

## Stop Trying and start trusting. June 9 2024 DJK

### 1 Samuel 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14,15) 1646

A young Lad has an old but reliable car – he thinks he’s better than that. He believes he should have a flash car to impress the girls – he wants Ford? You know what Holden stands for: **Hope Our Luck Doesn’t End Now**. He wants a Ford. What does ford stand for? Not: **Fix Or Repair Daily** but **Fastest On Race Day**. He finds a Ford – it’s fairly cheap. He loves it, he’s going to buy it. He’s got a friend who knows the car. His friend says, “hey mate, before you buy that car there’re a few things you should know”.

- It’s been in an accident – it’s got a twisted chassis.
- It gonna handle like a wet sponge.
- That motor has been thrashed – it’s not gonna last long.
- There was rust everywhere and it’s been bogged it up.
- It’s got cheap tyres – they’ll blow if you go too fast.
- The electrics are dodgy – they not gonna last.

“Don’t buy it mate – it’s gonna ruin you.” This Lad thinks long and hard for 2 seconds and says, “Yes, I want be like all the other cool Lads”.

Imagine if he was your son, your mate. How would you reason with him? You know it’s not going to end good. The son insists: “I want to be like every other cool young bloke”. **Why won’t he listen?**

The rest is history, he buys the car and not long after he loses control on a corner. He couldn’t handle it, the tyres let go. He survived but the car was a wreck. Why wouldn’t he listen? Why did he think he was too good for his old reliable car?

---

We have a peep into Israel’s history. If this were not so sad it would be laughable.

*“God we want a King, so we can be like all the other nations”.* (1 Samuel 8)

“Why? I have led you for thousands of years from slavery to victory; I have looked after you. I have been like a husband to you. I solemnly tell you that if you get a king he reign over up and he will claim you as his own”. **“Don’t do it.”**

God’s people are cheering, *“we want a king so we can be like all the other nations”*. It’s another way of saying, “God, we don’t want you to be our king – we want an earthly king”

So God explains – very carefully:

- A king will take the best of your sons and make them run in front of his soldiers, and chariots – they will die first in battle.
- He will assign some of your sons to the military for the whole life.
- Some will be made to make weapons of war.

- Some will be made to plough the king's country and reap his harvest – but they won't get any for themselves.
- This King will take your best girls to make perfume and work in his bedroom.
- Other girls will be cooks and bakers and cleaners.
- He'll take the best of your land and crops, the best of your vineyards and olive groves and give them to his own family.
- He'll take the best of your grain and of your wine and give it to his officials.
- He'll take your male and female servants and use them for himself.
- He'll take the best of your cattle and livestock use them for himself.
- And those of you who are left, will be his slaves.

Now God's people thought long and hard about this – for around about 2 seconds. The very next verse: **“We want a king so that we will be like all the other nations”** Why? Why? Can you hear God lamenting? God said to Samuel, “give them a king”.

The rest is history. It happened as God said exactly, to the letter. King after King – used the girls and put the young men into battle.

“We want a king so we can be like all the other nations”. They had the King of the universe – they ended up with the like of Jeroboam who threw the temple altars out and replaced them with the old golden calf. They ended up with Ahab and Jezebel who turned the temple of God into an orgy of sex and murder. They ended up with a string of Kings who exploited them. Why? Why, did they choose evil over God's good plan for them? Why do we choose evil over God's good plan for us? Why is it that the good we want to do we don't do? And why is it that the evil we don't want to do we do? It almost makes you want to give up!

---

The other night I was inflicted by another murder mystery - a miss Marple movie. For some reason I was awake, and I heard something profound. The inspector said to his offsider, “there's Miss Marple who knows every human evil there is and she's the greatest criminologist in England but she has never been outside of this village. And here it is, the inspector said: “she knows every evil in the world through the few people in this village and their daily life”.

Every evil is inside every person – you don't have to go to the pits of the earth to find evil. Come here (my heart) you'll find it.

You what Jesus said **“...For it is from within a person's heart, that evil thoughts come—sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly. All these evils come from....”** (mark 7)

That's how little old Miss Marple's knows every evil in the world, England's greatest criminologist, because she knows her own heart, she knows the heart of everyone in her village".

You know the greatest evil – maybe – I'm putting it out there – is that you and I think we're pretty good – we don't need a God. Proverbs (20, 21): ***Most people will say that they are good. But a faithful person who can find? Every person is right in their own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts.***

We want a king like every other nation because we are good people – we don't need God. I just wonder if this is the "Unforgiveable" sin against the Holy Spirit Jesus spoke about in our gospel reading (Mark 3): ***I don't want you God, I don't need the work of the Holy Spirit because I am basically pretty good?***

I want that fast ford because I am a good bloke.

I want to be like all the other the good blokes.

We're not good – Stop trying to be good and trust God. An adulterer will justify their affairs - when they're caught. A robber will justify their stealing – when they're caught. A Liar will justify their lying – when they're caught. They'll all say, despite what you see, I'm not really that bad – I'm pretty good. Stop trying to be good and trust God. We're not good. ***The best thing you can admit today is "I'm not good, please help me Jesus"***. Isaiah's take on this. Your best efforts are like filthy rags. Stop trying and trust. Paul says, ***"It is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understand, there is none that seek God, there is none that do good, no, not one"*** You know God demands perfection. You know deep down we can't do perfection. Stop trying and start trusting. Trying to please God leads to us to focus on our own efforts that fall short of perfection. But we always have that lame back up – "I'm pretty good" – not perfect, but "pretty good".

Trusting God leads to life. ***The wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.***

"God we are good enough to go it alone – we want an earthly King so we can be like everyone else." ***Is this greatest evil – to think that we are good enough? We don't need God.***

This is how bad it will be –your girls will make perfume and work in the kings bedroom, your young men in the front of the battle. Yes, that's what we want because we are good enough to go it alone.

That reading is so much our society – it is so much our lives today.

Stop trying believing your good enough and start trusting knowing you not good enough.

Trust Jesus who can wash away your sins – who gives you his body and blood so that we can have life. Stop trying and have peace – our sabbath day message last week.

Paul says – Romans 5 - Jesus died for the what? The best, the good, the tryers, the not too bad? No, Jesus died for the ungodly.

Claim that – it's so easy – Jesus died for the ungodly – that's me. **Say it, it is liberating!**

Did Jesus died for the good, for the tryers, for those who are not too bad – No, that is fraught with that's hard work – my effort.

Claim this, "Jesus died for the ungodly", it's real – it gives peace.

Jesus didn't die for the tryers, he died for the trusters.

When you stop trying and claim to be ungodly – all God's promises will rest in your heart. Hey, don't worry how you look – ungodly that is.

The promise is that on the last day Jesus will present you without fault and with great joy (Jude).

The young lad chose the ford because he thought he was too good for the old car..

The nation chose the evil kings because they thought they were too good for God.

Stop trying and start trusting – Jesus died for the ungodly.

He came to serve and not be served – he came to wash your feet not to look how good you think you are.

---

### **When did Jesus did for us?**

While we were yet sinners (Romans 5).

When did Jesus give his life for us?

ON the night when he was betrayed – not the night when we were on our best behaviour – it was the night when he was betrayed, he loved us moist.

I am pretty good therefore I don't need God - I am thoroughly lost

I am ungodly I need God – I need Jessus – I welcome the work of the Holy Spirit - I am thoroughly, thoroughly, saved.

The grace of God is upside down. Isn't it.

*Lord, we lament what our brothers and sisters said in the past. We do not need a god like all the other nations – we need you. And we thank your for allowing us into your heat when you sent Jesus into this world to die for making us perfect for you. Amen.*