

March 15 - March 16, 2025

Title: The King of Your Heart — 1 Samuel 8

Big Idea: Reject placing our desires over Jesus as the king of our hearts

Read 1 Samuel 8.

What in the message stood out to you?

What questions do you have?

Israel's desire "to be like other nations" is what ultimately ruled over their hearts. What things, other than Jesus, are you tempted to place as the king of your heart?

We see in Deuteronomy 17:14-20 that it is permissible for Israel to ask for a king. Why then was Samuel upset, and saw their request as evil, when they asked for a king?

The Lord will allow us to follow the desires of our heart, even if it means rejecting Him in the process. Why do you believe that is? How do you/can you safeguard your heart against this?

In 1 Samuel 8:8, God addresses the truth that He has provided for and protected Israel in their time of need. How have you seen the Lord provide for and protect you in your own life?

Read 1 Samuel 8:11-17 and Psalm 44:2-8. What are the differences you see in God's leadership versus an earthly king's leadership?

Even though Israel chose to pursue an earthly king, God was able to use their evil pursuit and turn it into something that would ultimately be for the good of the nation. How have you seen God turn something meant for evil, and used it for good in your own life?

"Next Steps" Takeaways — Discuss and pray through the following:

With God:

- In prayer, ask God to reveal to you anything that you are tempted to place as the king of your heart. Ask for His strength and wisdom in making necessary changes, so that He will always be the top priority in your life.

With Others:

- Ask a trusted friend or family member, "Based off my actions, what would you say is the king of my heart?" Based on their answer, why do you agree or disagree?

On Mission:

- Consider going on a short-term mission trip this summer, sharing with others why Jesus is worthy of being the king of their hearts.