



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

**SPEAKER: JACOB WIRKA**

**Wednesday, 5/11/22**

**Scripture: 1 Samuel**

**TITLE: 1 Samuel - Who Will You Bow To?**

We all want to be the main character; we want the focus and attention on us. We want whatever fulfills our heart's desires. The Bible shows that because of sin we turn away from God and desire to be our own King. This desire to worship ourselves rather than God is the heart of pride which is sin.

Unfortunately, Proverbs tells us that pride comes before the fall. And this idea is what the book of 1 Samuel is all about. 1 Samuel boils down to this idea, God raises up the humble, and humbles the proud.

When we read the book of 1 Samuel we are confronted with this question, what or who will we bow to? Who will be our King?

This book signals a transition in the history of the nation of Israel from the time of the judges to the time of the prophets and the Kings. It takes place around 1000 B.C. and introduces us to important people like the prophet Samuel, King Saul, and King David.

The nation of Israel is God's chosen people. He calls them through His covenant to be a holy people. That means they are supposed to be different and set apart from the rest of the world. They were meant to show the rest of the world what it looks like to live with God as their King. But in 1 Samuel this nation has rejected God as king and demands a king of this world, as we read in 1 Samuel 8:19-20 (NIV):

“But the people refused to listen to Samuel. ‘No!’ they said. ‘We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us and to go out before us and fight our battles.’”

Ironic, isn't it?

Studying the first kings of Israel teaches an important lesson; God raises up the humble and humbles the proud. 1 Samuel shows us that even when acting as kings, humans can't stop being what God designed us to be: worshippers, not kings. God is the one true king.

The kings Saul and David must choose between humbling themselves and bowing to God or themselves. Saul worships himself and is brought low, while David worships God and is lifted up.

In David's example, we see shadows of Jesus. The one true King who willingly humbled himself, submitting to the will of God even to the point of death on a cross. In doing so Jesus was raised to life and set rightfully on his throne above all creation as king.

Just like the nation of Israel and its kings, we have the same options set before us. Will we bow to the one true king, or will we be overcome by our pride and worship ourselves?

Take it from 1 Samuel, God raises up the humble and humbles the proud.