

The Man After God's Own Heart

Text : **I Samuel 16: 1-13 / Acts 13: 36**

INTRODUCTION :

A. When this world is no more, what will last eternally ?

1. Notice the end of the bible.
 - a. **Rev. 22: 3-** There will no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and His bond-servants will serve Him;
 - b. **Rev. 22: 6-** And he said to me, "These words are faithful and true"; and the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His angel to show to His bond-servants the things which must soon take place.
 - c. **Rev. 22: 9-** But he said to me, "Do not do that. I am a fellow servant of yours and of your brethren the prophets and of those who heed the words of this book. Worship God." (The angel said he also serves.)
2. Who are God's servants ? We are ! (**1189 Chapters**)
 - a. Christians. (Cf- **Rom. 6: 17-18** , **Heb. 9: 14** ... **those cleansed, serve**)
 - b. Christians are servants; but how do they perform service to the living God ?
3. If we will serve eternally, how are we doing with our service right now ?

B. There are more biographical sketches in the bible than any other single source in all of antiquity. (**nearly 3000**)

1. Most are just mentioned by name. (**geologies, etc.**)
2. Some are clearly analyzed in God's holy book. (**God's commentary on lives**)
3. Those lives analyzed by God should also be carefully examined by us as well.
 - a. If what matters is serving God and what lasts eternally is His servants, we need to be giving consideration to our service.
 - b. Since we're going to be serving Him eternally, we must be perfecting our craft now. (***We will never be in the future what we are not becoming in the present.***)
 - c. We should look at these lives which God has analyzed to learn from them.

C. Other than Jesus ... whose life is the most closely examined in scripture ?

1. If God sees fit to discuss one person above all others, there's a reason.
2. **Acts 13: 22-** After He had removed him (Saul), He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He (God) also testified and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My heart, who will do all My will.'
 - a. What does it mean to be "God-hearted ?"
 - b. It's one who obeys and serves God above all.
 - c. It's a whole different way of looking at life.

3. **Acts 13: 36-** For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers and underwent decay;
 - a. Being God-hearted, David served God's purpose **not** his own. **Achieved for God.**
 - b. Served : "*hupereteo*" = "To act as a rower" (i.e., *to be a galley slave in ship*)
 - * The under rowers served below decks, unnoticed, unpraised, and in bad conditions.
4. **Acts 13: 36-** For David, ... served the purpose of God in his own generation, ...
 - a. A God-hearted person serves God when and where he is.
 - b. He served God all of His days. (**Paul said, "for me to live is Christ." Phil 1: 21**)

D. David lived under God's command.

1. In the N.T. , the Apostle Paul also understood life under God :
Gal. 2:20- "...it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; ..."
2. *Few today can even comprehend that concept, especially we Americans.*
3. **I King. 15:5-** because David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, and had not turned aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.
 - a. David's life is defined by his faithful service, not his mistakes.
Many today will not let a person get past the isolated mistakes he makes.
Also Note : *The sin was against Uriah. Bathsheba wasn't even mentioned. Uriah was faithful, but David stole from him and killed him in the act of doing so.*
 - b. The transgression was the exception, not the rule. (**No one is consistent.**)

E. Aside from Jesus, David is the most described man in the bible. (**141 chapters**)

1. We know more about David's :
 - a. Words & Thoughts & Fears
 - b. Strengthens & Weaknesses
 - c. Devotions & Prayers than we know about any other man, save Jesus.
2. **Why ?** There is a reason God gave us all that information about David.
 - a. David is set forth for us as the prime example of what God wants in a servant.
 - b. In the N. T., in addition to Jesus, the Apostle Paul is an example for us. (**I Cor 11:1**)

TRANSITION :

Therefore, let us look at some examples from the life of David. (**I Samuel 16:1-13**)

What is a person's life like when they are devoted to being a servant of God ?

What was it that God attracted God when He looked into the heart of David ?

I. David's life and his circumstances were considered by God.

A. God uses to His glory even the things in the life of His servant they can't change.

1. David could not change his family or his position in his family.
 - a. He was the youngest of eight ... last on the list.
 - b. He wasn't the strongest or most likely to succeed.
2. David did not choose where he was born and brought up. (**God knew .. Psalms 139**)
 - a. He was born in a rural place away from the seats of power.
 - b. God's own Son was born in similar circumstances, **but** now rules the universe.
3. David was not respected by his brothers.
 - a. He missed out on a lot because he was off with the "**few sheep.**"
 - b. Remember how his brothers mistreated him at the army camp. **I Samuel 17:28**

*** David was abused and rejected by his family,
but he did not let that limit his service to God.**

B. Many people just dwell on the abuses and disappointments of their life. They are often used as an excuse for a failed life.

