

“At any Cost”  
1 Samuel 8  
(Preached at Trinity, September 25, 2016)

I'm supplying these notes for the benefit of busy pastors who may be engaged in bi-vocational work, feeling the pressure of preparing to preach twice on the Lord's Day while trying to balance full-time secular work as well as caring for their families. While the notes of another man are no substitute for personal study, I pray that these may aid in the process of preparing to preach.

**Disclaimer:** These are the actual notes I bring with me to the pulpit, which I follow loosely. They are not designed for publication. While I try to make every effort to give proper credit to my sources from the pulpit, adequate citations will sometimes be absent from my notes. If anyone feels their intellectual material has been used without adequate citation, please contact me and I'll make immediate correction giving credit.

1. As we entered **Chapter 8** there has been the passing of several years. Samuel has faithfully served as priest, prophet, and judge—a type of our Lord's offices of Prophet, Priest, and King. We read in **Chapter 7**  
**1 Samuel 7:15 NAU** - "Now Samuel judged Israel all the days of his life."
2. But now Samuel has grown old and he has appointed his sons to judge – **Verse 1**  
Sadly, we read in **Verse 3** that they did not walk in the ways of their father. We read:  
"but turned aside after dishonest gain and took bribes and perverted justice."
3. The elders met and determined it was time for a change. They wanted a king. But their true motivation had little to do with the poor leadership of Samuel's sons. God declared their true motivation for the change.  
**1 Samuel 8:7 NAU** - "they have rejected Me from being king over them."
4. From the very beginning of Israel as a nation God had established a theocracy. He was their King. His laws were to govern them. He established judges to lead them. Although they were led by the judges it was always clear that they were under the rule of God. Gideon put it well:  
**Judges 8:22-23 NAU** - "Then the men of Israel said to Gideon, "Rule over us, both you and your son, also your son's son, for you have delivered us from the hand of Midian." <sup>23</sup> But Gideon said to them, "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the LORD shall rule over you."
5. The judge system served Israel well. They often found peace and prosperity under their leadership. Their demand for a king was motivated more by covetousness than necessity. They wanted to be just like the other nations.  
**1 Samuel 8:19-20 NAU** - "No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations"
6. God didn't raise up Israel to be like all the nations. He raised them up to be holy.  
**Leviticus 11:45 NAU** - "For I am the LORD who brought you up from the land of Egypt to be your God; thus you shall be holy, for I am holy."
7. But Israel had made up their mind. They would have a king at any cost, no matter what.

- I. First of all, we need to see the bleak picture Samuel paints for a monarchy in Israel
- A. As mediator Samuel gives a declaration of God's judgment upon their request for a king.
1. God had given a provision for a monarchy in the Mosaic Law but it gave clear parameters. God would still be supreme.  
**Deuteronomy 17:15-18 NAU** - "you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses, *one* from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. <sup>16</sup>  
 "Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' <sup>17</sup>  
 "He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. <sup>18</sup>  
 "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests."
  2. Israel no longer wanted God's Law or His reign. In His mercy God gives them a solemn warning: **Verse 9** - "you shall solemnly warn them"  
 Samuel now declares what their life will actually look like under a king  
**1 Samuel 8:11-18 NAU** - "This will be the procedure of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and place *them* for himself in his chariots and among his horsemen and they will run before his chariots. <sup>12</sup> "He will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and of fifties, and *some* to do his plowing and to reap his harvest and to make his weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. <sup>13</sup> "He will also take your daughters for perfumers and cooks and bakers. <sup>14</sup>  
 "He will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give *them* to his servants. <sup>15</sup> "He will take a tenth of your seed and of your vineyards and give to his officers and to his servants. <sup>16</sup> "He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use *them* for his work. <sup>17</sup> "He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants. <sup>18</sup> "Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day"
  3. It would be hard to paint a bleaker picture. Samuel warning was that their king would take and continue to take from them.  
 He uses the Hebrew word for "take" four times – (לָקַח *laqach*) –  
 Verses 11,13,14,16

- B. Their mind was made up
1. Nothing could have dissuaded them from their determination  
**1 Samuel 8:19 NAU** - "Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, "No, but there shall be a king over us"
  2. Their heart was set. They were convinced this was their best course of action. They were convinced their future would be brighter under the reign of an earthly king. They believed they would be more secure.  
**1 Samuel 8:20 NAU** - "that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles."
  3. But we must not miss their chief motivation for desiring a king. Their eye had been upon the other nations and they liked what they saw. They were choosing to opt out of God's covenant relationship choosing rather to be like the other nations who did not know God.  
**1 Samuel 8:19-20 NAU** - "No, but there shall be a king over us, <sup>20</sup> that we also may be like all the nations"
  4. Being separate is never easy. It's easier to be just like the world around us. God's demand is clear  
**2 Corinthians 6:17-18** - "Therefore, come out from their midst and be separate," says the Lord. "And do not touch what is unclean; And I will welcome you. <sup>18</sup> "And I will be a father to you, And you shall be sons and daughters to Me," Says the Lord Almighty."

