

ELDER CANDIDATES

Explain process.

Introduce candidates.

- Justin Wellum
- Nate Wertz
- Kyle Knight

Pray/commission w/current elders.

INTRODUCE

Well, good morning church! If I haven't met you yet, my name is Chris Martin, and I'm the Lead Pastor here.

If you've got your Bibles, and I hope you do, please open them up to 1 Samuel chapter 10. 1 Samuel 10. That's where we're going to be.

We want every person to have a hand on their Bible. You can open your phone or tablet to 1 Samuel 10. That's on page **232** in those Bibles under the chairs.

INTRODUCTION: MANDO

Alright, um, by a show of hands how many Star Wars fans do we have here? Ok.

- And this is just a show of hands, ok,
- So, I don't want to hear any of the caveats:
 - *"I only like the old movies..."*
 - *none of that new Star Wars stuff!"*

And listen, those debates are legit. Cause the new movies were pretty rough!

- But whether you're a new Star Wars fan
- or an old-school Star Wars fan...
- I think both parties can agree:
- The Mandalorian Disney+ show was legit!

Alright? And if you disagree...well, you always have the right at Fathom church to be completely incorrect!

But the main theme or line from The Mandalorian was:

"This is the way."

- He'd say it every time a difficult decision had to be made,
- or when his wants and desires
 - stated to rub against the way of his people.
- He'd say, *"This is the way."*

And that's what I'm calling this sermon: **SLIDE THIS IS THE WAY**

CONTEXT

You see, today is where we put the last couple of sermons together in a nice little package. If you remember,

- this story began back in chapter 9 with the introduction of Saul.
- Israel has demanded a king,
 - rejecting God as their king.
- And God will lovingly, but firmly,
 - give them what they want.

- So, in a seemingly random set of ordinary occurrences...
 - as Saul is on the hunt for some lost donkeys,
 - he meets Israel's greatest prophet, Samuel.

And last week, in chapter 10,

- Samuel anoints Saul as King,
 - and then gives him three signs...
 - to confirm the calling to be king.

Now, today this story culminates with the public proclamation of King Saul.

- Remember, Samuel anointed Saul privately.
- But today he goes public with it all.

And we'll see that there is A WAY that all this happens.

THIS IS THE WAY

TRANSITION

So, let's work through the text.

I'll explain some stuff.

And then I'll bring the application at the end.

BLANK SLIDE

So, 1 Samuel 10, starting in verse 17.

1 SAMUEL 10:17-19

[17] Now Samuel called the people together to the LORD at Mizpah.

[18] And he said to the people of Israel, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, 'I brought up Israel out of Egypt, and I delivered you from the hand of the Egyptians and from the hand of all the kingdoms that were

oppressing you.' [19] But today you have rejected your God, who saves you from all your calamities and your distresses, and you have said to him, 'Set a king over us.' Now therefore present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands."

EXPLAIN: RELENTLESS

So, like I said, we have come to the moment of Saul being publicly proclaimed as king over Israel.

- But just so the people don't think that God giving them a king...
- is in some way...
- a sign of his pleasure with the people,
- Samuel gives one final warning.

He's says,

- *"Remember, you're rejecting God right now.*
- *Don't misinterpret this as God's favor."*

This is very reminiscent of chapter 8.

And you might say, *"Well, what use is this statement if God is gonna give them a king anyway."*

But I'd just offer this as one more evidence...

- of God's persistence...
- and his relentless pursuit of his people.

Over and over and over again...

- even in their moment of judgment,
- God is beckoning his people back to obedience.

APPLICATION

God is gonna keep calling to us from his word until we hear it.

- You ever experienced that?
 - Like, you just want to do your thing...
 - but in all kinds of weird little ways...
 - it's like God is reminding you of his way?!?

Listen: if you still have breath in your lungs,

- then God's word beckons you to turn back...
- to repent...
- to cease in your rejection of him...
- to make him king over your life.

TRANSITION

Even if they weren't going to follow God's way, he was going to remind them that THIS IS THE WAY.

