

“Wait for your Deliverer”

I Samuel 8

Introduction – read I Samuel 8:1-5 and pray

An airline pilot flying over the southeastern U.S. called the local tower and said, "We are passing over at 35,000--give us a time check." The tower said, "What airline are you?" "What difference does it make? I just want the time." replied the pilot. The tower responded, "Oh, it makes a lot of difference. If you are Trans World Airlines or British Airways, it is 1600. If you are United or Delta, it is 4 o'clock. If you are Southern Airways, the little hand is on the 4 and the big hand is on the 12. And if you are Frontier Airlines, American worst one time airline, then all you really need to know is its Thursday. (That Southern Airlines part is for my friends who watch from Texas.)

Who we are changes our perspective on things

- and we really see this in that chapter we just read
 - I Samuel tells the story on how Israel went from being a country ruled by God under the human authority of judges, to a monarchy that will dominate their history for the next 600 years
 - And I Samuel 8 is the set up for Israel's first King, King Saul
- And as we look at chapter 8 together I want us to notice 3 different perspectives of this story
 - And I believe the Lord will have much to share with us through each perspective
 - If you are taking notes this morning

Different Perspectives of I Samuel 8

#1 – The Perspective of the people – I Samuel 8:1-5

#2 – The Perspective of the prophet – I Samuel 8:6-20

#3 – The Perspective of the Lord – I Samuel 8:21-22

Different Perspectives of I Samuel 8

#1 – The Perspective of the people – I Samuel 8:1-5

- The people declare they want a King
 - And the first reason they give is because Samuel's sons are not like him
 - We will look at these sons of Samuel on Wednesday Night
- But enough for this morning is to realize they were not like their faithful father
 - And the people say, we don't want them to rule over us
 - They had seen what a disaster the sons of Eli have been in the previous generation

But even though that sounds like a good reason – we want a king because we don't trust your sons

- when you look at verse 5 and consider where the Hebrew puts the emphasis, the sons of Samuel were just an excuse
 - the real reason they wanted a King is at the very end of verse 5 – Because they want to be like every other nation

God had declared that Israel was to be a special people

- instead of being ruled at this time by kings and princes, they were to be ruled by Him and the prophets and judges that God appointed to be human representatives of Him
 - and there was nothing wrong with the system
- through this system they had been freed from Egypt, survived 40 years wandering the wilderness, they had conquered the land of Canaan and lived there successfully for 400 years at this point
 - that is a pretty good success record for a form of government – but it didn't matter – the people wanted to be like the other nations

And this speaks volumes to me

- because so often you and I desire things, we want something new and different in our lives, just like Israel did

- not because we need it
- not because God hasn't blessed us where we are at, and who we are with
- but we want this and we want that because others around us have it, and we don't and we want it

For some of us that attitude works out relationally

- if you're single it is so easy to look at those who are married or in a relationship and think, why don't I have that (very whiny)
 - If I just had someone to hold me, my life would be perfect
 - And I hear that but then you need to hear
- I get other people in my office who says those single people don't know how good they have it – no one making demands on them, relationally, they can go where they want and stay out however long they want
 - That's where some people are at – I want to be just like other people – not where I am - relationally

For some of us, that attitude isn't relational, we are happy with who we are with or not with, but for some of us it is vocational

- I can't stand my job (now I'm not saying this, please don't text Pastor Rob)
 - But maybe for you, you think, I just can't stand the job I am in – if I had that guy's job over there or if I could work where she does, then my life would truly be happy
 - I just don't like where I am at vocationally

For others the problems isn't relational or vocational – they love who they are with or not with, and where they work

- for others the problem is locational
 - I can't stand living in North County San Diego
 - Now for those who say that I just need to say – have you lived anywhere else?
 - Anywhere else?
- Well I know the weather is perfect, that it can be 75 degrees in December and in August, but there are other places like that? – no there is not
 - And I know that we don't have tornadoes or hurricanes and all the earthquakes usually happen far north of us, the fires are east of us
- But the cost of living is high and the politics are liberal
 - So I'm tired of this place with no natural disasters and perfect weather
 - I'm tired of being able to go to the beach and ski in the mountains on the same day
- If I lived somewhere where we had seasons and the leaders believed more like me – then I would truly be happy
 - I am tired of this location that I live in

