

# Dangers of Ignorance

1 Samuel 8: 4-7

## ➤ Introduction

From the time the children of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were led by judges. These were people raised up by God and appointed by the Spirit of God to lead the people. This period lasted about 300 years and the nation was truly a theocracy. God was the nation's King. He was her defense and her advocate. Israel was unlike any other nation on the earth. The people prospered and the Lord protected them.

However, the people of Israel lost sight of what God was doing for them and began to want to be like other nations. Their last judge was Samuel and we pick up in the text where they went to Samuel to express their new worldly desires for a traditional king in place of God's appointed judges.

Read 1 Samuel 8:4-7

- 4 Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah;
- 5 and they said to him, "Behold, you have grown old, and your sons do not walk in your ways. Now appoint a king for us to judge us like all the nations."
- 6 But the thing was displeasing in the sight of Samuel when they said, "Give us a king to judge us." And Samuel prayed to the LORD.
- 7 The LORD said to Samuel, "Listen to the voice of the people in regard to all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me from being king over them.

## ➤ Ignorance is more about Ignoring than Knowledge

Illus: Last week a middle school student went into the boys bathroom, used his cell phone and call in a bomb threat to the school. It took all of a couple of minutes to know exactly who committed the crime thanks to caller ID. Now that is the type of ignorance we think of today - Lack of good sense!

However, ignorance in the original Hebrew and Greek did not always mean what we think of as ignorance today. Ignorance sound a lot like the word "ignore" and that is where the word has its origins.

In the Old Testament, ignorance is linked to a concept of "hardening of the heart", a sort of willingness to sin and ignoring what one should do. In other words ignoring what we should do and doing what we want to do is a form of ignorance or hardening of the heart. So often we do just that. We know what we should or should not do but we chose to do wrong and figure we will deal with the consequences later.

It is this type of ignorance / ignoring that I want us to look at today. The people of Israel were placing themselves in a sort of spiritual reverse by ignoring certain aspects of their relationship with God. Instead they were insisting on their own desires and applying some stretched logic to get their desires.

Let's look at some of the things they were ignoring about God and the consequences of them.

### 1. Ignoring Our Blessing from God

Ignoring past blessings from God causes us to become discontent.

We lose sight of what God has done for us and we become dissatisfied and itchy.

We want something else but we don't know what.

This is one reason God's word tells us so often to be thankful.

We must remain thankful for what God has done to prevent discontent.

When we lose site of what God is doing our faith becomes shallow.  
We begin to doubt the things of God.  
Why doesn't God do this and why hasn't he done that?  
We question His work and wisdom. We wonder why God is not working in my life.  
He is working we have just become shallow in our faith because we have short memories when it comes to thankfulness.

We focus too much on what we don't have rather than what we do have.  
Again, our faith becomes weak and put into reverse. We begin to rationalize.  
I don't need to tithe; God isn't doing anything in my life these days.  
I don't have to read my Bible or attend Bible study; God isn't doing anything in my life these days.  
I don't need to pray, God isn't listening these days.  
When we ignore the blessings of God, we take our off the ball; we are subject to do most anything.

## 2. Ignoring Who We Belonged To

Ignoring who's people we are distorts everything.  
When we forget to whom we belong, we begin to look at the world differently.  
We see everything as being at our disposal without regard for right, wrong or consequences.  
We lose site of respect for God, love for others and we ignore our very purpose in life.

Desiring to be like the world causes us to look for worldly answers.  
Illus: Chicken farmer where chicken are dieing. Univ. says we had many more things to try.  
The world will offer many solutions to our problems but they will never solve them. The answers and the ability to face them can be found in God's word and God's grace. The world's answers will only compound our problems leaving us worse off still seeking answers.

Many churches today are doing exactly that. As the church, we have the most exciting message, the best news to share with the world. Granted, we must spread that word using every means we can. We must appeal to people using different medium and means that will touch their hearts. However, the message doesn't change. It is the good news of Jesus Christ and it will bring peace, joy and eternal life to those who believe and call upon Him. It is ok to adjust our methods of communication and our tools of spreading the Word. But we must never seek worldly answers or solutions in the interest of making things easy.

The bible is as clear as it can be on homosexuality. This is a sin and a problem that the church must deal with. We must minister to those who struggle with this issue and this is not going to be an easy road. However, the struggle has already been lost for many churches that have chosen to ignore God's word, roll over and compromise by declaring it OK. They have chosen to ignore the truth and adopt the worlds easy answers.  
There are many other areas where this applies as well, such as preaching about wealth, Islam, Baptism, Salvation and Giving. There are numerous areas where we tickle the ears of men while slapping the face of God.

Forgetting who we belong to will lead to a place we never intended to go.

Illus: Morgan on her Barbie car.

This is one of the saddest consequences of ignoring who's people we are. When we as individuals lose sight of the fact that we belong to God, we find ourselves in dark places. We find our selves doing things or being in places that we never intended to be. We wake up and realize we have fallen into a place that we always said we would never go. Drugs, abuse, gambling addictions, are all obvious places that come to mind. But what about other areas where we find ourselves cheating on school work or cheating others in our business dealings. What about not speaking to our love ones or our spouse over little things that should never have separated us to being with.

Illus: ***"Sin will take you further than you ever wanted to go, it will keep you longer than you ever wanted to stay, and it will cost you more than you ever wanted to pay".***

We must always be mindful of who we belong to as the children of God.

### 3. Ignoring the Sovereignty of God

Ignoring the sovereignty of God dethrones God in our hearts. +

We cannot dethrone God as Creator and Lord of all. But, we can dethrone Him as Lord of our hearts and our lives. We can put Him in a position where He is not the central figure around which our decisions are made.

Illus: Wayward child who rejects their parents.

When we reject God in one area of our life, we hinder God in all areas of our life. When we take God out of certain areas of our life, we start a process of removing Him from other areas of our life.

Sin leads to guilt and lies and ultimately to more sin. Soon we realize we no longer recognize the person we have become. We soon realize that He is no longer Lord of our life.

God's response to rejection is tough love.

Do you know what God's response to ignorant requests usually is? It is to grant them. Child Psychologist tell us that we need to allow children to fail and allow them to be stubborn when they are young. They need to experience the consequences of their actions. Hopefully this will happen when they are young and the consequences are not as severe as they are later in life. God does the same. He allows us get our way so we can learn from our mistakes and our stubbornness.

After having Samuel warn them, the people of Israel still wanted to be like other nations. What did God say in verse 22? "Listen to their voice and appoint them a king". God let them suffer the consequences of their choices.

#### ➤ **Conclusion - Conclusion comment here**

In the old days, there was a word for Christians who were in the same ignoring state of mind as the people of Israel. It was "backslider". This is when a Christian ignores the things and blessings of God and desires to pursue the things of the world.

God is no longer on the throne in their heart. Decisions are made not based on what God wants but what the individual wants and with little regard to the consequences.

We know God still loves them and is working on them but they are being ignorant by ignoring Him.

Illus: Imagine for a moment you are looking in a mirror. Do you see your face right now. Who is Lord of your life? Is it Jesus Christ or is it the person in the mirror.