But the people are obstinate. And so, he says, present yourselves before the LORD by your tribes and by your thousands. Verse 20:

1 SAMUEL 10:20-24

[20] Then Samuel brought all the tribes of Israel near, and the tribe of Benjamin was taken by lot. [21] He brought the tribe of Benjamin near by its clans, and the clan of the Matrites was taken by lot; and Saul the son of Kish was taken by lot. But when they sought him, he could not be found. [22] So they inquired again of the LORD, "Is there a man still to come?" and the LORD said, "Behold, he has hidden himself among the baggage." [23]

Then they ran and took him from there. And when he stood among the people, he was taller than any of the people from his shoulders upward. [24] And Samuel said to all the people, “Do you see him whom the LORD has chosen? There is none like him among all the people.” And all the people shouted, “Long live the king!”

EXPLAIN: THE LOT

So, what was privately made known to Samuel in chapter 9, that Saul was the chosen king over Israel, now God makes known publicly.

But it's done so through the lot.

- Now, the lot was a method used a number of times
- in the Bible to determine God's will,
- most famously in Acts chapter 1
 - when the 11 Apostles are deciding
 - who will be the new 12th Apostle,
 - taking the place of the fallen Judas Iscariot.

But Samuel knew that Israel wouldn't believe that Saul was God's chosen king solely on Samuel's testimony.

- They didn't heed any of Samuel's warnings.
- Why would they just believe him on this one?

Furthermore, remember last week.

- People are shocked that Saul would even be considered.
- **Is Saul also among the prophets?**
- The word of God's prophet wasn't gonna be enough for them.
- It wasn't going to satisfy them.

Therefore, every tribe and every family of the chosen tribe is given a chance by the lot....by this method it would BE CLEAR to the people that Saul was appointed of God to be king.

Now, once again, you see that even in their rejection of God, it's still going to be God way. THIS IS THE WAY.

TRANSITION

And we get this weird little bit about Saul's hiding in the baggage.

- Not exactly helping his case at this moment, right?
- Not even Saul thinks that Saul is of king caliber.
- And this might be a bit of foreshadowing...
- on the character of Saul.

But once they drag him out of the shadows, into the light, and the people see that he's handsome and tall...

they shout, *"Long live the king!"*

But now, here's where things get interesting. Verse 25:

1 SAMUEL 10:25-27

[25] Then Samuel told the people the rights and duties of the kingship, and he wrote them in a book and laid it up before the LORD. Then Samuel sent all the people away, each one to his home. [26] Saul also went to his home at Gibeah, and with him went men of valor whose hearts God had touched. [27] But some worthless fellows said, "How can this man save us?" And they despised him and brought him no present. But he held his peace.

EXPLAIN: KINGSHIP

So, even after the lot fell to Saul, there were some who still didn't buy in.

And that's still true today:

- Even when God's way is made crystal clear...
- there will always be some who reject it.

But verse 25 is really interesting to me.

- Samuel writes down the rights and duties of the kingship.

Now, the word translated "rights and duties" here

- is the same Hebrew word as we found back in chapter 8:11
- when Samuel warns Israel...
- about the way kings customarily ruled.

I'll put it up on the screens:

SLIDE 1 SAMUEL 8:11

[11] He said, "These will be **the ways** of the king who will reign over you: he will take...

It's the Hebrew word *mišpāt* (mish-pawt').

- So, the ways is the same word
- that we have here translated as the rights and duties.

The ways of the king...

- would be to take and take and take...
- from the people.

But the difference between these two passages

- is the use of the word “king” in 8:11
- and the use of the word “kingship”
 - or maybe even better translated “kingdom”
- in our text.

BLANK SLIDE

So, in front of all of Israel,

- as Samuel anoints Saul as the first king over Israel.
- He writes a document that prescribes
 - how that king is to function
 - in this kingship or kingdom.

The ways of the king must be subservient to the ways of the kingdom!

You see, Israel’s king will not go ruling in any way he likes.

- Israel’s king is not actually a true sovereign...
- But rather, something of a vice-king,
- himself under the law of God.

Even in giving them a king, God still rules.

- The people wanted a king just like all the other nations...
- but God GRACIOUSLY will not give them that.

THIS IS THE WAY

TRANSITION

So, that’s our text. And with all that explanation, I hope you noticed a theme in the text this week.

- Samuel reminded the people that they were not following GOD’S WAY in their demand for a king.
- Then Saul is chosen by GOD’S WAY, so that no one could object to the choice.
- And finally, even when Saul is made king, he still must follow GOD’S WAY in this kingdom.

