
We don't have to look very far to see that absolute power corrupts absolutely. There is something in our human nature that makes it very difficult to hold a position of power and not use it for our own advantage. This was the case with the Kings of Israel, something God warned the people about. In this study we will talk about how corrupt earthly "kings" are different than our incorruptible heavenly King and what it means to follow Him.

What Do You Think?

- Have you ever seen someone get into a position of power and watched him or her change? Explain.
- Why do we want to put other people on "the throne"? Who do we put there? Discuss.

“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.’” 1 Samuel 8:7 (ESV)

What Does God Say?

Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely.

- In the weekly message we discussed King Saul's error, but he is just the first of many Kings who experienced this principle. Read an example of King David's corruption: **2 Samuel 11:2-5, 14-17**. Although David is called "a man after God's own heart," he has his fair share of mistakes. How did this happen to so great a man, and how could the same thing happen to us?
- Read an example of King Solomon's corruption: **1 Kings 11:1-13**. Solomon had a weakness for women, so he not only did what God had clearly instructed him not to do, but he also followed their gods. What do you see as the underlying issue here? How might we fall into the same trap?

“For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” Hebrews 4:15 (ESV)

Absolute power corrupts absolutely unless your King is absolutely incorruptible.

- **Read Hebrews 4:15-16 and 2 Corinthians 5:21.** What qualifies Jesus to be our King and what difference does it make?

Anyone can join the Kingdom by bowing before the King.

- **Read Psalm 95:1-9 and Colossians 1:9-14.** What does it mean to bow before the King? What does a “Kingdom Citizen” do?

What Will You Do?

- Why would someone not want God to be their King? What kind of reservations do people have?
- Is there an area of your life that you have not given God authority over? Do you need to remove yourself from the throne?
- Go over your Journey of a God’s People Timeline together. Work on memorization as a group.