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YouTube Prayer Link

It's hard to be a parent, and it's even harder to be God

1 Samuel 8

8:7 And Jehohua said unto Samuel, Obey all the things which the people have said unto thee, for they have not forsaken thee, but forsaken me, and do not want me to be their king.

8:8 From the time We led them out of Egypt to the present day, they have often forsaken Me to serve other gods, and now they have done to you according to what they have done.

Summary of 1 Samuel 8

When the Ark of the Covenant returned to Israel, it was placed in Giriath Jerim and guarded by Abenadab's family. This event caused the Israelites to turn back to God and, led by Samuel, defeated the Philistines. The Ark of the Covenant was then brought back to the sanctuary of Israel, and Samuel became Israel's judge, ruling over Israel for 40 years.

When Samuel was old, his sons Joel and Abiah were not as moral as he was, so that the elders of Israel came to him and asked him to appoint a king to rule over Israel. Samuel was upset, but God told him to listen to the people's demands because they were not rejecting him, but rejecting God.

Samuel told the people that the establishment of a king would bring suffering and oppression, but they still insisted on it. God appointed a man from the tribe of Benjamin named Kish to be their king.

In this story, God's chosen people shift from a theological leader to a human political leader. While this was a turning point in history, it also showed the Israelites' distrust of human leaders rather than God.

"It's hard to be a parent, it's even harder to be a god: playing an unbearable role in life's journey"

In a world of challenges and wonders, becoming a parent is like embarking on a never-ending adventure. However, if this role is elevated to a higher level, playing the role of God, then this responsibility and burden will reach unimaginable heights. It is difficult to be a parent, and it is even more difficult to be a god, and this difficulty is not only in the height of power, but also in the deep emotion, responsibility and decision.

First of all, being a parent is a huge challenge in itself. Parents have a myriad of responsibilities, including providing material and moral support, teaching their children the principles and morals of life, and providing them with guidance and love as they grow up. Parents need to be the guiding agents for their children, giving them a solid foundation to gain a foothold in society. This responsibility in itself is stressful enough, because every choice and action a parent makes can affect a child's entire life.

And when we turn our focus to a higher level, if one has God-like authority and holds everything in his hands, the pressure and responsibility are even more indescribable. God's decisions affect the entire universe, including life and death, fate, natural and man-made disasters, and so on. He needs to make the most appropriate choices among the endless possibilities and bear the consequences of those choices. This power beyond human comprehension is accompanied by an unavoidable sense of loneliness and endless suffering.

In this world of expectations and desires, parents are often under a heavy pressure to never do well enough. They work hard and give selflessly, but there is always a feeling that no matter how hard they try, they will not be able to meet the expectations of their children or society. This feeling of helplessness makes parents carry a heavy burden on their shoulders.

Whether it is the education of their children as they grow up, or the relationship and support in the family, parents always try to be perfect, but often face challenges that they cannot overcome. It's a frustrating situation, because it seems that all expectations and needs can never be met by the efforts of parents.

At the same time, God, as the creator and master of the universe, is often faced with differences and contradictions in human desires. People pray and appeal, but because everyone's needs and expectations are unique and diverse, God cannot fulfill everyone's desires. This reality, which does not cater to everyone's desires, creates helplessness and confusion in faith.

In the face of such helplessness, people need to learn to accept the reality and understand that there are always some things in life that are beyond our control. Parents need to understand that while they can't be perfect, their love and dedication are enough to become an important pillar in their children's lives. God's role also needs to be understood as a mystical force that operates in the universe and sometimes fails to act according to our expectations, but there may be deeper wisdom and plans behind it.

There are a number of passages in the Bible that describe the Israelites turning their backs on God. These verses are mainly found in some books of the Old Testament such as Exodus, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, etc. Here are some examples:

Exodus 32:1:

"When the people saw that Moses was tarried to come down from the mountain, they gathered themselves together to Aaron and said to him, 'Arise, make us gods, and lead us before us: for we know not what has happened to Moses, who brought us out of the land of Egypt. 』 "

This passage describes how the Israelites began to doubt Moses when they came down the mountain because they had waited too long and asked Aaron to make an idol for them to worship.