THIS IS THE WAY.

EXPLAIN: THE LAW

Now, my big idea last week was that...

- you’re called to obey God’s word...
- you’re called to take him at his word...
- you’re called to do what he says...
 - or to use the language from this week:
- you’re called to follow THE WAY.

THIS IS THE WAY...and the job of the Christian is to obey his way!

But here’s the rub:

- we are protestant Christians.
- We’re in the line of tradition from the Reformation.

You see, the Reformation was founded on GRACE, and not upon LAW.

The language of the reformation said that

- we are saved by grace alone,
- through faith alone,
- in Christ alone.

So, then, where does obedience to God's ways, or as the bible puts it, God's laws, come into play for us?

- It's one of the most common questions I get,
- and what we'll spend the rest of our time on today is this:
- *"What is the purpose of the Law*
 - *for the Christian*
 - *in light of being saved by grace alone?"*
- *"If the Gospel is grace alone,*
 - *through faith alone,*
 - *in Christ alone,*
 - *then what is the law for?"*
- If we are saved by grace and not by the law...
 - then why this emphasis on obeying God's law?

And when I say law, I don't simply mean the Old Testament laws about diets and ceremonial cleanliness and all that!

What about the "laws" or ways of Jesus?

Jesus said some really plain things...he set some really plain laws for us:

- Don't be angry with your brothers and sisters.
- Don't lust.
- Don't get divorces.
- Don't take oaths.
- Don't retaliate when wronged.
- Give to the needy.
- Pray.
- Fast.

- Don't amass treasure on earth.
- Don't be anxious.
- Don't judge others.
- Build your life on the rock.

And that's just from ONE of his sermons!

- These are commands...
- these are laws...
- these are things we are called to obey...
- THIS IS THE WAY!

So, what do we do with these, when we are saved by grace?

What is the Christian's relationship to God's law?

EXPLAIN

Well, the same reformers who believed in grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone, also wrote what is now known as the *"Threefold Use of the Law"* in order to show the importance of the law for the Christian life.

So, that's what we're going to look at. The three uses of the law.

USE #1: MIRROR

And the first use of the law is to **SLIDE MIRROR**

- God's law illumines human sinfulness.
- It mirrors to us where we are out of line with God.
- It shows us that we are sick.

The law is diagnostic.

ILLUSTRATION: CANCER SCANS

So, more than 10 years ago, I got a phone call from my mom because she was having extreme stomach pain.

- I took her to the Emergency Room...
- And she had a large section of her bowel surgically removed...
- and we were told that it was, in fact, a tumor.

Now, they weren't sure if the tumor was cancerous or not,

- so, the next step was a PET scan...
- to figure out what that tumor was!

So, they throw her in that tube,

- the scan does whatever it does,
- and we end up in her oncologist's office to receive the results.

And the results aren't good:

- that tumor was cancerous,
- but what's worse,
- the cancer has spread to lymph nodes in her hip,
- which is like the highway to the rest of your body.

So, her doctor says,

- *"You have stage-4 Colorectal cancer.*
- *We've gotta hit it with heavy radiation*
- *and chemo-therapy for six months,*
- *and then maintenance chemo*
- *for as long as there is evidence of disease.*
- *You've probably got 5 years to live."*

TRANSITION

Now, here's where this comes back to the law...

- the scans are like the law.
- They showed us that mom had a problem.

You see what I'm talking about?

- Without that scan we don't know that the tumor was cancerous,
- and without the scan we don't know that the cancer
 - is in her lymph nodes,
 - and spreading.

The scan shows us what's wrong with us.

That's the first use of the law.

It mirrors to us what's wrong with us.

USE #2: CURB

The second use of the law is to **SLIDE CURB**

It is meant to curb evil.

- It shows us what can happen to us if we don't obey the law,
- and it deters some evil choices.

So, the law can, to some extent, inhibit lawlessness

- with its threats of judgement.

This is what Samuel is doing as he warns the people before casting lots.

ILLUSTRATION: ANDY WIPING

Let me illustrate:

- when my oldest nephew was potty training,

- and he was going to the bathroom,
 - you know, doing his thing...
- and he succeeded...
- they always celebrated like someone splitting the atom.

