

PRECEPTS FOR LIFE
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SERIES: I Samuel, Part 1 (The Heart of a Leader)

TUESDAY

OPEN

You stomped your feet. You said I've got to have it and I'm going to have it, and nothing is going to stop me. What do you want? What do you have to do to get what you want no matter what? And when you get it how are you going to feel about it? And what if it wasn't good for you? How are you going to live with it? O, Beloved, there are practical lessons today for us in 1 Samuel.

PART ONE

Well, we're in 1 Samuel, chapter 8 and I left you right in the middle of that chapter, right in the middle of God telling them okay, you want a king, but I want you to know what the procedure of the king is going to be. This is what you're asking for, but do you know what you're going to get when you ask for this? Yes, you want to be like the other nations around you, but do you realize what happens when you are under the rulership of a king? Well this is what he's sharing with them and he has shown them that the king is going

to look at what the people have and who the people are and he's going to reach into that society and take the cream for himself. He's going to tap their resources in order to make his resources better. Let's go back to 1 Samuel, chapter 8 and I left you at verse 15, but I'm going to go back and I'm going to read verse 14. Now he's told them what he's going to do with their sons. He's told them what the king is going to do with their daughters. And you and I are marking every reference to king and every pronoun. And so we come to verse 14: "[And] He [the king] will take the best of your fields and your vineyards and your olive groves and give them to his servants." (1 Samuel 8:14) In other words, see he's after the best. "He will take a tenth of your seed [a tithe,] and of your vineyards and give [it] to his officers and to his servants. He will also take your male servants and your female servants and your best young men and your donkeys and use them for his work. He will take a tenth of your flocks, and you yourselves will become his servants." (8:16-17) You know, Beloved, let me just pause here and say this: you know many mistakes in life come because we want to be like others, all right. We want someone to judge and to arbitrate for us. We want someone to fight our battles. But we don't realize that when we're looking at what we want and what will benefit us, we don't stop and look at the other side of the equation. What is it going to cost us? And so many times we want what we want and we go after it, but God sends leanness to our souls. I think we better stop here for a minute and look at Psalm 106, verse 15, Psalm 106, verse 15. Now you're going to see this principle as you go through the prophets and you're going to see God telling them, okay, I'm going to give you what you want, but it's going to send leanness to your souls. You brought this upon yourself because of what you requested. So in Psalm 106 and in verse 15 it says this: "So He gave them their request, But [He] sent leanness into their soul." (Psalm 106:15 NKJV) Or, "[He]...sent a wasting disease among them." (NASB) There's two ways that you can translate that. And we're going to take it the first way. He gave them their request, but He sent leanness to their souls. In other words, there was an emptiness. There wasn't enough. There wasn't a sufficiency. Why? Because

what they wanted, and what they wanted illegitimately they got, and that drained them. What have you gone after? What have you wanted that wasn't of God, and you insisted on it and now you're paying the price? Now there's a leanness in your souls. Now there's a void. Now there's a guilt. Now there's a regret, but you got what you wanted, didn't you? But what you wanted was really not what you needed. And see this is why it's so important precious one for you to get to know God, for you to understand who God is, for you to understand that God desires your highest good. And if you will put your life in His hands and if you will let your desires be His desires and you will follow Him fully and trust Him completely and let Him order your steps, then you're going to find out life is so much better than you ever thought it was going to be. And it's so much better even if there's persecution, even if there's trials, even if there's testing because in the midst of that you get to know God. You draw closer to God. We're going to see this; we're going to see this so beautifully played out. I can't help but give you a preview, but you're going to see this in David's life. You're going to see a man who longed for God, a man who was a man after God's own heart. And in pursuing God, even through all the trials that he went through he got to know his God and he became such a fine man of God. You say all I remember about David is his sin. Well, we're going to change that if you'll stick with me because you're going to remember far more, because there are far more lessons to be learned from David. But let's go back and let's get in 1 Samuel, chapter 8, he's saying. Okay, this is going to be the procedure of the king, from verse 11 all the way through verse 17. This is what the king is going to do to you and for you or against you. Verse 18: "Then you will cry out in that day because of your king whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the Lord will not answer you in that day." (1 Samuel 8:18) In other words, you had to have it. You wanted it, no matter what. And in wanting it, no matter what then eventually you're going to cry. And he's saying and when you cry out, the Lord will not answer you in that day. Are you saying then Kay, that all is helpless for me, all is hopeless for me, that I am just left to wallow in my failure? Oh no beloved, oh, no, no, no. He's a God of all

