

Giants Of the Faith

It's All About Heart: Part 5

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SERMON DESCRIPTION

What does it really mean to be an individual who is after God's own heart? It is deeper than you may think!

SERMON QUESTIONS & OBJECTIVES

1. What do they need to know?
 - God desires to be the most important person in your life.
2. Why do they need to know it?
 - When God is given priority in our lives everything else falls into place.
3. How should we apply it?
 - God is awesome and has done so much for us; He deserves everything and our all.

OPENING LINE

David was an outstanding person, but he was far from a perfect individual. He did many things well but also failed terribly at times. Yet even with his failings, we find him mentioned in the New Testament as a man after God's own heart. In fact, even Jesus quotes from the Psalms and from David and even calls Himself the son of David.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SERMON

If we consider the New Testament to be the report card of the lives of the characters of the people in the Old Testament, David receives an "A". It is without question that David made serious mistakes and lacked judgement in two areas of his life. This includes Bathsheba and taking the census of the nation.

Furthermore, because his fathering skills were not exactly anything to write home about; when Luke writes about him in the Book of Acts, he is described as a man after God's own heart. Can you imagine that?

Ultimately, he is called a man after God's own heart. This communicates that, in God's economy when He weighed all the good the bad and the ugly, the overall description of David was his constant pursuit of Almighty God. This is what Holy Spirit invited Luke to write.

CENTRAL TRUTH

God is looking to recruit those that are after His own heart.

MAIN PASSAGE

1 Samuel 13:14

But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him *to be* commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

Act 13:22

And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID THE SON OF JESSE, A MAN AFTER MY OWN HEART, WHO WILL DO ALL MY WILL.'

TRANSITION STATEMENT

When God needed to find a king for Himself, he chose a heart-seeker.

MAIN POINTS

How was David a man after God's own heart?

1. David's heart was uncovered before the Lord (the Ark)

- a. David placed God's glory above his own reputation. He was more than happy to humble himself before God.
- b. When David returns the Ark of the Lord to Jerusalem, the Bible records that He worshipped God in what some would consider, "an undignified manner". In fact, his own wife criticized him for his behaviour and accused him of trying to arouse the women of Israel.

2 Samuel 6:16

Now as the ark of the LORD came into the City of David, Michal, Saul's daughter, looked through a window and saw King David leaping and whirling before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

2 Samuel 6:21-23

So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me instead of your father and all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel. Therefore I will play music before the LORD. ²² And I will be even more undignified than this, and will be humble in my own sight. But as for the maidservants of whom you have spoken, by them I will be held in honor." ²³ Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.

2. David's heart was tender towards the Lord

- a. David was far from being a perfect leader or even a perfect person for that matter. As a matter of fact, he made more than his fair share of mistakes. Two mistakes that David made were very costly and invoked the anger of the Lord and brought judgement upon his house and the nation of Israel. However, when David was confronted, his response was to repent before God. He did not waste time in making excuses or explaining himself but rather he was contrite and looked for ways to be approved by God.
 - God's approval was his utmost concern
 - David's response to God's correction was contrition and repentance.

2Samuel 24:10

And David's heart condemned him after he had numbered the people. So David said to the LORD, "I have sinned greatly in what I have done; but now, I pray, O LORD, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

1Samuel 24:5

Now it happened afterward that David's heart troubled him because he had cut Saul's robe.

2Samuel 12:13

So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die."

3. The treasure of David's heart was God's Holy Spirit (His presence)

- a. God's presence and His Holy Spirit was David's most prized possession. For a king that had access to anything and everything, David desired God most of all.
- b. Even when David sinned, his first concern was that God might remove His Spirit from Him. David begs the Lord that this outcome would not be part of the punishment. He could bear all other things but not the loss of God's Holy Spirit.

Psalms 51:11

Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

Psalms 138:1

A Psalm of David. I will praise You with my whole heart; Before the gods I will sing praises to You.

Psalms 131:1

A Song of Ascents. Of David. LORD, my heart is not haughty, Nor my eyes lofty. Neither do I concern myself with great matters, Nor with things too profound for me.

4. David's heart was to build for God

- a. Whether it was returning the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem or to build a permanent temple for God, David was always concerned about God's position within the centre of Israel's society and that he had a place of prominence within everyday life.
- b. David desired to build a temple that people could focus on and worship God. He wanted a permanent location in a building that would exemplify the glory of God.
- c. King David looked at the luxury of his palace and the humbleness of where the Ark remained – he desired a glorious place for God's presence.

1Chronicles 28:2

Then King David rose to his feet and said, "Hear me, my brethren and my people: I had it in my heart to build a house of rest for the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and for the footstool of our God, and had made preparations to build it."

1Kings 8:17

Now it was in the heart of my father David to build a temple for the name of the Lord God of Israel.

5. David's heart was to walk with integrity before God

- a. David's priority was always to walk before God and do the right thing
- b. His deepest desire was to do the will of God in all his actions
- c. David made God's laws and ways his priority.

1Kings 3:6

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

1Kings 14:8

...and tore the kingdom away from the house of David, and gave it to you; and yet you have not been as My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes;

QUOTES & STICKY STATEMENTS

Faith and obedience please the Lord more than anything else.

David was measured, not because he was perfect, but rather that God was his priority

If God were to speak about you, what would he say?

NOTES & THOUGHTS

Example of others that had a heart after God

- a. Job: God said of Job, *"Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him"*
- b. Moses: God called him His friend
- c. David: God called him His servant
- d. Abraham: God called him His friend
- e. Jesus said of his followers, "You are my friends"
- f. Elijah: God said of him, "The one who stands before me"
- g. Enoch pleased God and the Lord took Him.

SERMON CONCLUSION

1Chronicles 17:2

Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."

- Re-direct your heart towards the Lord
- Acknowledge Him in all your ways
- Make the Lord your priority.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Are there any further ways you believe that David chased after God with his heart? List them and discuss them.
2. How were David and Saul different in their heart as it related to the Lord?
3. What is meant by the term “heart”, and why is it so important?
4. Why did God not allow David to build the temple? Why was the assignment given to his son Solomon?
5. Read and study the various ways that David showed a sensitive heart towards the Lord.
6. What lessons can you draw from the discussion between David and his wife Michal after he had brought back the Ark of the Lord?
7. What other people in the Bible walked more closely with God? How and what did they do?