The Christian life is marked by being different, yet we tend to seek security outside of God. We must learn not to dismiss our difference but remember our restoring faith ultimately found in Jesus.

Sermon Outline

- The Leadership Crisis (vv. 1-5)
- The Heart of the Matter (vv. 6-9)
- The Solemn Warning (vv. 10-11a)
- What an Earthly King Takes (vv. 11b-17)
- What Your Heavenly King Has Given (Select Texts)
- Dismissing Our Difference: Israel and Us (vv. 19-22)
- The Promise of Difference: Our God Renews to Restore

INTERSECTION: How does the text intersect with our lives?

- ▶ Why is "being different" a mark of the Christian life? In what ways are we called to be different?
- ▶ We are tempted to dismiss our difference when feeling insecure in social and cultural settings. How might we cultivate security in Christ so we may be who God has called and redeemed us to be?
- ▶ What promises does the Holy Spirit bring to mind as you pray through difficulties and challenges?
- ▶ What comfort can we find in God's response to Samuel's prayer in vv. 7-8?
- ▶ How are passages like Hosea 11:1-11 and Romans 8:38-39 examples of God's heart toward his people?
- ▶ How does God use spiritual renewal to ultimately bring restoration?

REPLICABLE QUESTIONS

Read [1 Samuel 8:1-22](#) and explore together what the passages reveal about:

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| 1) The character and purposes of God? | 4) Our identity in Christ? |
| 2) The fallen human condition? | 5) Our obedience to Christ? |
| 3) The gospel of Jesus Christ? | 6) Our relationship to others |

APPLICATION: "So, what now?"

Have each participant identify a personal take-away in light of this study. Is there . . .

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| • a command to obey? | • a beauty to behold? | • a mission to fulfill? |
| • a promise to claim? | • a truth to believe? | • an example to follow? |
| • a sin to repent of? | • a service to render? | • a person to tell? |