Again we can, and I'm guilty of this at times too, we seem to have the perspective like the people of Israel

- God has done no wrong in our lives, He has just blessed and been with us - But I want a different relationship
 - I want a different job
 - I want to live somewhere different
- We can have this same perspective, but we need to notice what is next

Different Perspectives of I Samuel 8

#1 – The Perspective of the people – I Samuel 8:1-5

#2 – The Perspective of the prophet – I Samuel 8:6-20

- When Samuel hears that the people want a King, he is bummed
 - He is bummed because he feels like they are rejecting him
- But God says, "Samuel, they are not rejecting you, but they are rejecting me"
 - I want you to give them a King

- But before you do – I want you to tell them what a King will be like

You see the people of Israel wanted a King to be like all the other nations

- but because they didn't live in the other nations, they had no idea what living under a human king would be like
 - and so God has Samuel let them know – the human king is a little hungrier than God
 - that human government takes a lot of money to run
- It takes a lot of humans to replace God, not that they ever do – but what God could handle by Himself, requires many government jobs and that requires lots of taxes

So Samuel lets them know what they are really asking for that this king is going to take, take, take

- take their sons into his army
 - take their daughters to cook for him, marry him
 - take their fields to feed him
 - take their money to pay for all of this

And I think the most telling line of all is verse 18 when Samuel lets the people know – you will cry out to God when you get this king and that He will take him away even more so than you are crying out now for him

It is telling and then tragic, for even with all of this information the people say – okay – we still want a king

- we hear you – he will take our kids, our money, our fields and our food
 - and someday we will cry out – God take him away
 - but this is still the course of action we want to take

Crazy, sad, tragic and so much like you and me

- we want a new relationship
 - we want a new vocation
 - we want a new location

And God says – this isn't going to be good for you, this won't be a blessing to you

- wait, hold up – God never told me that
 - I am praying to find a man, or a woman
 - I am praying for a new job, a new place to live
- I am praying and God never has told me that what I am asking for won't be a good thing

Well okay, but consider this – sometimes we have the Word, that what we are praying for isn't good

- maybe we want out of a marriage – listen I understand it is difficult, but God hates divorce
 - not the people who get divorced, but the act itself, because of the pain and sorrow it brings
- maybe we want into a relationship but that person isn't a believer
 - but God's word is clear – don't be unequally yoked together with unbelievers
 - what, He doesn't like unbelievers – no of course He likes unbelievers – He died for unbelievers
- He says that because He loves you – and the one who made you, designed you, the one who knows how things work – says don't do it – you will be sorry

Sometimes we have the clear Word of God from our Father who loves us – what you are praying for is not good

- but what if we don't have that, we pray and God is not answering
 - how would I know if what I am praying for is good

Well consider Psalm 84:11 – this is so important

“No good thing we He withhold from him who walks uprightly” – Psalm 84:11

- do you see what the Psalmist is telling you and me

- that God who loves you, He won't withhold anything from you that is good for you as you walk with Him
- okay – well think that through to its conclusion, what can you deduce
- That is you are praying for something – for a different vocation, location, relation and God isn't answering that prayer
 - That for you, at least right now, that is not a good thing – at least for now

And wise is the man or women that doesn't fight against the loving wisdom of God

- That doesn't make something happen in the flesh
 - But realizes – Lord if you have withheld this thing I want from me, then what I know is at least for right now, that thing is not good
 - And instead of being like the children of Israel who said – doesn't matter what your perspective is Samuel – we will have a king
- No – we want to submit our hearts and our dreams to the Lord
 - Because you see there is one more perspective that we need to consider in all of this
 - And that is the perspective of the Lord

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- God gives them a King, God gives them what they want, but it will turn out to be an unmitigated disaster
 - Hosea 13:11 is God's commentary on this whole event

“I gave you a king in my displeasure and I took him away in my wrath” – Hosea 13:11

