



One King Leads to Another

Judges 21:25; Joshua 24:14; 16-18, 21; Judges 2:11-15; 3:8

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November 26, 2017

Bottom Line: Don't be deceived: people who do *what they want, when they want, with whom they want* eventually discover that **one king leads to another**.

Introduction:

Last week, we began a discussion of the essence of the American Dream: I want to do **what** I want, **when** I want, with **whom** I want. Of course there's a footnote: *as long as it doesn't hurt anybody*.

But, we discovered this is impossible because eventually you hurt you, the people with you, the people who love you, and the people who are coming behind you.

This is nothing new. Ancient Israel, a nation that began with divine intervention – created as a **theocracy** where God would be king and would rule through judges – was not immune.

The book documents several cycles of disaster and deliverance:

Disobedience → Disaster → Deliverance

Last week, we looked at the final episode in the book of Judges, which ends like this:

“In those days there was no **king** in Israel; everyone did what was **right** in his own eyes (Judges 21:25 (NASB).”

The end of the book of Judges ends like the middle of the worst horror show you've ever seen.

But, it begins with such amazing resolve and commitment to serve the Lord.

Scripture: Joshua 24:14, 16-18, 21

Scripture: Judges 2:11-15

Buried in this historical drama is a lesson for all of us, even the non-religious.

Israel simply traded *one king for another*.

In their attempt to throw off authority, they found themselves under another authority.

They did what they thought was right, but things didn't turn out right.

1. They **forsook** the Lord.
2. They **followed** the people around them.
3. They **surrendered** their freedom.

Israel simply traded **one king for another**.

When you say “no” to God, don't you eventually trade one king for another?

When you throw off God's authority, you eventually place yourself under the authority of smaller, compassionless kings – who don't love you.

The Little Kings of Appetite, Insecurity, Fear, Comparison, Lust, Greed, Consumption, and/or Family History.

Little created kings that tempt you to declare, “I won't give this up!”

In the end, this will lead you to the place where you cry out, “I can't give this up!”

The king you traded for God always promises freedom but never delivers freedom.

This period of Israel's history ends with Judges 3:8 (NIV84), “The anger of the Lord burned against Israel so that he sold them into the hands of Cushan-Rishathaim, **king** of Aram Naharaim, to whom the Israelites were subject for **eight years**.”

NEXT WEEK– Right in the Eye: Good At Looking

Yield your heart to the invisible King.

Conclusion:

In our attempt to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want, **we simply trade one king for another.**

Maximum **freedom** is found under the **authority** of the Creator King.

You were not created to rule yourself. As long as you attempt to, you will eventually find yourself at the mercy of the little kings from the kingdoms of *I can't*.

As a pastor, one of my greatest joys is watching people return to their **King**.

But my greatest sorrow is knowing that they can't regain the life that was lost while serving lesser kings.

The great news is that when you cry out and say, "God, the little kings of appetite, lust, fear, insecurity, generational dysfunction, alcohol, loneliness, and greed are destroying me" ... when you are ready to admit that what began as a defiant, "I won't!" has left you in the place of "I can't" ... your king is willing to rescue you. But because he knows the power of the little kings, he requires unconditional surrender. Anything less will simply prolong the agony.

Don't be deceived: Those who do what they want, when they want, with whom they want eventually discover that one **king** leads to another.

NEXT STEPS:

- Memorize: Joshua 24:14.**
- What little god are you serving.**
- What freedom(s) have you forfeited?**
- Are you ready to call God for help? If so, pray and ask. It's okay!**
- Return next week for Right in the Eye – Part 3.**