

"A Man After God's Own Heart"

Introduction

Scripture Reading: Psalm 7:1-10

1. David was a "Man After God's Own Heart".

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.

2. King David was unlike king Saul in so many ways, - but this is the most striking difference of all.

A. Saul was the people's choice for king – David was God's choice.

1) Why? Because God looks at the heart when men look at the physical qualities.

1 Samuel 16:7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at his physical stature, because I have refused him. For the LORD does not see as man sees; for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

3. In this morning's lesson we will examine some of the characteristics of David that God loved.

Faith and Trust

Psalm 7:1, 10

1. **These verses barely touch on David's great trust in the Lord.**
2. **David illustrates his trust in three great scenes.**
 - A. **The first two are from 1 Samuel 17:32-54.**
 - 1) **When Goliath made his threats against the people, David stood by FAITH against him. He said these words:**

1 Samuel 17:45-47 Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands."

- 2) **David could make such statements because he had complete faith and trust in his God! David's calm confidence came from past experience.**

B. The second scene is David guarding the flock from the lion and the bear. In verse 37, he says this:

1 Samuel 17:37 Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

- 1) What he learned from both of these past experiences gave him the courage to put his full trust in the hand of God when faced with sin and punishment.**

B. In 2 Samuel 24, David had numbered the people, a sin, so when the prophet Gad was sent with the message that David could choose his punishment from three options, David chose to:

2 Samuel 24:14 And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let us fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies are great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

- 3. Even in his fate he chose to trust in the Lord. We, like David, should plant our faith firmly in the Lord, and live in complete trust in our heavenly Father.**

Duty and Humility

1. One obvious difference between David and Saul was their devotion to duty and their attitude towards any breach on their part.

A. In 1 Samuel 15, Saul was censured for dereliction of duty in the matter of Agag. Samuel said:

1 Samuel 15:22 So Samuel said: "Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, As in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, **to obey is better than sacrifice**, And to heed than the fat of rams.

1) Saul's attitude towards the word of God was the problem, even though he sought forgiveness for that sin.

2) His life showed that he would do his own will when it pleased him, and for this he was rejected.

B. On the other hand, David was a man after God's own heart.

1) His life's motivation was found in submitting to God's will – not forcing his own.

**2) David expresses humility in Psalm 131:
Psalm 131**

3) He shows subjection to God's will throughout Psalm 119.

2. When a person can focus on humbling himself before God and submitting to His will, then duty becomes clear and easier to perform throughout life!

Respect for Authority

1. Foremost was David's respect for God (and by association His word and His prophets).

Psalms 119:137 Righteous are You, O LORD, And upright are Your judgments.

Psalms 119:105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

Psalms 119:89 Forever, O LORD, Your word is settled in heaven.

Psalms 119:104 Through Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way.

2. David respected God by obeying His word, whether as written in the Law or as spoken by the prophets such as Gad and Nathan.

A. He fully understood God as the supreme authority and in control of human affairs.

B. He also demonstrated respect for governing offices like the king. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in his treatment of Saul.

1) When he could have killed Saul (who would have killed David), he told his men:

1 Samuel 24:10 Look, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD delivered you today into my hand in the cave, and someone urged me to kill you. But my eye spared you, and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD's anointed.'

- 3. The office of ruler whether it be king, president, or prime minister – that office is ordained by God and as such commands our respect.**

1 Peter 2:17 Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

- A. David illustrates what we should strive to apply in our own difficult times.**

Conclusion

- 1. We should learn from David's example of faith, trust, duty, humility, and respect to emulate these very important qualities.**

- A. These obviously are very important to God because David possessed them, which made him "A Man After God's Own Heart."**

Romans 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

- 2. May we strive to walk in faith, dutifully and humbly.**
- 3. If we will respect the authority of God and that which He has given to man — then we too can be like David.**
- 4. How wonderful to live a life that is pleasing to our heavenly Father and be known also as "A Man After God's Own Heart."**

