

RIGHT IN THE EYE

PART 2: One King Leads to Another

INTRODUCTION

The dark underbelly of the American dream is, *"I can do what I want, when I want, with whom I want as long as it doesn't hurt anyone."* We don't want "kings" in our lives, whether those kings are parents, bosses, the government . . . or God. We want to do what's right in our own eyes. But in our attempts to do what we want, when we want, with whom we want, we end up serving little kings like appetite, lust, fear, comparison, insecurity, generational dysfunction, addiction, loneliness, and greed.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Have you ever had a "last night of church camp"-type experience in which you were filled with emotion and made a commitment to break a bad habit or stop doing bad things? If so, were you able to follow through on your commitment? Why or why not?
2. Talk about some cultural examples of people getting what they want, but giving up their freedom in the process. Why do you think we tend to glamorize that kind of life?
3. During the message, Andy said, *"You were created to be ruled over, which means when you say no to one king, you end up saying yes to another king."* Respond to that statement. Does it offend you in any way? Why or why not?
4. As you think about your family history, where do you see generational dysfunction caused by people doing what was right in their own eyes? What have you done to try to break the cycle? What was the result?
5. Think about the "little kings" in your life. Why is it easier to say no to God than to say no to the things you substitute for God?
6. What is one area of your life where you see the pattern of forsaking God, following the people around you, and surrendering your freedom? What can you do to begin to break that pattern? How can this group support you?

MOVING FORWARD

You weren't created to rule yourself. As long as you attempt to, you will eventually find yourself at the mercy of the little kings in your life because "I won't" eventually leads to "I can't." Maximum freedom is found under the authority of the Creator-King. The great news is that when you cry out to God, he is willing to rescue you. But because he knows the power of the little kings, he requires unconditional surrender.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord."

Judges 24:14