



DGM Message Title: All The Same

Topic: Our choices have consequences

Message Summary: We learn from the experience of Israel that wanting to be like your neighbors leads down a path of ruin. The primary text is from the story of Samuel appointing his sons as judges and the people being disappointed because they were crooked judges. Then the elders came to Samuel and said the people wanted a king. God told Samuel that was fine, but He warned them that it was a bad choice. We should rely on God's choices ahead of ours. We may have to wait, but the results will be worth it.

Scriptural References:

- **1 Samuel 8:1-20**

Key Points:

- Samuel began to age early because of the burdens of family and government.
 - Didn't have good role model for parenting.
 - Worshipping a loving God does not automatically make you a good parent.
- What profit is it to gain the whole "church" world and lose his own family?
 - Keep priorities.
 - Home was first base for me.
- Samuel made his sons judges.
 - We teach people how to treat us by what we accept.
 - His sons did not walk in his (Samuel) ways.
 - Nature will not grow your child.
 - School won't grow your child.
 - Street won't grow your child.
 - TV won't grow your child.
 - It takes a person with the diligence of a farmer to grow children.
 - Farmer is intentional about what he puts into a child.
 - They took bribes and "turned aside" like Eli's sons had done.
 - Your genetics may be given but your character is your choice.
 - Elders came and said to Samuel that he was old and your sons do not walk in your way.
 - "Make God your daddy," said Dr. Grier.
- Elders asked for a king instead of judges, so "we can be like the other nations".
 - Moses had warned Israel of the pitfalls of trying to be like others.
 - "Stop trying to fit in in places, God has designed you to stand out." – Dr. Grier

- They wanted the right thing, but for the wrong reasons.
 - “Let God do God,” said Dr. Grier.
- Once your children get grown, leave them alone.
 - God may be doing a different thing in them.
 - Get out of their kitchen, their bedroom.
 - Love them and give them advice if they ask.
- So, Samuel prayed to the Lord and the Lord said:
 - Heed the voice of the people.
 - Sometimes the Lord’s judgement is to let the people do what they want to do.
 - They couldn’t wait for God’s choice (David).
 - God wanted to give them a king after “His heart”.
 - Instead, He gave them a king after “their hearts”.
 - Their king became a wicked king.
 - God had to take him out.
 - Even some of David’s problems were caused by King Saul.
- After elections, Dr. Grier prays, “Lord don’t give us the leaders we deserve.”
- Even with his sons, Dr. Grier prays, “Don’t give my boys the girls they deserve.”
 - “Give them a woman after Your Heart, Lord.”
- “They haven’t rejected you Samuel, they have rejected me.”
- No one can take you on a guilt trip if you don’t get in the wagon!
- “Lukewarm people don’t want to be saved from their sins; they only want to be saved from the penalty of their sins.” – Francis Chan
- Great Commission:
 - Not go and build a big church.
 - Not go out there and get a big ol’ following.
 - No, Jesus said Go and Make Disciples!
 - People who are disciplined by the Word.
- If all I do is get you to the altar...
 - But I don’t get you matured,
 - Walking right, and
 - Living right;
 - Then I haven’t done my job, regardless of how big our church is.
- God told Samuel to “heed their voice” but warned them that the king would:
 - Take your sons into war,
 - Use slave labor,
 - Seize the best fields and vineyards,
 - Impose a 10% tax
- “We are free to choose, but we are not free from the consequences of our choices.”
- God said that the people were going to be in pain and going to complain, but this is what they chose when they chose to have a king.
- Nevertheless, the people refused to listen to Samuel.
 - They wanted to be like the other nations.
- The things that you make different are the things that make you important, significant and YOU.
 - So, DO YOU! -- Stand up and stand out for Jesus --