

Facing Circumstances

1 Samuel 8

1. Impatient or Patient Timing? Vs. 1-8

Both Samuel as Judge of Israel and the elders of Israel made decisions that lacked patience, as they did not look to God for His timing; Samuel appointing his sons as the next Judges, and the elders demanding to appoint a king over Israel immediately.

Each decision we make will either be one of patience (pursuing God's will), or impatience (acting selfishly through making immediate plans; without seeking God's will). Decisions of Impatience display our lack of trust towards our God.

2. Impure or Pure Motive? Vs. 9-19

Through God's guidance, Samuel challenged the elders' desire to have a king like all the other nations, but the elders of Israel refused. Their impure motive of becoming like other nations displayed their dissatisfaction with what God had done with them and where God had placed them; they no longer desired the identity that God have given them.

What type of motives tend to influence our decision making? May the decisions that we make display a desire to live out our Identity in Christ, and not be the desire to become like everyone else who do not follow the Word of God.

3. Involving Cowardice or Courage?

The Israelite elders lacked courageous faith to trust the "Judges" system that God had provided. Instead, they demanded a King, as it was easier to place blame on a system than admit their struggle is with being unfaithful to God.

Is our decision making one that displays our courageous faith? We too can wrestle with different kinds of fear that can negatively impact the decisions that we make. Remembering who God is and what He has done for us will allow us make decisions that will reflect our courageous faith in the Lord.

Questions:

- When it comes to making major life decisions, what are some of the ways you evaluate whether or not you should make that decision?
- How would our process of making decisions change if we first spent time praying about them?
- What persuades you to submit to God's way for your life? (Philippians 2:6-11)
- How did Samuel deal with his disappointment with the people (1 Samuel 8:6)? How do you handle things when things do not go your way?
- List three situations that a person chooses the way of the world without fully thinking about the consequences.
- Part of the motivation for Israel wanting a human king was so that they could be like every other nation. How often are we persuaded by the perceived need to be like people around us? Why is it hard to live differently than the culture we are in?
- Jesus is Lord; He rules over all. Do you faithfully serve Him or put your desires first? Oftentimes we have compromised our obedience without even thinking about it. We slowly drift away from the Lord.