

GOD'S WAY WITH



HIS SERVANTS

Dr. Scott Hanberry
Fusion, Fall 2014
Session 4 -After God's Own Heart

Lessons from the Life of King David

1) A Heart for God _____ Us to Be _____ by God.

1 Samuel 13:14 says the Lord "sought out a man after his own heart" to be king, and Saul simply was not this man. David's commitment to the Lord serves as an example for us. His heart for God and for others demonstrates that his will was aligned with the Lord's. Just like David, let your heart and voice be an extension of the Lord's.

For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart" (16:7). David's heart for God prepares him to be used by God. Our impressive resumes aren't what make us useful in God's kingdom. The first lesson we learn from David's life is the importance of cultivating a heart for God above all else.

2) The Spirit of God _____ Us to Do the _____ of God.

The lives of David and Saul make it crystal clear that if we want to do God's will, we must be filled with the Spirit. Although Saul is filled with the Spirit and actually prophesies early in his public life, his disobedience causes the Spirit to depart from him and instead "rush upon David" (1 Sam. 16:13-14). Without the Spirit, we are powerless to fulfill the role to which God has called us as Christians. The Spirit enables us to obey God. The Bible assures us that if we "walk by the Spirit", we won't "gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal. 5:16). And the Spirit's presence in us results in fruit which makes us effective in ministry: "love, joy, peace, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Gal. 5:22-23). That is why we must pray to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

3) God looks on the _____, not the _____!

David was known as a man "after God's own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). He offered his leadership, musical talent, and military abilities for God's use. He also had a passionate desire to tell others about the Lord (see Ps. 40:9-10). But it wasn't his abilities, size, looks, or stature that made him usable to God... He was committed! He was available! He equips the called... He doesn't call the equipped! He wants AVAILABILITY, not ABILITY!

4) Whenever you use your spiritual _____ and _____, _____ benefit!

The fact that evil spirits were tormenting Saul brought David into the king's service (1 Samuel 16:21).

5) Courage is built up in our lives when we:

A) Recognize God's _____ and seek His _____. (1 Sam 17:26)

Do all for the glory of God. The story of David and Goliath is so well known, sometimes we forget some of the maintain points. The truth here is not that little boys can kill big giants; the truth is that God is in control and will not allow His name and honor to be treated lightly.

B) David understood that he was most suited for the battle at hand when he decided to be _____! (1 Sam 17:39)

6) David respected the office and authority that God had given...and God honored that!

Just because you _____ doesn't mean you _____! (1 Sam 24)

7) God warns us to _____! Be Careful. At the height of his career,

David fell into the depths of sin (see 2 Sam. 11:2). Instead of controlling his passions, he allowed his passions to control him. Satan will try to trap you and hinder your witness (see 2 Cor. 2:11). Ask yourself, "If I were Satan, how would I destroy my witness?" Then seek out fellow believers to help you by holding you accountable.

Here are a few thoughts about sin and temptation:

- ❖ Don't let any sin get a stronghold in your life.
- ❖ Do what you're supposed to do when you're supposed to do it.
- ❖ When you make mistakes, admit guilt, don't try to make excuses.
- ❖ Listen to the counsel of those around you. (2 Samuel 24:2-4)

8) Sin Can Bring Horrible _____, but Sin Can Be _____.

9) When everything seems to collapse around you, find your consolation in God.

Once, when David was fleeing from Saul, he stayed in the land of the Philistines with his men and their families. If being away from one's homeland and the opportunity to worship God as one pleased were not enough, consider the following account in 1 Samuel 30:3-6:

When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had been captured— Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. God uses difficult times in our lives to stretch us and mold us to help develop His character in our lives. This is never an easy or painless process, but one in which we can grow if we focus on what God is doing rather than trying to escape the pain. David calls for the Lord's direction and everything is recovered.

10) Be faithful and consistent.

When David is first anointed by Samuel, he is with the sheep. [1 Samuel 16:11] When Saul is afflicted with the evil spirit and sends for David to play and sing, he is with the sheep. [1 Samuel 19:19] When he fights Goliath, he has been tending the sheep. [1 Samuel 17:15, 28] Over and over again though he had been anointed by the prophet of God for a greater task, he never shirks his responsibility. He is faithful and consistent. When a lion or bear would attack the sheep, David didn't run away, but kept his place killing the attackers. [1 Samuel 17:34]

The old saying is “when the going gets tough, the tough keep going,” and certainly was true of David. Ministry is tough. People are not perfect and it is easy to let things pile up to the point where you just want to give up and go home. Be faithful. Be consistent. Remember what Paul said in I Corinthians 15:58 “Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.”

11) Live a life of praise.

The “sweet singer of Israel” was known for worship, for his skill in playing his instrument, and for composing almost half of the book of praise, the Psalms. What will your legacy be? For what will you be remembered? We will be then what we do and practice today. A life of obedient worship begins with a day of obedient worship. When we fall, we confess, thank God for His grace and forgiveness and keep going.

12) Don't ignore problems and hope they'll just go away.

When David's son, Amnon violated his sister, Tamar, David did nothing: “Now when King David heard of all these matters, he was very angry.” [2 Samuel 13:21]. He was angry, but didn't do anything about the situation – no rebuke, no comfort for his daughter, – nothing. Perhaps even a more telling indication is found in 1 Kings 1:6, when Adonijah declared himself king in his father's place: “His father had never rebuked him by asking, ‘Why do you behave as you do?’” It is possible to freeze when overwhelmed with problems, but it is also possible to respond like the ostrich and just put your head in the sand and hope it all goes away. The results of such behavior can be tragic, as the results in David's family. Absalom kills his brother, and two of his sons try to take over the throne.

13) Learn to be honest and transparent with God and others.

The Psalms are an incredible collection of faith and honesty. A deeper relationship with God requires that we get to know Him through in all of life's circumstances. Read through the psalms and develop a more intimate relationship with Him.

God help us to learn from David and the examples given in Scripture so that we can become conformed to the image of His Son!