

JANUARY 11 QUESTIONS

Read Philippians 2:5-11 and 1 Samuel 8:1-22.

1. In your own life—whether in your finances, career, or family—where are you tempted to rely on "visible institutions" (things you can manage and control) rather than the "invisible" provision of God? Does your prayer life function as a first resort or a "gap-filler" for things you can't manage yourself?
2. In what areas of your life are you subtly trying to be "like the nations" (the surrounding culture) rather than embracing the "differentness" God called Israel to be? Where has the desire for cultural "normalcy" led you to reject God's unique authority over your choices?
3. Can you look back on a time when you "insisted" on a specific outcome in prayer, only to find that receiving it brought unexpected "taxes" on your peace or freedom? How does this change the way you approach God with your current desires?
4. What fear or threat is currently making you feel vulnerable? Are you tempted to trade your spiritual freedom or your peace for a "king" that promises to fight your battles for you?
5. In your spiritual life, are you taking full responsibility for your growth and "walking before the Lord," or are you waiting for a leader, a program, or a "king" to do the heavy lifting for you?