- it is a sobering reality to realize that sometimes God gives us what we want
 - but whenever we demand something from God, and don't wait for His timing – it never works out good for us

This is the problem I have with some of the name it and claim it teaching – It is God that knows what is best for me – I just think I do – And when I start saying to the Lord, I will have that new job, I will have that new relationship, I will move to that new location – I become my own King

- I heard a pastor say on TV the other day, “God wants to give you everything you have the faith to receive”
 - I understand his heart in saying that, but here is the problem with that
 - I don't know what is best for me

It is much wiser to say – Lord, here is my perspective on this, and here is what I feel

- but Lord I understand – you know what I can't and you see what I don't
 - and so Lord I gladly happily, defer to your perfect plan for me, your perspective on the situation

Jesus prayed that way didn't He – Lord let this cup pass from me – nevertheless not my will but yours be done

- But we developed this “have it your way Christianity” – that is not Christianity, that's Burger King
 - And when Israel started to demand things their way, the Burger King way they soon found themselves in a pickle (Burger King pickle) – sorry – but it ended up that they didn't relish the situation
- Listen friends - God always gives His best to those who leave the choice to Him

You see, are you listening to me, you see, please focus in – hear me on this – God all the time wanted to give Israel a King

- What???

- Yes – it was God’s plan all along to give them a king – how do you know that – it doesn’t seem like God wanted to give them a king
- In Deuteronomy chapter 17,18 – God tells the children of Israel in the law, at least 400 years before the event we are reading about this morning
 - When God raises up a King over you – here is what He is supposed to do – Here is what he is supposed to avoid

God spoke 400 years before about His intention to give Israel a King

- it was why there was a desire in their hearts for a King
 - God wanted to give them a King all along
- The problem was not in their desire for a King, the problem was in the timing, they wanted a King for all the wrong reasons, they wanted to be like everyone else - But if they just would have waited, God had David for them

But the children of Israel pushed, the children of Israel complained, and the children of Israel got what they wanted

- And it was a disaster as we will begin to study and see this Wednesday night as we meet King Saul and see how he was raised up to be King over Israel

Now I mention all of this, because I want you to see how it applies to us

- you want a relationship if you are single
 - you want a new job, to move to a new location

Maybe, Maybe – God has intended that for you all along

- He has intended that someday you get married
 - He has intended that someday you will move away
 - He has intended that your career path will change
- He has intended it, which is why there is a desire in your heart in the first place
 - Think about what we know about so many Bible characters

Moses knew He was supposed to be the deliverer for Israel

- at least 40 years before he was
 - Joseph knew he was made for something more than to rot in an Egyptian prison
 - Paul the apostle, even when he was Saul, knew God had something for him
- I believe God put those desires in their hearts
 - But it was the timing
 - It was the direction
- Moses was 40 years, Joseph and Paul couldn’t have imaged how the desires of their heart would eventually work out

God’s way is always good, “My plans for you are good, the Lord would say

- and we know this, we believe this and so whether it is relational or vocational or locational

I think the Word of the Lord for some of us through this is – wait

- I know you think you need a change of relation or I need vocation, or location right now
 - But wait upon the Lord to confirm that
 - If not you will find yourself in the same place as Israel

This guy seems pretty kingly, that girl seems pretty foxy

- That opportunity seems like your promise, that new place seems to fit the Word to my heart

Oh friend - God has put a desire in your heart for that person, place and thing

- But the key is not to force his hand – the desire that is in you was put there by him in the first place

The children of Israel will force God’s hand and they will get an unmitigated disaster – I have seen this happen over and over again

- where people have a desire in their hearts, and it's a very real desire and they love the Lord and believe in the Lord and they are walking with the Lord but they feel, it's time Lord, it's time to make it happen
 - and what happens so often is what happened to the children of Israel
 - they end up with what seems to be a kingly thing (Saul looked so good at first – a head taller than everyone else – but they should have known you can't trust tall people)
- no just kidding – you need to trust the Lord and His timing – they don't, they get Saul and he becomes a disaster and they missed David for a season

