

# SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

THE MOST TERRIFYING THING GOD COULD DO

I SAMUEL 8:1-22

APRIL 23<sup>RD</sup>, 2023

- I. Israel's Request for a King: vs. 1-5
- II. Samuel's Warning Against a Human King: vs. 6-18
- III. God's Response to Israel's Request: vs. 19-22
- IV. Application
  - 1) We have a tendency to assess our problems mechanically rather than spiritually
  - 2) Embrace the strangeness of being a Christian
  - 3) Be aware of the danger of rejecting God's ways
  - 4) The true and better King is coming

## Questions:

1. What is an example from your life as a child when your parents allowed you to receive or do something that they knew would not be good for you but ended up becoming a good teaching opportunity?
2. Was Israel's request for a king right or wrong? Why? A follow up after the question has been answered: what did their request for a king reveal about the condition of their hearts?
  - See Deut. 17:14-20; Numbers 24:7,17-19; Genesis 17:6
3. From Samuel's warning in vs. 10-18, what is the main characteristic of the future human king? Contrast that with what you know to be true about the true and better King Jesus.
4. Why did God say yes to Israel's request for a king?
5. Moving into application, in what ways do you tend to assess the problems or issues in your life mechanically (methodologically, pragmatically, techniques, calendar, etc.) rather than spiritually? What is the problem with this approach?
6. Israel wanted to be like the other nations and have a king and thus were rejecting their set apartness/holiness/identity as God's people. What is the most challenging aspect of the "strangeness" that accompanies godliness as a Christian as you live in this world?
7. In what ways are you practically rejecting God's ways (or are tempted to) and what does that reveal about who the true king is over your life?
  - *Bonus: why is getting what you actually want sometimes the most terrifying thing God can do?*