

Consuming Desire: Adultery, Idolatry, and Delighting in God Part 4: There is a Greater King

Introduction: Slaves of Something

1. **The Bible says that we are all slaves of something.** We are slaves of what we obey. Rom 6:16; 2 Peter 2:19
 - 2 Peter 2:19: ...for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved.
 2. **The Bible says we were all born under the power of sin and lived life in sin.** Eph 2:1-3; Rom 3:10-26; 5:12-19
 3. **The Bible says Christians have been freed from the power of sin and no longer are bound by its authority.** Rom 6:6
 - Romans 6:6: ...our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with [lit. 'made powerless], so that we would no longer be slaves to sin.
- We all serve someone. The question is: will we serve an authority that enslaves us or an authority that frees us?

Choosing a Lesser King. 1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-20

1. **The choice of a lesser king. v.4-7**
 - God's people desired a king to rule over them. **v.4-5**
 - Their desire for a king was not wrong—what was wrong was their desire to have a king *like all the nations*. **v.5b**
 - In choosing a king like the other nations around them, God's people rejected God as their King. **v.7** Ref 12:12
 2. **The demands of a lesser king. v.10-20**
 - A lesser king will take from you. Note the repeated phrase of vs.11-17. → A lesser king TAKES, TAKES, TAKES.
 3. **The harmful reality of a lesser king. v.12, 17**
 - A lesser king will not work for your interest. **v.12**: He will appoint for himself... to keep a firm grip of rule over you.
 - A lesser king will make you his servant. **v.17**: ...you yourselves will become his servant.
- Sexual immorality ('porn') is a lesser king. It is a demanding taskmaster that seeks to take, harm, and enslave you.

Why do we choose a lesser king?

1. **We want a sense of security (but it is a false security).** We make an alliance with sin as a form of 'refuge.'
 - Isaiah 30:1-2: "Woe to the rebellious children," declares the LORD, "Who execute a plan, but not Mine, and make an alliance, but not of My Spirit, in order to add sin to sin; who proceed down to Egypt without consulting Me, to take refuge in the safety of Pharaoh and to seek shelter in the shadow of Egypt."

→ How do I deal with the pressures of life? What is my refuge in the storm?
2. **We want something tangible (but it is temporary).** Faith v. sight
 - 2 Corinthians 4:17-18: ...we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

→ Where do I go for something "certain" and tangible?
3. **Rebellion against the authority of God.** We say we want 'freedom' and independence—I will do it my way! Heb 3:8,15
4. **It is all we know (but there is something more).**
 - Jeremiah 33:2-3: Thus says the LORD who made the earth, the LORD who formed it to establish it, the LORD is His name, 'Call to Me and I will answer you, and I will tell you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

The Greater Kingship of Jesus Christ. Isaiah 9:2-7

1. **This is a prophecy about future deliverance. v.2-5**
 - This deliverance will bring light to people who live in darkness. **v.2**
 - This deliverance will bring joy in God. **v.3a**
 - This deliverance will be characterized by abundance and provision. **v.3b**
 - This deliverance will be characterized by victory. **v.3b**
 - This deliverance will bring freedom. **v.4**
 - This deliverance will bring peace. **v.5**
2. **This prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus Christ. v.6**
 - This is a 'Messianic' text—the NT says it is about Jesus Christ. **v.6** Compare Isaiah 9:1 to Mt 4:15-16; Lk 1:79; 2:32
 - Jesus Christ arrived as a child—and is a sovereign King. **v.6a** Luke 2:11; John 3:16

→ A lesser king TAKES, TAKES, TAKES... Jesus' Kingship GIVES, GIVES, GIVES...

→ There will be no end to the increase of His government..over your life. Either sin will increase... or Christ will increase.

- Matt 11:28-30: Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.
- Isaiah 10:20: Now in that day the remnant of Israel, and those of the house of Jacob who have escaped, will never again rely on the one who struck them, but will truly rely on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel.
- John 8:36: So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.