

# THE KING WE SERVE

## SERMON OUTLINE

### Introduction

- America's problem with kings

### 1. The kings broken people choose

- Samuel was the last judge (God-appointed leader) of Israel.
- A plan, a pattern, a problem beneath the pattern

*Judges 17:6 – In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.*

*1 Sam. 8:5, 7, 9 – (the elders said) “... appoint for us a king to judge us like all the nations... Samuel prayed to the Lord. 7 And the Lord said to Samuel, “Obey the voice of the people in all that they say to you, for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them... 9 Now then, obey their voice; only you shall solemnly warn them and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.” (See Deuteronomy 17:14ff.)*

*1 Samuel 8:17 – “...you shall be his slaves.” (See 1 Sam. 8:10-17.)*

*Deut. 17:18-19 (NIV84) – When (the king you choose) takes the throne... he is to write for himself on a scroll a copy of this law ... 19 It is to be with him, and he is to read it all the days of his life so that he may learn to revere the LORD his God and follow carefully all the words of this law and these decrees...*

### 2. The King who chooses us

*John 18:36 – (Jesus) “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”*

*John 18:37 – (Jesus) ... For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world – to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to my voice.” 38 Pilate said to him, “What is truth?” ...*

*John 18:38 – (Pilate) ... “I find no guilt in him.” ...*

*Matthew 27:18 (NIV84) – (Pilate) knew it was out of envy that (the Jewish leaders) had handed Jesus over to him.*

*Luke 17:7-10 – (Jesus) 7 “Suppose one of you has a servant plowing or looking after the sheep. Will he say to the servant when he comes in from the field, ‘Come along now and sit down to eat’? 8 Won't he rather say, ‘Prepare my supper, get yourself ready and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may eat and drink’? 9 Will he thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? 10 So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”*

### Purposeful reflecting...

- Ask the Lord to speak, then spend five minutes in silence. (Use a timer!) Notice what you notice (maybe take notes).

#### Experience

- Respond to the idea that we only have two options for whom to serve with our lives: the one true God or some false one (including ourselves). Relate that to the First Commandment: “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exodus 20:3).

- Reflect on the statement “Every other king requires your life for his (or for it); Jesus is the only King who would die for you”? What emotion surfaces as you do this? Let that emotion, whatever it is, lead you to into prayer. (If you're in a group, talk about how you might pray about this emotion.)

#### Transform

- What idols (kings) compete for first place in your life? (Be as specific as possible.) Think about what you identified and ask yourself about each one, what does it promise me (i.e., what do you expect to get from them)?

- Now take those same idols (kings) and ask yourself, what does my preoccupation with this thing cost me in time and resources? What does it cost me relationally? What does it cost me emotionally and spiritually? Are there any needed changes suggested by your answers?

#### Share

- Tell someone who cares about you and knows you well what's surfaced as you reflected on this message. If you sense a need to make some change(s) share as much detail as you feel comfortable sharing with this person.

- Jesus has chosen us, but we must accept (and choose) what He has done by turning from self-rule (the essence of sin) and receiving by faith His gift of forgiveness and adoption into God's family. If you've made this choice, how long has it been since you've shared your story with someone? Who might benefit from hearing about it? Ask God to give you the opportunity to tell that person.

(Note: If you've never responded to what King Jesus has already done for you, nothing is more important. Reach out to a Christian friend or St. Andrew's pastor who can help you take that step of faith. Don't wait!)