

1 Samuel 8:7

And the LORD said to Samuel, "Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them."

Do you ever get discouraged when you share Jesus with others and they seem to reject you and what you are saying? Or maybe you are afraid to share Jesus because you think people will just reject you.

In today's devotional verse, this was after Moses and Joshua had died. Then there were several judges (or leaders) that God would raise up to deliver Israel. So a few hundred years later the children of Israel saw the other nations and how they were being lead by kings and they wanted what these other nations had even though the other nations were defeated and the kings were killed. and they still wanted the same thing. They wanted a man, not God to lead them.

Even when Joshua was about to die he even said:

† ***Joshua 23:14 Behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth. And you know in all your hearts and in all your souls that not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. All have come to pass for you; not one word of them has failed.***

Not one thing has failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spoke concerning you. They knew God had did everything that He said that He would do. He brought them to the Promised Land and destroyed their enemies. They lived in houses that others built and ate from the produce that others had planted. God was with them 100% of the time.

Then it goes on to say at the end of the book of Joshua:

Joshua 24:31 Israel served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had known all the works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

Once that old generation died off, things went down hill, because they started to chase after the things and false idols of the people who lived in the land. So much so that we come to today's devotional verse of how their minds were now so polluted that they no longer wanted God as their God, but wanted to be like the surrounding nations and have all these false idols, and ways of those who did not follow God to be their ways as well.

So they go to Samuel and tell him that they want a king like the other nations do. Samuel went and talked to God about it and God says, ***"Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to***

you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.”

But God also told Samuel to warn them what life would be like if they had a man (a king) rule over them. I would encourage you to read God’s response and the entire story in I Samuel chapter 8 and you will read verse 19 which says:

† **1 Samuel 8:19** *Nevertheless the people refused to obey the voice of Samuel; and they said, "No, but we will have a king over us.”*

They were warned by God (through Samuel) and they still refused.

Now I am not going to say that these should be comforting words for you today. But may it cause you to stop and realize that when you share Jesus, they are not rejecting your words, but they are rejecting Jesus. Just like the children of Israel rejected God’s word through Samuel. But also remember that you used to reject the witness of others to you, but one day you believed and you never know, the one’s you share Jesus with may believe as well.

† **John 15:20-21** *Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also. But all these things they will do to you for My name's sake, because they do not know Him who sent Me.*