



Title | Pretty Pretexts
Series | Making a Difference in a Nation Adrift
Text | 1 Samuel 8:1-22
By | Bob Kerrey
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Sermon Notes

1 Samuel 8:1 When Samuel became old, he made his sons judges over Israel. **2** The name of his firstborn son was Joel, and the name of his second, Abijah; they were judges in Beersheba. **3** Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice. **4** Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah **5** and said to him, "Behold, you are old and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations." **6** But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD. **7** And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. **8** According to all the deeds that they have done, from the day I brought them up out of Egypt even to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so they are also doing to you. **9** Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them." **10** So Samuel told all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking for a king from him. **11** He said, "These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen and to run before his chariots. **12** And he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. **13** He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. **14** He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his servants. **15** He will take the tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and to his servants. **16** He will take your male servants and female servants and the best of your young men and your donkeys, and put them to his work. **17** He will take the tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. **18** And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves, but the LORD will not answer you in that day." **19** But the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel. And they said, "No! But there shall be a king over us, **20** that we also may be like all the nations, and that our king may judge us and go out before us and fight our battles." **21** And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD. **22** And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king." Samuel then said to the men of Israel, "Go every man to his city." *ESV*

Big Idea:

Psalm 139:23 Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! **24** And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting! *ESV*

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

Read 1 Samuel 8:1-22. What are the reasons given by the elders for wanting a king in 1 Samuel 8:5? How are these reasons related to Deuteronomy 17:14-15? Do these appear to be sensible reasons? Why or why not?

Tuesday:

Read 1 Samuel 8:6-8. According to the Lord, what was the real reason the elders asked for a king? How are the reasons given in 1 Samuel 8:5 merely pretty pretexts disguising an ugly motive? What does this suggest about the human capacity for rationalization? Do you think the elders had convinced themselves that their request was right?

Wednesday:

Reread 1 Samuel 8:6. How does Samuel model a prayerful questioning of his own motives? In what specific situations would it be wise for you follow this example?

Thursday:

Read Jeremiah 17:9 and 1 Corinthians 4:3-5. Why is it important to prayerfully question our motives for doing things?

Friday:

Read Psalm 139:23-24; Proverbs 20:5; and Hebrews 4:12. How do these Scriptures relate to prayerfully questioning our own motives? How do you apply this?

Daily Prayer:

Search me, O God, and know my heart.
Help me to see my own motives clearly
that I may align my intentions with
yours. Amen.