

Make Us A King

1 Samuel 8:1-9, 19-22

Topic: Distinctiveness

Aim: To show that we are to be a different people, individually and as the church, and to give some instruction as to what the church ought to be.

1. There is an old saying; "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery."
2. Many are the occasions that we see something and we want to have or be that.
3. But there are times that we should not want to be like others.

I. 1 Samuel 8:1-10, 19-22.

A. The background of the passage.

1. God had called the children of Israel out of Egyptian bondage to be a nation.
2. For many generations, they had men called judges as leaders and had survived well without any form of central government. They had been a Theocracy.
3. But near the end of Samuel's life, the people demand a king.

B. God knew such was coming, Deuteronomy 17:14-20.

1. But still, Samuel saw it as a rejection of God's immediate rule over Israel.
2. Note what God tells them about the reality of having a king.
3. In their subsequent history, Israel had many more "bad" kings than good ones.

C. Look carefully at the justification for the demand for a king, 1 Samuel 8:5, 20.

1. They wanted to be like every one else, like all the other nations.
2. But they had forgotten that they weren't like all the other nations!
3. They were supposed to be God's people.

II. There are two lessons I wish to drive home from this Bible story.

A. Things are not always better "over there."

1. My grandmother used to say, "The grass is not always greener on the other side of the fence."
2. There were some advantages to having and not having a king.
3. But having a king was not the cure all that the Israelites thought it would be.
4. Rarely is such a change the cure all it is thought to be.
5. We need to learn to be trusting in God's wisdom and be satisfied with what He has given.

B. God has called us to be a different people.

1. The Bible repeatedly warns us about wanting to be like the people around us ... like the nations.
2. As individuals, we are to be a different people, 1 Peter 2:1-12, James 4:1-4.
3. As the church, we ought to be different as well.

III. That leads me to ask this question: "What should the church be? Should we be like all the religious people around us?"

A. In the religious world there is a lot of diversity. The Bible calls it division.

1. Some glory in that diversity. The Bible condemns it as a sign of carnality, 1 Corinthians 3: 1-4.
2. The religious world:
 - a. Offers cheap grace. Jesus offers a cross and a life of self denial.
 - b. Offers up entertaining worship. The Bible demands we humble ourselves before the mighty hand of God that we may be exalted in due time.

- B. Consider the following things that the church should be in every age and place.
1. The church must continue to be the body of Christ, not a denomination.
 - a. It is Christ's church, His body, made up of those bought by the blood.
 - b. Matthew 16: 13-23, Acts 20:28.
 - c. It is composed of only those redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, 1 Peter 1: 18-21.
 - d. There is no authority for us to be anything but that body.
 2. We must be the pillar and ground of truth, 1 Timothy 1: 14-15.
 - a. That means we must proclaim and defend the truth. Paul did, Philippians 1: 7,17.
 - b. That includes moral truth and doctrinal truth.
 - c. No matter what the world says, homosexuality, adultery, fornication, abortion, lying, cheating, profanity, religious division and unsound doctrine is wrong and we must stand against it.
 3. We must continue to be the loving family of God, John 13:34-35
 4. We must be a group "ready to every good work," Titus 3: 1-8.
 5. We must once again learn to be evangelistic without apology.

1. Should we change to be like the nations around us?
2. God forbid. Let us simply seek to be the church for which Jesus shed His precious blood.

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