

Spiritual Legacy Rejected

1 Samuel 8

“Dave and Deb” – One of many NH retired couples who have embraced Christ as Lord, and have long desired to pass that spiritual legacy of faith to their kids & the next generation.

*They gave one of their sons a strong Biblical name, Jonathan, meaning: *“Gift of God.”*

*In Jonathan’s young years he prayed to receive Jesus - gladly went to church – youth – summer camps. As a teen, he was baptized, was involved in mission trips, played in the worship team, and joined a discipleship group that seemed to be growing his faith.

*From all appearances it seemed that Jonathan would continue the legacy,

*But one day Jonathan came home from college and delivered news that caused mom and dad to grieve: *He no longer believed. He wanted to do life on his terms. He was not a Christian.*

Reflecting on that moment this week, Dave writes: *“The grieving process started the day our son announced he no longer believed in God. We were there when he first gave his life to Christ and now he was giving it up - all for a lie. The grief of losing our son was so painful **it unleashed a flood of emotions:** anger, confusion, guilt, despair and more...That grief process took us on a journey of **physical ailments, emotional detachment and faith-rattling doubts.** Over time, through many tear-stained prayers, the Holy Spirit comforted us with verses of promise which fuel our hope that one day our son will return to the faith. We now have **constant pain mingled with unwavering hope.**”*
(New Hope, “Dave”)

As we turn to 1 Samuel 8, the issue is **Spiritual Legacy.**

*Many men live long and faithful, aiming to pass along on a legacy of faith (**Ken S did!**)

*In 1 Sam. we enter **the emotional journey of Samuel** who was faithful to the Lord for decades, leading the nation, raising a family...and longed to pass on **spiritual legacy.**

*But in his older years, he is grieved when it appears the **next generation rejects it.**

In-a-sentence: *“We are called to **be faithful** to Jesus and **pass on** a spiritual legacy, knowing that each generation must decide whether they **receive/reject the baton of faith.**”*

*DYK: **In America**, there are **174 million Grandkids.** (If a nation, they would be 8th in world)

*Roughly **150 million don’t know Jesus**

*Who has influence to reach them? **1 born again grandparent for every 5 grandkids** who have a unique role to speak into them and pass on a spiritual legacy

1. Spiritual legacy is rejected, (v.1-9)

- Sons reject father. (v.1-3)
- Leaders reject faith. (v.4-6)
- Nation rejects God. (v.7-9)

Sons reject father (v.1-3)

*“When Samuel became old, he made **his sons** judges over Israel. ² The name of his firstborn son was **Joel**, 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.**”*

*No matter how Godly you are and no matter how godly you raise children, the transmission of your faith does not automatically pass to the next generation.

*Consider Samuel: Probably in **the TOP 5 most godly men of OT!**

*He came from a strong line of faith. His father and mother were godly. When he was young, he took up the baton of faith. And he raised children to love Lord

*Some of us have strong lines of faith back to grandparents, like Timothy:

*“I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in **your grandmother Lois** and in **your mother Eunice** and, I am persuaded, **now lives in you also.**” (2 Tim 1)*

*Samuel even gave his boys names that describe his longing for their character:

Joel = *The Lord is God*

Abijah = *My Father is God*

*But children from godly homes can have godly names & still have hard hearts.

*Samuel’s boys may have **come from dad & looked like dad**, but they **didn’t act like dad**

*When they grew up, Samuel used his influence to appoint them as judicial leaders, but in time it became evident that his boys lacked dad’s integrity.

Charisma...without character.

Position...without purity.

Honor...without humility.

Respect...without restraint.

Action Step: *Aim to pass on a spiritual legacy, knowing that salvation is ultimately a work of the Holy Spirit.*

Our Responsibility: Train them. Teach them. Tell them. Pray for them.

God’s Responsibility: Save them.

*I wish **transmission of the faith** to the next generation was an **automatic transaction**.

*Truth is, faith does not **transmit through blood or good parenting**, but by grace through faith in Christ.