Exodus 32:8:

"And they quickly turned away from the way which I commanded them, and made themselves a calf, and bowed down to it and sacrificed it, saying, 'Israel, this is the God who brought you out of the land of Egypt. 』 "

In this passage, the Israelites created an image of a calf and declared that it was the God who brought them out of Egypt, betraying God's instructions.

Jeremiah 2:13:

"For my people have done two evil things, that they have forsaken the fountains of living water, and have hewn out for themselves cisterns, which are broken and cannot hold water. "

Here Jeremiah is criticizing the Israelites for forsaking the true God and pursuing false things that do not satisfy their spiritual desires.

These verses reflect the many times throughout history that the Israelites turned their backs on God and turned to idolatry or disobeyed God's commandments. Such a narrative also provides warnings in the Bible about the consequences of apostasy.

We pray together

Dear Heavenly Father,

We humbly come to you and thank you for giving us life and all your blessings. We admit that in life it is possible to get lost and leave your love. Today, we ask for your mercy and guidance to turn us back on the path of loving you.

Lord, open our hearts so that we can deeply appreciate your infinite love and grace. May your Holy Spirit fill us, guide us to know you more deeply, and manifest your love in every aspect of life.

Please forgive us for the mistakes we may have made in the past, and allow us to receive your forgiveness in repentance. Help us learn to forgive each other, build a harmonious family of love, and let your love flow among us.

Lord, let us be supporters of one another and warm each other's hearts with love. In the midst of your busy life, keep your faith in you and let your love be your daily guide.

We thank you for hearing our prayers and trusting that you will guide us back to the path of loving you. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray, amen.

1 SAMUEL

CHAPTER 8

1Sa. 8:1 When Samuel grew old, he appointed his sons as judges for Israel.

1Sa. 8:2 The name of his firstborn was Joel and the name of his second was Abijah, and they served at Beersheba.

1Sa. 8:3 But his sons did not walk in his ways. They turned aside after

dishonest gain and accepted bribes and perverted justice.

1Sa. 8:4 So all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah.

1Sa. 8:5 They said to him, “You are old, and your sons do not walk in your ways; now appoint a king to lead [Traditionally judge; also in verses 6 and 20] us, such as all the other nations have.”

1Sa. 8:6 But when they said, “Give us a king to lead us,” this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the LORD.

1Sa. 8:7 And 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.

1Sa. 8:8 As 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.

1Sa. 8:9 Now listen to them; but warn them solemnly and let them know what the king who will reign over them will do.”

1Sa. 8:10 Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king.

1Sa. 8:11 He 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.

1Sa. 8:12 Some he will assign to be commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and others to plough his ground and reap his harvest, and still others to make weapons of war and equipment for his chariots.

1Sa. 8:13 He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers.

1Sa. 8:14 He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive groves and give them to his attendants.

1Sa. 8:15 He will take a tenth of your grain and of your vintage and give it to his officials and attendants.

1Sa. 8:16 Your menservants and maidservants and the best of your cattle [Septuagint; Hebrew young men] and donkeys he will take for his own use.

1Sa. 8:17 He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his slaves.

1Sa. 8:18 When 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.”

1Sa. 8:19 But the people refused to listen to Samuel. “No!” they said. “We want a king over us.

1Sa. 8:20 Then we shall be like all the other nations, with a king to lead

us and to go out before us and fight our battles.”

1Sa. 8:21 When Samuel heard all that the people said, he repeated it before the LORD.

1Sa. 8:22 The LORD answered, “Listen to them and give them a king.”

Then Samuel said to the men of Israel, “Everyone is to go back to his town.”

Chapter 8 of 1 Samuel is an important chapter as it describes the Israelites' request for a king to rule over them instead of God, which sets the stage for the establishment of the monarchy in Israel. Here are some important verses from the chapter:

1 Samuel 8:5-7 - "They said to [Samuel], 'You are old, and your sons do not follow your ways; now appoint a king to lead us, such as all the other nations have.' But when they said, 'Give us a king to lead us,' this displeased Samuel; so he prayed to the Lord. And 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.'"