II. People always do what they *WANT* to do. They always pursue the desire of their heart

- A. The greatest goal for man is to pursue pleasure and avoid pain
1. These two goals control every decision
    - a. This was the motivation for Israel's quest for a king. He would make them more secure and guarantee their future happiness.
    - b. Sometimes our lusts blind us to the reality. Samuel basically told them the king would take everything from them – your sons, your daughters, your fields and vineyards, your servants, your flocks.
  2. This desire to seek pleasure and avoid pain governs the hearts of man This is true for both believers and unbelievers.
    - a. For the unbeliever their pursuit of pleasure is a pursuit of all that satisfies the flesh. They love pleasure more than they love God. They are fleshly minded. Most are not willing to make any serious sacrifice because sacrifice inflicts pain.
    - b. The Christian also seeks pleasure but he has found his greatest pleasure in Christ. Sin inflicts great pain upon the heart of a believer. The Christian is willing to sacrifice of himself because of the pleasure of glorifying Christ.
    - c. These are heart issues.
- B. People are always pursuing the desire of their heart
1. Jesus taught this  
**Matthew 6:20-21 NAS** - "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; <sup>21</sup> for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

- a. If your treasure is Christ your heart will pursue Him.  
**Matthew 13:44 NAU** - "The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure hidden in the field, which a man found and hid *again*; and from joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field."
  - b. If your treasure is this world, you will set your heart on pursuing it and seeking to obtain it.
  - c. Do you realize what it says about the heart when you choose to stay home to watch the Super bowl?
2. Isaiah 58 describes keeping the Sabbath as a matter of the heart.  
**Isaiah 58:13-14 NAS** - "If because of the sabbath, you turn your foot From doing your *own* pleasure on My holy day, And call the sabbath a delight, the holy *day* of the LORD honorable, And shall honor it, desisting from your *own* ways, From seeking your *own* pleasure, And speaking *your own* word, <sup>14</sup> Then you will take delight in the LORD, And I will make you ride on the heights of the earth; And I will feed you *with* the heritage of Jacob your father, For the mouth of the LORD has spoken."
    - a. The Sabbath isn't their delight. Their heart draws them in another direction.
    - b. It is disgraceful how easily the church dismisses the Sabbath.

### III. It's hard to be holy – It's hard to be separate

- A. The demand of Christianity is that we be holy
  1. God is infinitely holy. Holiness is intrinsic to His character. He is holy, holy, holy. He loves what is holy and hates all iniquity
  2. To those who would stand before Him He commands holiness:  
**1 Peter 1:15-16 NAS** - "but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all *your* behavior; <sup>16</sup> because it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."
  3. He has saved us unto holiness  
**Ephesians 1:4 NAU** - "He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him."
  4. Christians are in this world but live above this world.  
**Colossians 3:1-2 NAS** - "If then you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. <sup>2</sup> Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth."
  5. But such a life is difficult. Few are willing to live it.  
**Matthew 7:13-14 NAS** - "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. <sup>14</sup> "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."

- B. How many Christians have declared in their heart that they will be just like the people of this world. **“That we also may be like the nations.**
1. Have we become like Israel demanding their king? We have made up our minds and we will not be dissuaded. We will be like the nations at any cost – no matter what.
  2. We are more influenced by our culture than we dare admit. Few actually step back and examine if their ways are glorifying to God. We’ve determined to look like them, talk like them, do what they do, follow what they follow.
  3. I’m often amazed how fiercely many will defend their worldliness. Holiness today is declared to be legalism.
  4. We try to warn them that such compromise will be detrimental to them but they demand, “No, but we will have their ways that we also may be like the nations.”

**Conclusion:**

1. We must be of a different sort  
We will serve Him at any cost, no matter what.
2. What a radical life in our generation. To seek to reflect His holiness in all things is the life of the Christian.  
We have a King, and His name is Jesus.