*“But to all who did **receive** him, who **believed** in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born **not of blood nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**”* (John 1:12-13)

*At NH, one of our great desires is to pass on a spiritual legacy to next generation

*In **May** we are **hosting a conference: “Next Generations Summit”**

*A seminar **to equip grandparents, parents and youth workers** to us their God-given position and pass a spiritual legacy to the Next Gen.

“The next generation are disconnecting from biblical values that sustained and nourished our forbearers. These young people will determine the course of history for our nation and world for the next 50 years. The future is in our hands and it is imperative that we pass on our spiritual legacy to the next generation while there is still time.” (Bob Petterson, Legacy Imperative)

Leaders reject faith (v.4-6)

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.

***Summary:** Samuel was getting old and the leaders of Israel were concerned about the **Succession Plan. Who will lead them next?** It’s clear they are weighing options:

***One:** Samuel dies and they get stuck with his sons – who they don’t want!

***Two:** Samuel dies and they go through a painful season of ousting the boys.

***Three:** while Samuel is alive, ask him to anoint a new kind of leader – a King!

***Note:** **Nepotism** can be a **good thing** (when you have godly sons of godly dads) but it can be a **bad thing** when you have **corrupt sons riding coattails.**

***Why is this a big deal? Three minutes of history will help understand - turning point!**

*For 400 years, Israel had no king. They were led by Moses (**prophet**), Joshua (**military leader**), and a series of **Judges**...who served as spiritual leaders.

*But as a **divine monarchy** it was understood for Israel: “**God alone is King.**”

***God warned through Moses of a day coming when Israel demands a king!**

400 years earlier: “When you come to the land...and then say, ‘**I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,**’ you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose.” (Dt. 17:14)

*IOW: They could have a king, but it would have to be one God chose.

Credentials of a Godly King? (Dt. 17)

- Lean on God.
- Lead with integrity.
- Live with simplicity.
- Love the Book (Read it, Keep it, Don't turn aside from it)

***Fast forward.** The time has come. People want a king. But they don't seem interested in God's choice. They want a king to be "like the other nations."

*Samuel is **greatly displeased** with their request. Why? He takes it personal.

***Imagine:** You're the CEO of a company, and your leadership team says to you: "*Hey, old man, before you die, can you name the next CEO...not your sons?*"

***His sons** have denied the faith. Now the **leaders of Israel** seem to be rejecting him. Perhaps he is struggling with questions of legacy – feeling it unravel.

*How does Samuel respond? **Notice:** "*And Samuel prayed to the Lord.*"

*That's the best thing to do when feeling hurt/rejected. **Pray for perspective.**

*It is becoming clear, **Samuel is a man of prayer...in all seasons.**

***Ch. 3:** "*Speak Lord.*" **Ch. 7:** "*He cried out to the Lord.*" **Ch. 8:** "*He prayed.*"

Action Step 2:

When encountering relational hurt, resolve to hold your tongue and pray for perspective.

*In prayer, we are able to **calm down, gain perspective, & see a way forward with a godly response.**

Nation rejects God: (v.7-9)

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."*

*As with all generations, it **comes down to Kingship – "Who will rule my life?"**

*In prayer, the Lord gives Samuel clarity: "**Samuel, it's me, not you.** They are really saying: 'We no longer want to serve God. We want to live our own way.'"

***Parents:** Let this be a **word of encouragement to console your heart and release you from needless shame**

*When **children walk away from the Lord or go through seasons of rebellion**, it can cause parents great grief as feel rejected and responsible for their decisions.

*To some measure, let God's words console your heart: "**They have not rejected you – they rejected Jesus as King.**"

*And by the way, let me ask you: **Have you resolved the Kingship issue in your heart?**

*Have you decided to submit to Kingship of Jesus...or live as your own king?

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."*

IOW: "They want a king. Ok, let them have what they want. But gather them together, make them look at the future, and warn them of what will happen."