grace. He just wants these people to know and to understand that there is a day coming when you're going to be so sorry you got these kings and you're going to cry out. But God's not going to answer you in that day, because He has a lesson that He wants you to learn. It says in verse 19, now he's laid out everything. He's told them okay, you want a king; this is what the king is going to do. You're not going to be happy with the king. You're going to cry out and yet in verse 19, it's like they stomp their feet. "Nevertheless, the people refuse to listen to the voice of Samuel, and they said, 'No, but there [will] be a king over us...,'" (8:19) Underline king. "...that we also may be like all the nations, that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles.'" (8:19b-20) God, we know better than You. We know far better than You. We know what we need. You don't know what we need. We know what we desire and You are just not giving us what we desire. I mean does that take you back to the garden of Eden? Does that take you back to the serpent coming into the garden and saying to Eve, O God knows in the day that you eat of the fruit of that tree that you will be like God. He's holding out on you. You better get what you want. Forget what God is saying. Listen beloved, every time you go against the commandment of God, every time you go against the will of God, you, in a sense, are slitting your wrists. You are, are slitting your own throat. You are laying a net before yourself and you're going to be caught in it. You don't want to do that. Now watch what happens. "Now after Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the Lord's hearing." (8:21) God heard cause God hears everything. God's omniscient. God's all-knowing. God's omnipresent. You can't hide from Him. He heard. And yet Samuel just has to go back and say God, this is what they said. They said that they didn't care, that they wanted a king that could judge them and go out before them and fight their battles. What are they saying? We want somebody to judge and to arbitrate for us. We don't want to have to do it ourselves. We want you to get somebody else to do it. "[And] The Lord said to Samuel, 'Listen to their voice...,'" That's the third time. Remember I said we're marking that, so highlight that. "...'Listen to their voice and appoint them a king....'"

Underline king. "...So Samuel said to the men of Israel, 'Go every man to his city.'"(8:22) So he dispersed them all, and then what happens? Well we're in chapter 9, a very interesting chapter, but before we go into chapter 9, I just want to take this and apply it a little bit more, just a little bit more. You know many times we want a middleman between us and God. We don't want this direct connection with God. Even in teaching our children and our teens about God, what do we want? We want a middleman. Who's the middleman? That's the churches' job. I don't have time to teach my kids about God. I've got to earn a living. I got to keep this house running. I'm busy; it's the churches' job. That's a middleman, isn't it? Even in our learning we want a middleman. And what do we say to that middleman? Listen just feed me my milk. Don't make me chew my meat. Don't make me think too hard. And please get me out of church before twelve noon on Sunday. Just get me in and get me out. Tell me what I need to know. Tell me how I need to live. And don't make me get it myself from God. O, Beloved, I am so thankful that you're not like that. I am so thankful that you want to know truth for yourself. And we're going to talk about it more in just a moment.

PART TWO

Do you realize beloved, that a lot of American Christians are living on second hand knowledge, second hand experiences? They're living on second hand because they want a middleman between them and God. As you and I are looking at 1 Samuel, chapter 8 and they're asking for a king, they're asking for a monarchy when they could have a theocracy. They want a king that they can see. They want a king that they can touch. They want a king like the rest of the nations. They want a middleman between them and God. They're rejecting the direct connection. And as I told you just before the break, this is what happens in teaching our children and our teens about God. We want a middleman. That's the church's job. In our learning we want a middleman. Just tell me what to believe. Just give it to me in 20 or 30