I believe there are many of us who need to hear that and we need to repent and say, Lord I'm sorry for being impatient and impetuous – oh thinking I need to fix this, to make this happen, instead of waiting upon the Lord

- Loving on Him, listening to Him and letting him bring about what He has promised to your heart
 - God always gives His best, to those that leave the choice with Him

Now before we go our way two things to take home with us today

- some of you are hearing this sermon and thinking – well that is a good word pastor Jason, but I don't understand why you didn't preach it – 2 years ago
 - I have forced the Lord's hand, I made my own way and I am reaping the effects of someone or something that seemed kingly
- I thought he was the one God intended and now I'm married to a Saul
 - I thought that new job was the King's heart – but now I'm crying out God take it away
 - What do I do in this situation?

Well in chapter 12, we will see this in its entirety on Wednesday Night, but in chapter 12 is King Saul's coronation

- and at the ceremony – Samuel says – I did you no wrong, and you rejected me and my leadership
 - and if that wasn't bad enough – you rejected the Lord and His leadership even though He was been nothing but good to you
- You rejected me, you rejected the Lord and you asked for a King – so here is your King
 - Would have been a bummer for Saul at the moment huh? – Here I am!!!!

But then Samuel says this to the people in chapter 12, verse 14

“If you fear the Lord and serve Him and obey His voice, and do not rebel against the commandment of the Lord, then both you and the king who reigns over you will continue following the Lord your God.” – I Samuel 12:14

- Here is your King whom you have chosen, but all is not lost – now you serve the Lord with your King
 - And God will bless you, God will be with you
- No – I want a new King, I want a new relationship, a new vocation, a new location
 - Hey, hey, hey, - will you learn from the past friend
- If God wants to change things – He will – if He has put that desire in your heart – He will do it, He will make it crystal clear on what you should do
 - But until then – you serve God with your king, with the situation you forced yourself into
 - You serve God right there and...
- God will be with you

Now some of you – you haven't made a decision yet, you haven't yet forced God's hand

- but you are tired of where you are at relationally, vocationally, locationally
 - and you want a change

Can I say to you, will you hear from my heart today – Wait for your Deliverer

- the feelings in your heart are real, I believe more often than not, put there by God
 - but we must learn from I Samuel chapter 8 – that if I am going to force my will and my timing, I more often than not am going to end up with a disaster
- So wait for your Deliverer – be patient

Patience, I don't like being patient - I'm getting impatient with patience

- Why does God want me to wait all the time – why do I have to endure things that are hard
 - Why??? – Why doesn't it stop – oh last verse this morning
 - James chapter 1
- James – Jesus' bold little half-brother, listen to what he says

“My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.” – James 1:2-3

- God says – why do you have to wait, because I am working on you, you need to be prepared for what I have for you
 - You see I want to get out of the fix that I am in – I want to change the situation
 - But so often if I force God's hand and get out of the fix He has put me in, then He has to put me in another fix to fix the fix He wanted to fix in the first place – you see
- He is working on me, because I lack – and between the promise and the fulfillment of the promise, during the time of patience – God is working on me, preparing me

Again Moses knew he was the deliver, but Moses needed the 40 years of wilderness to prepare him

- Joseph knew God had more for him than the prison he was in, but he needed the prison to prepare him for the throne
 - Paul the apostle knew God had big things in store, but they were different than he could have ever imaged and he needed to be prepared

James says – Let Patience have its work in you that you may be complete, lacking nothing

- aren't you tired of lacking
 - aren't you tired of going through life as circumstances come and go and yet deep in your soul you know – I lack
- And when you're honest you know, that lack isn't going to be fulfilled with a new relationship, a new job, a new venue
 - Because you realize the lack in is you, not in your surroundings
 - So what do we do
- We let patience have its perfect work
 - Wait for your deliverer
 - Wait for the one who always gives His best to those who leave the choice to Him

And like the Old Hymn says - “Rule over my soul, rule over my soul, sweet Spirit, rule over my soul, my rest is complete when I sit at your feet, sweet, sweet spirit, rule over my soul”