

When Tendencies Take Over 2

1 Samuel 7-8

Last week- **Our tendencies take us somewhere**- so we are learning to pay attention and recognize what our bad tendencies are and where they lead, so we can make a course correction in the process. Hopefully you worked on it this week

i.e. - *Your spouse, kids, friends or acquaintances will not be honest with you if you have a tendency to fly off the handle when you tell them the truth*- they'll either lie or quit talking. If you want good relationships, you have to work on this. Become a safe person to talk to.

Your tendencies make or break relationships

You tend to either be graceful or critical

People gravitate toward grace

I hope you didn't come to simply gather Biblical information, I came so I can be challenged and changed. To keep our tendencies in check and become a little more like Jesus every day.

When you think about, the Word of God was written to show human tendencies and how to change them-

7:1 Ark of the Covenant Returned (Picture please)

You protect what's important to you- Israel got it back and set a guard over it. *Is there anything in your life that you are leaving unprotected?*

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.
Proverbs 4:23

Why?

The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it? Jeremiah 17:9

What do these verses tell us? *We have a natural tendency to go the opposite way God wants us to.* And these tendencies will get us into trouble if we allow them to take over.

Vs. 2- The Israelites wait 20 years before they get miserable enough to repent when forgiveness was only seconds away- **20 years of misplaced priorities**- The Ark belonged in the temple, not someone's house.

It's not where you start, it's where you finish that counts.

Vs 3-6 **You want things to change? Then you must change.**

You know, there's a difference between knowing what you need to do and actually doing it?

Rock in my boot

What are some things that you're allowing to linger in your life that you need to deal with?

If you don't deal with them, you'll end up right back in the ditch like Israel.

Don't put off for tomorrow what you need to deal with today. That's most people's tendency. Thousands of people in hell because they put off getting saved. It amazes me how people who say they're miserable stay miserable. If you're not going to deal with it, quit talking about it. *They want sympathy but they don't want to do what it takes to change. Quit whining about your toothache if refuse to go to the dentist-*

Some people have this tendency to put up with the pain when you don't have to. **It's not that you can't deal with it, it's that you won't.** The longer you wait, the harder it is to deal with it. (and often the worse it gets)

Cruise Control – drives without it, but not as convenient
Quit whining and take some action ☺

So, Israel repents and does right, for a while. They're going to follow the same pattern they have for years. Their tendency is going to take them somewhere, back into bondage.

[1 Samuel 8 Israel asks for a king](#)

Vs. 1-5 We like you, but your sons are crazy. We don't want them leading us. The problem was these guys didn't see their own failure to follow God. It's always amazing how bad my sin looks on YOU.

Vs. 6-9 They wanted something that God knew wasn't going to be good for them. As parents, there's a certain age that you can control your kids, then there's a point when they have to decide what direction their life is going to go, good or bad.
God points out Israel's tendency- they backslide.

Patterns here- Someone's behavior in the recent past is a pretty good indicator of their behavior in the near future- dating-

Vs. 10-22 God will give them what they want, but tells them the truth- **this is going cost you something.**

[Doing your own thing will always cost you something](#)

[When you allow your tendencies to TAKE OVER, it will always lead to some type of bondage](#)

And even though Israel has been in slavery before because of their bad decisions, they're about to do it again. Some people just learn from their mistakes. Don't be that person.

Vs. 17-18 is a sad part of the Bible- Your choices are going to make you slaves, and when you cry out to God this time, He will not answer you on that day.

God will let you follow your tendencies, whatever they may be. Keep them in check.

The Cross- don't put it off. Today is your day!