

**Welcome to the
Common Ground Café!**



Sunday, March 17, 2024

**Be Careful Who You Wish From
A Study of 1 Samuel 8:1-22**

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At what age were you when you started choosing your own clothes, hairstyle, and so on?

When have you wanted something “just like “what someone else had?

In today’s sermon, John Messinger helped us explore the time Israel wanted a king (1 Samuel 8:1-22). He talked about how everything went wrong because no one sought God’s guidance or blessing, and why God let it happen.

**Why did this happen?
There is plenty of blame to go around**

In today’s sermon, John said that Samuel as well as the people were to blame. Read 1 Samuel 8:1-5. In what way does Samuel’s poor actions lead to the people’s poor request?

John said that the error of Israel was twofold. First, they asked **Samuel** for a king. Whom should they have asked? In other words, who was to be the true provider of leadership?

The second error was: The people asked Samuel for a **king**. Read 1 Samuel 8:4-5 again, and then read 1 Samuel 8: 19-20. What reasons does Israel give for their request for a king?

When are you inclined to want to do something just to be “like everyone else”? How do you prevent sin from blinding you in your choices?

What did God do?

God gave us what we wanted so we could learn what we needed

The first half of that statement is “God gave us what we wanted.” To think more deeply about this, answer the following questions:

- ❖ Read 1 Samuel 8:11–18. If you had heard the warning of these verses, would you have acted as the Israelites did? Why?

- ❖ What’s wrong with their willful intent to have a king?

- ❖ In the sermon, John compared God allowing them to have something that was against his will to what parents sometimes have to do with their children. In what ways did your parents let you “learn from your mistakes”? In what ways are you letting your kids learn from their mistakes? How is letting a child learn from his/her mistakes different from simply being an indifferent parent?

The second half of the statement is, “God gave us what we wanted ***so we could learn what we needed.***” To think more deeply about this, answer the following questions:

- ❖ When was the last time God let you bulldoze over his will, only to find you didn’t really want what you thought you needed? When the walls crashed around you, what did you learn from that experience?

- ❖ In the sermon, John pointed out how Jesus is the perfect judge, warrior, and king that the people longed for. Discuss how that is true.

- ❖ In what way(s) does Jesus meet the needs you’ve tried to meet in other ways?

Do You or Your Children Need Baptism?

Easter would be a perfect day to schedule this important step of obedience! Contact Pastor Tom ***right away*** if you or your child is interested in baptism. He can be reached at tom@hillcrest.church or 512-345-3771.

Close with praise reports and prayer requests