

Be Careful What You Ask For

5/17/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last week we talked about **The Danger of Taking Your Blessings for Granted**.
- We took a look at the Israelites when they were in the wilderness on their way to Canaan.
- Many times they complained about blessings that they had such as food and how God had rescued them from slavery.
- Like us, it didn't take them long to start to take their blessings for granted. What we were able to see last week is that the danger in doing this is that we can make God angry.
- When that happens, we can be sure that he will most likely remove our blessings from us or at least wish they were remove from our lives.
- God has blessed us beyond compare and he will not allow us to continue to walk in his blessings if we become ungrateful.
- Instead of always dwelling on what we do not have, we should take a daily inventory of the blessings we do have.
- The sermon title this morning is **Be Careful What You Ask For**.

1 Samuel 8:1-5

¹When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel. ²The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba. ³But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice. ⁴So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah. ⁵They said to him, "You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have."

- Samuel led Israel through the transition from the period of the Judges to the period of the Kings.
- He was a priest, prophet, and judge which were roles that were not typically filled by one person all together.
- We see from **v.1** that Samuel had attempted to appoint his two sons Joel and Abijah as judges for Israel, however **v.3** tells us that "But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice."
- Since arriving in the Promised Land and after the passing of Joshua, God appointed Judges to lead the people in righteous living.
- At this point, there was no human king. God was Israel's King.
- The period of the judges was a tumultuous time for the Israelites and Samuel's sons threw everyone over the edge.
- In **vv.4-5** we see that "the elders of Israel" went to Samuel and basically demanded that he appoint a king to lead them like all the other nations had, because he was too old and his sons were wicked.
- At first glance, this may not seem too unreasonable, knowing Israel's track record up to this point. However, ...

1 Samuel 8:6-9

⁶But when they said, "Give us a king to lead us," this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD. ⁷And the LORD told him: "Listen to all that the people are saying to you; it is not you they have rejected, but they have rejected me as their king. ⁸As they have done from the day I brought them up out of Egypt until this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are doing to you. ⁹Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do."

- **V.6** – Samuel was not pleased at what he was hearing from the people, so he prayed to God for guidance.
- **V.7** – God's first response to Samuel was for him personally. Samuel was displeased and certainly frustrated with the people. He had been leading them for quite some time, and now they wanted a new leader and not just that, but a king.
- God reminded Samuel that it wasn't him they were rejecting; it was God himself who they were rejecting as their king.
- **V.8** – God also reminded Samuel that this was Israel's pattern since they were freed from Egyptian slavery. They consistently forsook God and worshipped and served other gods. This time was no different.
- **V.9** – Here is a very important and interesting verse. God says to Samuel "Now listen to them." This is probably not what Samuel was wanting to hear from God.
- However, in God's infinite wisdom, He is encouraging Samuel to warn the people "solemnly" and to make sure that they are aware of the consequences that will come from what they are asking or demanding.
- This is God giving them a chance, he could have simply given them a king, but he is extending grace to them here.

1 Samuel 8:10-18

¹⁰Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹He said, "This is what the king who will reign over you will do: He will take your sons and make them serve with his chariots and horses, and they will run in front of his chariots. ¹²Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plow his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots. ¹³He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants. ¹⁵He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants. ¹⁶Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle and donkeys he will take for his own use. ¹⁷He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves. ¹⁸When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day."

- This is what Samuel went back and told the people. "This is what the king who will reign over you will do:"
 - **He will take** their sons and put them into his service.
 - Some will be commanders within the army.
 - Some will farm for him.
 - Some will make weapons for the army.
 - **He will take** their daughters to be "perfumers and cooks and bakers."
 - **He will take** "the best" of their fields, vineyards, and olive groves and give them to his servants. Not only that, he would also take a tenth of the grain and wine and also give that to his servants.
 - **He will take** their servants and the best of their livestock for his own use.
 - **He will take** some of the Israelites themselves to become his slaves.
- Basically, this king that they want will not do much more than to take, take, take, from them and leave them destitute.
- Samuel warns the people in v.18 that when this day comes, "you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, and the LORD will not answer you in that day"
- This is a profound warning. Basically, Samuel is letting them know that God is allowing them to make their own choice here, but it is their bed that they are making and they will lay in it no matter how it feels.
- **Let that truth sink in just a little bit folks.**

1 Samuel 8:19-22

¹⁹But the people refused to listen to Samuel. "No!" they said. "We want a king over us. ²⁰Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." ²¹When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD. ²²The LORD answered, "Listen to them and give them a king." Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, "Everyone go back to his town."

- This is one of those times you really wish the next word did not say "But."
- The people did not want to listen to what Samuel was saying and they replied, "No!" "We want a king over us."
- They wanted to be like all of the other nations and they said specifically, "with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles." **WOW!**
- They were willing to give up everything that Samuel said this king would take, so that they could be like everyone and have this person be their protector and provider. Sound familiar?
- Quick question, did God not lead them and go out before them and fight their battles? Sure he did! They had taken this for granted, and were looking at the "big picture" way too narrowly. Sound familiar?
- **V.22** is profound. God says to Samuel, "Listen to them and give them a king."
- You might wonder why God would allow His chosen people to make such a bad choice that would certainly bring ruin and despair to them?
- You might wonder why God would not have stepped in here and stopped all of this from happening?
- You must **"Be Careful What You Ask For"** – **Sometimes God will give you exactly what you wanted just to show you it's not at all what you needed.**
- Just like the Israelites so many centuries ago, we as American must be careful of what we are asking for or demanding right now when it comes to government influence over our lives.
- Even though we may be in a time of crisis, just like the Israelites had been living in, that does not mean that we should seek to have human government replace God's leadership, protection, and provision in our lives.
- Slowly but surely, we have been asking human government to be the answer to all our problems. God just might give us what we are asking for. **Question is, will He answer our cries of relief when we realize the error of our ways?**