Character Study: Samuel
Part 4 – Samuel Faces Opposition
I Samuel 7:7-8:22

What's happening?

● *The Philistines went to fight the Israelites again. Samuel sought the Lord's help and the Lord delivered the Israelites by a mighty <u>thunder</u> that confused the Philistines. Israel was able to take back several <u>cities</u> that they had lost to the Philistines. (7:7-14)*

● *Samuel faithfully judged Israel. As he grew old, he appointed his <u>sons</u> as judges over Israel. Unlike their father, the sons quickly developed a bad <u>reputation</u> as they took bribes and perverted justice. (7:15-8:3)*

● *The Israelites had a strong desire to be like the other <u>nations</u>. Fearing that Samuel's sons would hurt them more than help them, the elders of Israel asked Samuel if he would provide them with a <u>king</u>. (8:4-5)*

● *Samuel was upset with their desire, but the Lord told Samuel "They have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them." Samuel warned the people that having a king would drastically alter their <u>way</u> of <u>living</u>, but the people were set on the idea. God told Samuel to give them what they desired. (8:6-22)*

What's God doing?

> *God Himself ruled over Israel, and in His timing, He was going to give Israel a <u>line</u> of <u>kings</u> (Gen. 17:6; Deut. 17:14-15). Israel not only rejected God as their ruler, but also rushed His <u>plan</u> for their nation. God was showing that when people try to do things their own way, rather than His way, the results are never good.*

What's to learn?

→ *The Israelites were <u>influenced</u> by other people to do things their own way rather than God's way. Who influences you? Do you find that the people around you persuade you to have thoughts that you know dishonor the Lord? Do people around you pull you away from doing what God wants you to do?*

→ *Are there <u>desires</u> you have that you try to rush into apart from God's perfect plan? Are you willing to show your <u>trust</u> in God and patiently wait for Him to give you those things in His timing?*