Right? Buddy makes on the potty, and they're just like,

- "YEAHHH!!!
- Call Grammy!
- You get an M&M!
 - Just wash your hands first!"

But, you see...going potty is really only half of the equation.

- Because once your kid knows how to do that,
- there's still the other half...
- which is training them to wipe themselves.

Well, my nephew nailed the first half,

- but then he did what every child does...

He'd yell out, *"Dad! I need help."*

- So, my brother-in-law, walks in the bathroom and asks,
 - *"Hey buddy, when do you think you're going to start wiping your own bottom?"*
- "Well, Dad, I don't want to get poop on my hand."
 - And he's like, *"Well buddy, I don't want to get poop on my hand either."*

So, my nephew thinks for a moment, and nods and says,

- *"Yeah, you're right..."*
- *we should probably get mom in here."*

TRANSITION

Now, I know that's silly...but the second use of the law is a deterrent.

- It's poop on your hand.
 - And that's the first time in history
 - that metaphor has ever been linked!

If you don't obey this, there are going to be consequences. Ok?

- So, the law MIRRORS,
- the law CURBS,
- and finally...

USE #3: GUIDE

The third use of the law is that it is meant to **SLIDE GUIDE**

- The law is a guide to reveal what is pleasing to God,
- AND what's in our best interest.
 - It not only shows us what's wrong in us...
 - and the consequences of breaking it...
- but it actually shows us THE WAY to life.

It guides us into the good works and life that God has planned for us.

ILLUSTRATION: MAP

So, C.S. Lewis gives us helpful illustration for this. He says the Law is like a map.

Now, a number years ago I was in the Dallas/Fort Worth area for an Acts 29 conference.

- And I don't really know DFW,
- but I was driving all over the place.
 - The conference was in Irving.
 - I was staying with some friends in Dallas proper.
 - I met a guy from our church in Fort Worth.
 - I went to church in Flower Mound.
- I mean I was all over the Metroplex.

And let me tell you...there is no way I could have gotten to any of those places without the map on my iPhone.

- I'm not from there.
- I've never lived there.
- I had no idea.

So, I opened the map app, and the map showed me...

- various roads,
- and highways,
- and interstates,
- and it will even direct me around traffic...
- All with the goal get me to my desired destination.

TRANSITION

- The map...the law...it's what guides us in this life.
- As Christians, the law shows us what is pleasing to our God.

In John 14:15, Jesus said, *"If you love me, you will keep my commandments."*

You hear that?

- IF you love me,
- you WILL obey.

Jesus just said,

- **“THIS IS THE WAY,**
- **and IF you love me,**
- **you’ll keep THE WAY.”**

EXPLAIN: SKEPTICAL

But I think people today are skeptical with God’s ways.

First of all, we don’t even want to say that there is THE WAY.

- *“Isn’t that exclusive?”*
- *Isn’t that elitist?*
- *Isn’t that arrogant?*
- *Jesus, maybe change it to THIS IS A WAY, ok?*
- *That’s just more PC, alright?”*

So, that’s first, but second,

- even within the church,
- there’s this mark of our culture right now
 - that we want spirituality without morality.
- We want heart intimacy...
 - but we don’t want to have to bring our entire lives
 - into submission to Christ.

I want Jesus...just not all these rules!

- The biblical sexual ethic
 - of one man
 - and one woman
 - in one marriage
 - seems so restrictive, and prudish, and limiting.

- The biblical ethic about turning the other cheek
 - seems like a crazy idea...
 - when someone wrongs you,
 - or God help us,
 - posts something you disagree with on social media!

- The biblical law of sabbath seems unattainable.
 - Taking 1 day off a week to stop.
 - No way! That's crazy.
 - I gotta do work!
 - #NoDaysOff

- Drug and alcohol use and abuse is on a steep rise.

- Porn use is widely accepted as self-care.

“Yeah, I want Jesus and salvation and all the feels that come with him...

- *but don't you put those laws...*
- *those rules on me.*

I want intimacy with God...

- *but I don't want to have to deal with the whole Bible,*
- *and all those rules.*
- *I don't want to have to submit my whole life and mind to all that!*
- *I don't want the theology or the ethics.*
- *I don't want to have to change the way I do things,*

But I want to be able to sit down and have intimacy with God.

