

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Text: 1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22

INTRO: We have more information about King David than of any other Bible character. Sixty chapters of O.T. history tell about his life and works. Probably a hundred or more of the Psalms were written by him. It is primarily in view of his rule as king, & primarily in contrast to the rule of Saul, that David is spoken of as a "man after God's own heart." Of course, we cannot entirely separate his public life from his private life. David was the kind of king he was because of the kind of man he was. And though David committed sins that were far-reaching in their consequences, & had some character flaws that detracted from his over-all influence, he was without question the greatest king that Israel and/or Judah ever had. He was great because he sought God's will. He was a man seeking after the heart of God.

I. DAVID WAS MINDFUL & THANKFUL FOR THE BLESSINGS THAT COME FROM GOD. **READ PSALM 103:1-14**

II. HE FREQUENTLY "INQUIRED OF THE LORD" IN MAKING WHATEVER DECISIONS HE HAD TO MAKE.

A. It was David's common practice to inquire of the Lord before any important undertaking.

Therefore David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go & attack these Philistines..." (1 Sam. 23:2).

Then David inquired of the Lord again... (vs 4).

So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop?" (1 Sam 30:8).

It happened after this that David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go to any of the cities of Judah?" (2 Sam 2:1).

So David inquired of the Lord, saying, "Shall I go up against the Philistines?" (2 Sam 5:19).

Therefore David inquired of the Lord... (5:23).

Now there was a famine in the days of David for 3

years, year after year; & David inquired of the Lord.
And the Lord answered... (2 Sam 21:1).

B. The few times David acted without first seeking God's will, he failed & brought disaster upon himself & others.

1. The incident of moving the ark, 2 Sam. 6.
2. The numbering of Israel, 1 Chron. 21:1-15.

III. HE KNEW GOD'S WILL MUST BE DONE ABOVE HIS OWN OR THAT OF ANY OTHER MAN.

A. The death of his infant son,

When David saw that his servants were whispering, David perceived that the child was dead. Therefore David said to his servants, "Is the child dead?" And they said, "He is dead." So David arose from the ground, washed and anointed himself, and changed his clothes; and he went into the house of the LORD and worshipped. Then he went to his own house; & when he requested, they set food before him, & he ate. Then his servants said to him, "What is this that you have done? You fasted & wept for the child while he was alive, but when the child died, you arose and ate food." And he said, "While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, 'Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' "But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me." Then David comforted Bathsheba his wife, & went in to her and lay with her. So she bore a son, and he called his name Solomon... (2 Sam. 12:19-24).

B. The disappointment of not being allowed to build the temple Then King David rose to his feet & 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, for the footstool of our God, had made preparations to build it. But God said to me, 'You shall not build a house for My name, because you have been a man of

war and have shed blood.' (1 Chron. 28:2-3).

IV. HE KNEW THAT **WITH GOD'S HELP HE COULDN'T FAIL;**
WITHOUT IT HE COULDN'T SUCCEED.

A. Goliath. READ I SAM 17:32-36, 45

Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, & he a man of war from his youth." But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, & when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, I went out after it & struck it, & delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, & struck and killed it. Your servant has killed both lion & bear; & this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." ... 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..." (1 Sam. 17:32-36, 45).

B. His instructions to Solomon: Keep the charge of the Lord your God to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, & His testimonies, as it is written in the law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do & wherever you turn. (1 Kings 2:3).

V. HE WAS TRULY & DEEPLY PENITENT WHEN HE ACKNOWLEDGED SIN. Unlike Saul, David took full responsibility for his words & deeds.

A. His sin regarding Bathsheba & her husband.

So David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord..." (2 Sam 12:13).

B. When he sinned by numbering Israel: So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly because I have done this thing: but now I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant for I have done very foolishly." (1 Chron 21:8).

CONCLUSION: We need to follow David's example in being men & women who seek after the things that come from the heart of God. We need to learn from him not to make the mistakes he made, and we need to learn from him to penitently return to God when we have erred.

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