1 Samuel 8:10-18 - In this passage, Samuel warns the people of the consequences of having a human king, including taxation, conscription, and loss of personal freedoms.

1 Samuel 8:19-20 - "But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.'"

These verses illustrate the tension between Israel's desire for a human king and God's desire to be their king. It also foreshadows the problems that will arise with the establishment of the monarchy, including abuses of power by the kings and the eventual division of the kingdom.

Chapter 9 introduces Saul, a young man from the tribe of Benjamin, who is searching for his father's lost donkeys. With the help of his servant, he travels to the city of Zuph, where they meet Samuel, who is a prophet and judge of Israel.

As Saul and his servant approach Samuel, the Lord reveals to Samuel that Saul is the man he has chosen to be king over Israel. Samuel invites Saul to dine with him and reveals to him that he is the one chosen by God to be king.

The next day, Samuel anoints Saul as the new king of Israel, and Saul and his servant return home. On their journey, they encounter some prophets who are singing and playing musical instruments. The Spirit of the Lord comes upon Saul, and he joins in the singing and prophesying with the prophets.

Chapter 9 sets the stage for the anointing of Saul as king of Israel and introduces him as a young and humble man who is unexpectedly chosen by God to lead his people. The chapter also shows the power of the Spirit of the Lord, which comes upon Saul and enables him to prophesy.

1 Samuel chapter 8 presents a pivotal moment in the history of Israel when the people demand a king to rule over them. This chapter explores themes of human desires, the consequences of rejecting God's leadership, and the importance of trusting in His sovereignty.

One of the key themes that emerges from this chapter is the human desire for worldly power and leadership. The people of Israel, influenced by the surrounding nations, express their desire to have a king like other nations. They believe that a human king will provide stability, protection, and prestige. However, their request reflects a lack of trust in God's providence and a desire to conform to the ways of the world rather than relying on His guidance.

This chapter raises important questions about our own desires and motivations. It challenges us to examine whether we are seeking power, control, and recognition in our lives, often at the expense of submitting to God's will. It reminds us that our ultimate allegiance should be to God alone, and we should be cautious about pursuing worldly desires that may lead us away from His plan for our lives.

Furthermore, 1 Samuel chapter 8 highlights the consequences of rejecting God's direct leadership. Samuel, as the faithful prophet and judge appointed by God, is deeply troubled by the people's request for a king. He warns them about the potential abuses and limitations of human kingship, such as conscription into military service, taxation, and loss of freedom. However, the people persist in their demand, ultimately rejecting God's rule over them.

This chapter reminds us of the importance of aligning our desires with God's purposes and trusting in His perfect plan. It warns us about the potential dangers of seeking alternatives to God's leadership and ignoring His wisdom and guidance. It calls us to reflect on whether we are truly surrendering our lives to God's authority or attempting to establish our own kingdoms.

Additionally, 1 Samuel chapter 8 underscores the sovereignty of God in the face of human choices and the consequences that follow. Despite the people's rejection, God instructs Samuel to heed their request and anoint a king for Israel. While God permits their choice, He also warns them about the limitations and potential negative outcomes of having a human king. God remains sovereign over the affairs of His people, even when they deviate from His ideal plan.

This chapter encourages us to trust in God's sovereignty and to surrender our desires and plans to Him. It reminds us that even in the midst of our human decisions and their consequences, God is still at work. It calls us to seek His will above our own and to trust that He can bring about His purposes even in situations that may seem contrary to His perfect plan.

In conclusion, 1 Samuel chapter 8 raises important reflections on human desires, the consequences of rejecting God's leadership, and the importance of trusting in His sovereignty. It challenges us to examine our own motives and desires, to align ourselves with God's will, and to trust in His perfect plan for our lives. May we submit to God's authority, trusting in His guidance and surrendering our desires to His sovereign rule.