1. Everyone has negative experiences in their life.
 - a. Thus, if negative experiences were valid excuses for failure, no one would succeed.
 - b. How one deals with the negatives in his life reveals his Character.
2. God uses the negative events in our life to strengthen us.
 - a. **Remember ... James 1:2-5**
 - b. God monitors our trials so we're not overwhelmed. (**Remember ... I Corinthians 10:13**)
 - * God's like a father training His child.**

C. When God called you into His service, He was aware of your life experiences.

1. God wants what you have to offer.

**I Corinthians 12: 18- But now God has placed the members, each one of them,
in the body, just as He desired**
2. Your whole life has prepared you for whatever God will use you to accomplish.
 - a. Your family experience
 - b. Your cultural experience (Where you were born)
 - c. Your trials, your victories, and your defeats.

3. God created you in His image to serve Him.

II. David's life was disciplined.

A. Jesse knew right where to find him.

1. He came when called. **I Sam. 16: 12**
2. He went where he was sent. **I Sam. 17: 17-20**

B. David took even the most humble job seriously.

1. Being the keeper of a “few sheep” was the most demeaning job in the family.
2. David was willing to risk his life for the sheep. **I Sam. 17: 33-37**

C. Unlike men, God does not choose people who are the strongest, most prominent, or the most likely to succeed.

1. Samuel looked at the oldest first, and then all the others before David.
2. God often chooses the second born : (or the least among the brethren)
 - a. Abel, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and more.
 - b. Joseph was the 11th of 12. (**also ridiculed and rejected by siblings**)

D. Selecting the lesser over the greater is a figure of God's grace.

1. In the eyes of God, it's the heart that's important.
2. It doesn't matter what you are ... if your heart is faithful,
God can make you anything He wants you to be.
3. **There is no one God can't use - if - their heart is truly devoted to God above all else.**

HOWEVER : *God will not use an uncommitted heart.*

III. David's life was available for God to use.

A. God knows those who are His.

1. We realize that God will judge the hearts of men on the last day.
Rom. 2: 16- *on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.*
2. **However**, we must also realize that He also examines men's hearts continually.
2 Chron. 16:9- *“For the eyes of the Lord move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. ...”*

3. God knows the heart of every man ... **He knows your heart.**

B. God used the sheep to mold David's character.

1. Sheep are stuck in a rut from which they seldom stray. (**always walk same path**)
2. They require enormous patience and devoted care.
 - a. Sheep are helpless ... can't even clean themselves
 - b. Sheep are dirty ... pick up all manner of filth in their wool
 - c. Sheep are dumb ... can't even find their own food
 - d. Sheep are easily frightened ... Any sound can scatter them.
 - e. Sheep wander off ... Once out of sight they can't find their way back.
 - f. Sheep are defenseless ... They have no natural defenses.
3. Watching the sheep alone, David had plenty of time to meditate about God.

C. God uses Saul's pursuit of David to refine his faith by fire.

1. Saul's unwise pursuit tested David's integrity.
 - a. He had many opportunities to defeat or to kill Saul.
 - b. Killing Saul would have given him the kingdom. (**choose: self -or- what's right**)
2. The persistence of Saul's unjust pursuit tested David's faith.
 - a. David had proven his loyalty, but Saul kept on pursuing him.
 - b. The pursuit went on for years.
 - c. Righteous David often suffered hardship. (**all unjustly ... why did God let ..**)

D. From the very beginning, David devoted himself to the will of God.

1. When he faced Goliath he would rather die than allow God to be dishonored.
2. When he could have taken Saul's thrown, but he waited for God.
3. When his sin was brought to his attention, he was broken hearted. (**no excuses**)

*** When God trains us for his service :**

1. **It takes time.**
2. **The fire must be hot enough to melt the dross.**
3. **ONLY God :**
 - a. **sees the progress of your heart.**
 - b. **knows the potential He has place within you.**

CONCLUSION :

A. What did God see in the heart of David ?

1. A faith that made his heart pliable enough to be molded by God.
2. A faith that kept his life disciplined and under control.
3. A faith that caused him to surrender his whole life to God.
 - a. Even as a youth he was willing to die for God's honor.
 - b. His life was devoted to glorifying God.
 - c. On his deathbed he was consumed with assuring that his wealth went to God.
He prepared the materials and made Solomon swear to complete the temple.

B. God blessed the efforts David made for His glory.

1. He identified David as a faithful servant.
2. He called David a man after His own heart.

C. As God goes back and forth on the earth looking into the hearts of His servants, what does God see in your heart and in mine ? (2 Chron. 16:9)

1. Does He see a heart which is eager to be molded in His image ?
2. Does He see a heart that keep its body disciplined, under control and sanctified ?
3. Does He see a servant who has devoted his life to serving God now and eternally ?

D. We were all created in God's image for the purpose of serving Him.

1. God gave us 141 chapters about David to assist us in learning how to serve.
2. What kind of servant are you ... am I ?
3. Heaven is eternal service to God. **Rev. 22: 3, 6, 9**
4. Are you prepared for service in Heaven ?

Remember :

We will never be in the future what we are not becoming in the present.

INVITATION :