

Freedom to Choose Poorly

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1 Samuel 8:1-22 and Gal 4:8-11

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Synopsis:

God plans to restore the creation through the Abraham family. But sometimes the Abraham family chooses poorly, as with the choice for a king. Sometimes we choose poorly. How does God work with our bad choices?

God allows us to make bad choices, but will work his plan for restoration even through our bad choices.

I.

Choices

1Sam 8:6 Give us a king to govern us

Choice: America thrives upon choice

- menus at restaurant
- internet
- TV
- magazines
- schools, health care, groceries, cars

*Mostly benign choices

Critical Choices:

- Use of money (Annual Fund!)
- Relationships
- Marriage
- Career
- Moral decisions

*Our choices can ruin or make a life

*Today: What does God do when we make bad choices?

II.

God and Human Choices

Gal 4:9 How can you want to be enslaved to them again?

God Takes a Risk: Skate on thin ice here

- creation is an act of limitation on God's part
- Gen 1, God sets creation apart from himself
- gives humans choices (Gen 3) for true relationship
 - E.g. children have choices, not robots

-misunderstanding of pre-destination as knowing everything

*Romans 8:29 He foreknew, he also predestined
to be conformed to the image of his son

Risk through the Abraham family (Gen 12:3)

- through humans came the problem
- through humans God means to solve the problem

Abraham and Choice: Good Choice

- Gen 12: 4 Abraham obeys God
 - *Plan to bless
- Gen 15:6 Abraham trusts God
 - *Covenant to guarantee plan

-Paul's in Galatians 3-4 = God's plan through Jesus (Abraham)

Bad Choices?

- What if Abraham said, "NO, I won't obey"?
- What if Abraham said, "NO, I won't trust God"?

- What does God do when we say, "NO, I won't obey"?
- What does God do when we say, "NO, I won't trust God"?

III.

Bad Choice for the Abraham Family

1 Sam 8:5 A king to govern us, like the other nations

Not supposed to be like the other nations

- Abraham family to *bless all families* (Gen 12)
- Saved to serve* as kingdom of priests and holy nation (Exod 19)
- *Other nations = cultural compromise for blessing/salvation

READ 1 Sam 8:1-22

1-3 = **Good Reason** = Samuel old, bad judges (leaders)

*We may have good reasons for making a choice

4-5 = **Bad Choice** = King like the other nations (Canaan)

*We may make a bad choice for good reasons

6-9 = **Samuel and God disapprove** (evil, reject)

*God allows us to make choices, even bad ones

10-18 = **Consequences for a king** (Deut 17)

*God allows us to live in the consequences

19-20 = **Elders don't foresee the results**

*Our arrogance blinds us to consequences

21-22 = **God works with their choice**

*God works with our bad choices

Three key words: Judge, King, Nations

+ Judge = how God works his will for order through people

- King = Bible knows only Yahweh as King (Psalms)

- Nations = idolatry

IV.

God Works with Our Bad Choices

Gal 4:8 Now, however, that you have come to know God

Here are some take-aways:

1. God *redeems* in spite of bad choices = larger plan
*Works all thing together for good (Rom 8)
2. God's *grace* for us comes first = choose away from God
*Nothing can separate you (Rom 8)
3. God's lets *consequences* happen = gracious results
*Choose life not death (Deut 30)
4. We are *never up* to the task = always make mistakes
*Work out salvation with fear . . . God at work (Phil 2)
5. God *grows* us up through choices = choice isn't the issue
*Transformed by renewing mind (Rom 12)
6. God *accommodates* to our bad choice = king, OK, let's see
*Psalm 2; Psalm 110; 2Sam 7; Jesus **and Kingdom**