

AFTER GODS HEART

For the week of February 15th, 2026

The People Demand a King

Life

What would be one of your memorable “phases?” Could be related to various things like fashion, music, life, etc...Anything that might have been a significant phase to you.

Have you ever insisted on something that someone wiser warned you against? What was driving you in that moment: fear, control, insecurity, comparison, or something else?

On a scale of 1-10, how good of a “listener” are you?

Theology

Read 1 Samuel 8

- What are your initial reactions to the scripture when you read it in its entirety?
- What does this passage teach us about power and human leadership? How does this contrast with God's character?

In **1 Samuel 8:19–22**, God tells Samuel to listen to the people and give them what they ask for. What does this teach us about free will and God's sovereignty? How do we hold those together in our own theology?

Israel's request to transition towards a monarchy is rooted in various things. Fear of enemies, comparison, status, and greed. How can fear distort theological judgment? What are the dangers of allowing cultural fears and movements to override principles of Christian faith?

God's response to Israel's forsaking of Him as their king is to practice *listening*. What do you make of Yahweh's response? Does this present God in a powerless light or does this reveal something deeper about the power of listening? How can the practice of listening be a helpful response in moments of offense or forsaking?

In Practice

In each week of our series, prayer plays an important role. In **1 Samuel 2:1-10**, Hannah responds to her barrenness with prayer and worship. In **1 Samuel 7**, Israel's successful defeat of the Philistines comes after a movement of prayerful confession under Samuel's leadership. Where do we see prayer practiced again in **1 Samuel 8**, and what does this theme teach us about the important of prayer in our own rhythms of faith?

What does this week's lesson teach us about the relationship between the Lords will, human choice, and salvation?