



## Wayward Hearts – 1 Sam: 8 6 Nov 2022 Small Group Notes

Do you have any examples of something you thought was a good idea at the time, but in hindsight it was a mistake? Is there anything you can share? How did you justify it at the time? Why did you think it was a good idea? What warning signs should you have heeded?

What is the difference between God being their king and them having a human king? (or between a monarchy and a theocracy)  
How would this work practically?

**Read 1 Samuel 8:9-18** – notice the word ‘take’ and how often it comes up in this passage  
What it is like for us to have a king is very different from in the ancient world. What in Samuel’s speech would you be concerned about at that time?

How does having a king affect how Israel was supposed to function as a nation? How would this reduce their witness to God in the world?

**They have a situation for which this is a way forward. They don’t know a better way to handle it.**

**Read 1 Samuel 8:1-3**

What issues do you see in these verses? Why might this be difficult to deal with?

Our judgment is often clouded by the things they are dealing with here.

**Competing voices can make it hard to sift what is really important.**

**Past failure can skew our discernment.**

**Sometimes we choose a quick solution instead of the right solution.**

If you could go back in time and give advice to the nation of Israel, what would you say?

What helps your decision making when the decision is confusing or painful? How do you see through to choose wisely?

A notable omission in our passage is that the nation of Israel never asks God for help. This is likely because they know what God would want, and they want a king.

How can we remain able to depend on God?

What causes us to want to operate in our own strength?

## Worldly wisdom vs. God's wisdom

### Read 1 Samuel 8:5 and 8:20

They weren't supposed to be like the other nations. How might we be tempted to give in to the wisdom of the world around us? We live in this world, so how do you think we can hold to God's wisdom?

How might chapter 7 be an illustration of the power of God's wisdom?

## A Teachable Heart – 'refused to listen'

### Read 1 Sam 8:19

If we compare what they said before and after Samuel's speech it is clear that they didn't hear a word of it!

What do you think this says about their hearts?

How can we have hearts that are teachable?

How can we know if we are refusing to listen to God?

Shawn Swinney