**CONFRONTING COMMON EXCUSES**

**LESSON 8 – OCTOBER 19, 2025**

Everyone Else Is Doing It.

**Key Verse(s):** 1 Samuel 8:4-5 Then all the elders of Israel gathered themselves together, and came to Samuel unto Ramah, 5 And said unto him, Behold, thou art old, and thy sons walk not in thy ways: now make us a king to judge us like all the nations.

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**Summary of the Biblical Event**

While Israel had been uniquely blessed to have God as their King, their hearts grew discontent with His leadership. When Samuel grew old and his sons proved unfit to lead, the people came to him with a demand: they wanted a king to rule over them like all the surrounding nations. Their request was not born out of necessity but out of comparison and conformity. They believed a human monarch would give them power, prestige, and stability: things they already had in the Lord. Samuel was deeply grieved and sought the Lord in prayer. God told him to listen to the people’s request, explaining that their rejection was not of Samuel’s leadership but of God Himself. The Lord warned them of the heavy cost of a king. He would take their sons for battle, their daughters for service, and their fields for his own use. Still, the people refused to listen, insisting, “Nay; but we will have a king over us; that we also may be like all the nations.” The first king that God gave them was a man named Saul who looked the part of a king but failed to stay humble before the Lord.



 **Examining the Motives Exposing the Flaws**

* Logic might seem reasonable, but it doesn’t make it right.
* Results don’t tell the full story and can lead to bad decisions.
* Peer pressure is its own source of leadership. (mob mentality)
* Doing what everyone is doing won’t make Godly peace.
* The Lord has given us wisdom to be able to make judgments.
* They were motivated by their “logical” view of the situation.
* They likely saw good results occur for some other nations.
* They viewed failed leadership as validation of their thinking.
* They likely thought that this would help them have peace.
* They wanted the ease of not having to judge decisions.

**Effects of the Excuse**

**1. It gives easy validation to our bad decisions because of the plurality of support.**

**Exodus 23:2** — “Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil; neither shalt thou speak in a cause to decline after many to wrest judgment.”

**2. It causes us to reject the leadership of the Lord and replace it with man’s approval.**

**1 Samuel 8:7** — “And the Lord said unto Samuel, Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them.”

**3. It weakens our witness by blurring the line between God’s people and the world.**

**2 Corinthians 6:17** — “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.”

**4. It brings regret when the crowd’s choice replaces what was God’s best for us.**

**1 Samuel 8:18** — “And ye shall cry out in that day because of your king which ye shall have chosen you; and the Lord will not hear you in that day.”



PERSONAL APPLICATION

**Verse:** Deut. 7:6 “For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth.”

**Reflective Questions:**

* What’s something I am doing that I know is wrong, but I do it because of others?
* When is the last time that I personally used this excuse? (internally or externally)

**Commitment:**

* I’ll make right decisions even if by myself.
* I will be a good example to others so that they might not have to stand alone.

Why did God allow Israel to go through with getting a king like other nations?

What was so special about the kingly position to the people of Israel?

What’s the first step toward using this excuse in our own actions?

Why is it so hard to resist following what everyone else is doing?

Aside from judging for them, what was the other primary reason that Israel gave for wanting a king over them?