minutes. Give it to me quick. Make it practical. Make it entertaining, but don't make me dig out truth for myself. Don't give me any hard Bible studies that are going to make me discipline myself, or struggle with the meaning of the text. I mean it gets to me. If you didn't know that, it gets to me. Even in our relationships we want someone to be our surrogate father. Jesus said call no man father. Call no man teacher. He is to be Father to us. He is to be Rabbi. He is to be Teacher to us. And yet what we want is a middleman. We want somebody we can see. We want somebody that we can talk to. We want somebody that we can depend on, and that we can depend on. And when we do that man beloved, and we put that middleman between us and God, between us and the Word of God then we really miss that deep and intimate relationship with God; and this is where Israel was headed. All right now, as we look at 1 Samuel, chapter 8 and before we move into 9, I want you to see that listen is used 3 times. And when it's used three times he's saying number 1: Listen, they're not rejecting you; they're rejecting Me. Number two: Listen to their voice and warn them. Number three: Listen to them and give them what they want. All right, so He was going to give them a king. Now did God know all about this? Did God know that this was going to happen or did it broodsided God? It didn't broodsided God. And the way you know it is by going back to Deuteronomy, chapter 17. Now remember Deuteronomy is part of the Torah, the first five books of the Law that give them their statutes and ordinances and regulations and commandments for living the way they are to live under a theocracy in a way that is pleasing to God. And when you get to Deuteronomy, chapter 17, verse 14, listen to what it says. "When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses..."(Deuteronomy 17:14-15a) All right so He's anticipating. He knows that this day is coming. He says okay, when you choose a king, what should you choose? What is the kind of king that God wants you to have, if you're going to have one? Well, it should be one, verse 15, "...from...your [own] countrymen you shall set

as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countrymen. Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the Lord has said..., ‘You shall never again return that way.’”(Deuteronomy 17:15b-16) You’re never to go back down to Egypt. As a matter of fact you’re going to see Him say woe be unto those who go down to Egypt in the time of trouble. In other words you’re going down to Egypt for help, which is a picture of the world instead of coming to Me. And then He goes on to say, “[neither]...shall he multiply wives for himself, [lest] his heart...turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself.”(17:17) Now this is God’s instructions to the king. We’ve seen though that the king is going to take the best for himself. But He’s saying if that king wants to be a godly king, he better listen to Me. And then it says, “Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this Law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. [And] It...,”(17:18) this copy, this handwritten copy, I believe of the first five books of the Bible, the Torah, “...shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life...,”(17:19a) And as he reads it he’s going to learn that he’s not to multiply horses, that he’s not to go down to Egypt to multiply horses, that he’s not to multiply wives, that he’s not to increase his silver and gold and that he’s to write a copy of this Book and that’s how he knows what he’s supposed to do. “[And] It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he [this king] may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this Law and these statutes, that his heart...,”(17:19) and anytime you find heart in the scripture, I would suggest that you mark it. I draw a red heart. Then if it’s God’s heart, I color it yellow. If it’s man’s heart I just color it red. If it’s a wicked heart I color it black. All right, “...that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right or the left, [in order] that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel.”(17:20) All right, so these are God’s instructions for the king. Now we come to the first king of Israel and that is chapter 9. Now if

you're putting down the theme of the chapter on your 1 Samuel At-A-Glance Chart and see, you know the content of every chapter. For chapter 8 what would you write? Yeah, just simply Israel asked for a king. All right, now chapter 9, what are you going to write? Well you say I don't know what the chapter's about. That's right; you don't write it down until you know for yourself. Chapter 9, verse 1: "Now there was a man of Benjamin whose name was Kish the son of Abiel, the son of Zeror, the son of Becorath, the son of Aphiah..." These names are doing me in. "...the son of a Benjamite, a mighty man of valor. [And] He had a son whose name was Saul, a choice and handsome man, and there was not a more handsome person than he among the sons of Israel; from his shoulders and up he was taller than any of the people." (1 Samuel 9:1-2) This guy's name is what, Saul. What's his father's name? It is Kish? And here is this guy that is head and shoulders above the others. This is going to be the next king of Israel. Who is going to choose him? Why is he going to be chosen? What is he going to be like and what can we learn from it? Well, we're going to see all of this as you and I continue our study in 1 Samuel. Beloved, go to preceptsforlife.com and download the study guide. And while you're there we would so appreciate it if you would ask God what you can do to help support this program so that we can continue to teach God's precepts, precepts upon precept, so that you can have understanding of His precepts and hate every false way. You and I need to know truth, because it's truth that sets us free. Thank you for being our partner. Thank you for praying. Thank you for wanting to know the Word of God.