- *I want spirituality.*
- *I want meaning.”*

TRANSITION

The law is a guide for us,

- and if you want that intimacy with God...
 - if you love him...
- then you will keep his commandments.

You can't have love with God apart from the law of God.

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- So, the law MIRRORS to us our sin,
- the law CURBS evil,
- and the law GUIDES us in how to live.

THIS IS THE WAY.

APPLICATION

So, let's bring this full circle.

- In verses 17-19 Samuel reminds the people of God's way.
 - He is relentless in his pursuit of his people.
 - He wants to be their king.
 - But they are rejecting him.
- In verses 20-24 Samuel gives them Saul as king,
 - but it's done God's way.
- And in verses 25-27,
 - even when Saul is made king,
 - he isn't going to be a king like every other nation.
 - No, Israel's king must submit to the ways of the kingship.

Saul is under God's law to govern as king.

And now hear me:

- this is not meant to destroy his kingship,
 - but to allow it to function properly.
- This isn't meant to burden Saul...
 - it's meant to set him up for success!

And the same is true for us as we relate to God's way for us.

- God's way isn't meant to be heavy,
 - it's a burden that's light!
- God's way isn't about robbing you of happiness...
 - it's about giving you all the joy this life has to offer!
- God's way isn't meant to keep you from life...
 - It's about giving you full life.
- God's way doesn't shackle you...
 - it frees you!

THIS IS THE WAY

Do you believe this?

Back to what I asked last week:

- are you obeying his word?
 - If not, why not?
- Do you believe he's holding out on you?
- Do you believe there's something better out there for you?
- Do you believe you'll miss out of life's best?

CONCLUSION

Now, back to my mom's cancer.

- The scans showed her that she had a real problem...
- but the scans are powerless to cure her.

Right?

- No matter how many times she had those scans,
- no matter how many times she got in the tube,
- they were powerless to do anything to stop that disease.

The scans are only going to diagnose that something is wrong.

But they can never be the cure.

- Now, the law is holy,
- and it is from God,
- and it does the wonderful job
- of letting us know that something is seriously wrong with us.
- But the law will never heal you.

And you know what, back in Texas,

- when I open that map and I see those roads,
- and I chart my course,
- and I figure out where I'm supposed to go...
- that map itself is not Texas. Right?
- The map is not the same as the actual place.

And if I put it down,

- and I stand on it...
 - like in that episode of Friends...
- it would be silly for me to say that I've been to Texas.

The law is the map to guide us, but it must never be the destination.

You following me here?

- The law is the scan. Christ is the cure.
- The law is the map. Christ is the destination.

THIS IS THE WAY...BECAUSE OF WHO IT LEADS TO.

CONCLUSION **BLANK SLIDE W/PADS**

And I just earnestly believe that some of you are here today:

- and you say you want the king,
- but you just don't want the ways of the king.

While others of you are stuck in the opposite:

- You want the formula...
- You want the rules...
- *"Just tell me what to do..."*
- *But I've not no time for relationship."*

Listen:

- relationship without rules is sentimentality.
- And rules without relationship is legalism.

And both errors leave you unable to know anything of the joy available to you in Jesus Christ. But Jesus said, *“I am the Way, the truth, and the life!”*

So, I just want to plead with you to consider this unreal offer of an intimate relationship with God...that can actually transform your life.

- It's my hope you would get this...
- that the Holy Spirit would open up eyes and hearts.

THIS IS THE WAY

Let's pray.

RESPONSES:

Well, every week at Fathom we respond in 4 ways:

- COMMUNION – THE LORD’S SUPPER
- GIVING TITHES & OFFERINGS – fathomchurch.org/give
- PRAYER - fathomchurch.org/prayer
- SINGING

So, I’m going to read the Words of Institution from the Apostle Paul, we’ll take communion, and then we’ll sing:

1 CORINTHIANS 11:23–26 – WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[23] For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, [24] and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, “This is my body, which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[25] In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.” **TAKE**

[26] For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

Love you church, let’s stand and sing together.

RESOURCES USED:

- Davis, Dale Ralph. Focus on the Bible: 1 Samuel.
- Tsumura, David Toshio. NICOT: The First Book of Samuel.