***Example:** Your 18 year-old kid thinks they know everything. They want to move out, travel the world, do life on their own...and take their beater car & \$1,000 with them.

*You sit them down to warn: *"You can go...but before you go, realize what's coming. You will run out of money; taste pain; great trouble. Are you sure?"*

*The Scripture is full of examples of the gracious character of God to warn us.

Action Step 3:

Be careful of what you ask for. You may get it – and it may make you miserable.

*Coveting is a normal part of the human existence.

*There are things we see with our eyes and our hearts crave and we begin to think that getting it will make life better. But consider: **Do you really need it?**

- *Will it distract your focus?*
- *Will it destroy your family?*
- *Will it damage your faith?*
- *Will it deteriorate your finances?*
- *Will it divide your friendships?*

2. ...which leads to struggle, (v.10-18)

- With men. (v.10-17)

*After prayer, Samuel has God's perspective & gathers the people to "Warn Them."

*Summary: *"If you want a king, be warned: "He will TAKE...he will TAKE...he will TAKE...he will TAKE...he will TAKE...he will TAKE..." (v.10-17)*

*If you really want to choose a king, you can have it, but he will take from you, tax you, dominate you, lord over you.

*This is the big difference between: **Judges vs. Kings.**

Role of Judges:

Protectors of the people

Like the people

Role of Kings:

Lord of the people

Over the people

Teach the people

Are the law

Submitted to the priesthood

Silence the priesthood

"Here's what God says to do..."

"Don't tell me what to do..."

***This ONE DECISION...**which seemed so rational...would put Israel on a path of ruin for the next 400-500 years of godless kings until eventually the nation would unravel.

Action Step: Weigh actions carefully, because one wrong decision can lead to a lifetime of pain.

- With God. (v.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."*

Whoa. Stern and clear warning. *"If you reject God today and get what you want tomorrow, there will come a day you realize your mistake, and it will be too late."*

*Yes, New Hope, we serve a gracious God who always hears our prayers.

*But there are times when people defy his warnings, realize their mistake, and cry out to God without being heard...because it's not genuine repentance.

"Why doesn't God answer me?"

- *When motives are misaligned.*
- *When behavior is misbehaved.*
- *When hearts are misdirected.*
- *When requests are misguided.*
- *When plans are misinformed.*

Action Step: *The type of prayers that reach God's ears rise from hearts genuinely moved with repentance.*

*"**godly grief** produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas **worldly grief** produces death."* (2 Cor. 7:10)

3. ...but some still want life their way. (v.19-22)

- **A prideful demand. (v.19-20)**

*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."*

- **A humble prayer. (v.21)**

²¹ And when Samuel had heard all the words of the people, he repeated them in the ears of the LORD.

- **A gracious response. (v.22)**

²² And the LORD said to Samuel, "Obey their voice and make them a king."

*It's fascinating that God allows the people to have what they want.

*Their demand is prideful. It will lead to pain.

*Yet, God in his wisdom permits it...and even from **that bad decision** God will fulfill His promise and raise up a King...from the line of David...who will deliver the people.

Action Step 6:

Embrace the promise: "No wisdom, no council, no understanding can avail against the Lord."

*Children may reject parents. A nation may reject the Lord. People may make foolish demands and walk rebellious paths.

*But know this: The purposes of God will always stand.

Dave & Deborah haven't given up. They are still praying for that spiritual legacy.

*At this moment, their hearts have constant pain, but Dave summarized their testimony: ***"From heartache to hope."***

*Are you Not yet in the faith? Decide to **take it up.***

*Are you First in a godly lineage? Decide to **start it new.***

*Are you Born into a godly lineage? Resolve to **pass it on.***

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 - People reject God. (v.7-9)
- 5. ...which leads to struggle, (v.10-18)**
- With men. (v.10-17)
 - With God. (v.18)
- 6. ...but some still want it their way. (v.19-22)**
- A prideful demand. (v.19-20)
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