**DAVID- A Man After God’s Heart**

**Chosen by God, 1 Samuel 16**

Sunday, September 17, 2023

**WE Slide 1 What does the life of a person who has a heart for God look like?** Would God say you have a heart for Him? **King David, Israel’s 2nd king, who reigned about 3K years ago, didn’t always do what was right, in fact really messed up at times, yet God calls him “a man after His own heart”.** How can that be if he messed up? David lived a long time ago but we can still learn from his good/bad choices some LIFE LESSONS for us. **Our prayer is that David’s life will encourage/motivate us to be people who are after God’s own heart no matter what we go through.** Go ahead and turn to 1 Samuel 16, pg. 298, as you do let me give you the background to David becoming king of Israel. **Slide 2**

**BACKGROUND**

1. Israel in the Promised Land for 350+ years with no king; God was to be their king- theocracy.
2. Israel was led by “judges”- God-appointed men who would lead Israel when it was attacked.
3. Other than that, everyone was basically on their own to obey God- you can imagine how that went.
4. Israel was under attack so God chose Samuel, a judge/prophet, who led Israel to victory over the Philistines.
5. When he got older he appointed his sons as judges, which was God’s job, but they failed to follow God.
6. The elders of Israel asked Samuel to appoint a king over them like all the other nations.
7. Samuel asked God and God said OK but he was to warn them that having a king will bring stress/sacrifices that they wouldn’t have if they would let God be there king.
8. God had Samuel appoint Saul as king- tall, dark, handsome and came from a family of warriors.
9. Saul reigned for 40 years but was not a “man after God’s own heart” and continually disobeyed God.
10. God decided to take the kingdom from him and eventually allowed him/sons to be killed by in battle.

**Slide 3 Several years before they were killed, God who’s always working out His plans through the decisions of people, had Samuel appoint David “king in waiting” for the day that King Saul died.** We pick up the story after Samuel killed King Agag/Amalekites because King Saul disobeyed God and allowed him to live after their victory in battle. **Of course, Saul had good reasons to allow him to live, but he disobeyed God… again.** Let’s see how David was chosen and then talk about some LIFE LESSONS we can apply from these events. **READ 1 Sam. 16:1-5 Slide 4-10**

**GOD**

1. **SCENE 1: GOD COMMANDS SAMUEL TO APPOINT A NEW KING, 16:1-5**

**Samuel is bummed that Saul failed as king but God tells him He has the next king picked out- God’s always working!** Even though Samuel is afraid of Saul killing him, God just wants Samuel to trust Him and do the next right thing. **Interesting how God rarely gives us the final picture; He just wants us to learn to obey one step at a time and leave the results to Him.** So, Samuel wipes away his tears, puts his fear aside, and does the next right thing- meets Jesse’s sons. **Let’s see how that goes. READ 1 Sam. 16:6-13 Slide 11-19**

1. **SCENE 2: GOD PICKS DAVID TO BE KING, 1 Samuel 16:6-13**
2. **Man Looks at the Outward Appearance None of David’s brothers were picked even though from man’s perspective they all could have been king.** God’s already been down that road with Saul- God wanted someone who thought like He did, responded as He did.

**Why does God look past a person’s looks/skill set/education? Slide 20**

1. **God Looks at the Heart The heart is the control center of emotions/desires/decisions.** A heart after man’s heart will do what the person thinks is right. **A heart after God’s heart will do what God says is right.**
2. **Slide 21 David a Man After God’s Own Heart**
3. God had Samuel tell King Saul back in 1 Samuel 13:14 that He found one to replace Saul who has a heart after His own heart. **Slide 22-23**
4. David measured up to his brothers/the difference was his heart.
5. David was probably between 10-15 years old; he was the king in waiting.

**Once anointed “king in waiting” God confirmed David as His by giving Him God the Holy Spirit who remained with him throughout his life.** The author then takes us from Bethlehem to Jerusalem sometime after David was picked. **Let’s see what’s going on inside the palace.** **READ 1 Sam. 16:14-23 Slide 24-32** My guess is that most of you are more focused on this “evil spirit from the LORD” than you are on how God is working behind the scenes to get David prepared to be king. **So let’s get the “evil spirit” out of the way.** 1st we’re told that God’s Spirit, God the Holy Spirit, removed Himself from Saul. **What’s up with that? Not going to get into the weeds with this so feel free to set up a time to talk if you have questions.**

1. **SCENE 3: GOD PLACES DAVID IN THE PALACE, 1 Samuel 16:14-23**
2. **God’s Spirit Removed from King Saul.**
3. In OT the Holy Spirit did not indwell in people like today. **He wasn’t permanently given to people.**

**He came on people to empower them but if they rejected/disobeyed God He could be removed.** David, after he sinned with Bathsheba was afraid this would happen and asked God in Psalm 51 to not remove His Spirit. **David repented of his sin, which a person who has a heart for God will do, and that also showed the Holy Spirit was with him.** Jump forward 2K years when Jesus died/rose again, the Holy Spirit is now given permanently to those who place their faith in Jesus. **Back to Saul and the evil spirit- with Saul rejecting God/God removing the Holy Spirit, this opened him up to an evil spirit. Slide 33 Was this a demon or an OT understanding of a mental health disorder?** Debated among scholars.

1. This opened up Saul to an evil spirit.
2. God can’t do evil, better to say “God allowed an evil spirit to come upon Saul.”
3. “terrorize”- baath; symptoms of a severe anxiety attack; overwhelmed, choking.
4. Spirit- ruah; divine, non-physical being, heart, mind, breath, wind.
5. Context- v. 14a- the Holy Spirit was removed; in v. 14b- **A spiritual being/mental disorder?**
6. Some believe it’s a demon, others a mental health disorder.

**Either way it was a result of Saul’s rejection of God and His way of thinking/responding.** If you’re wondering how that can cause mental health issues **Slide 34** go back and listen to Week 5 of Winning the Battle for Your Mind where I break that down. **One of Saul’s servants figured music could calm Saul and he knew just the guy who could help- David. Slide 35** Not sure how he knew about David but God made sure he did and Saul brought David to the palace.

1. **David Becomes Saul’s Armorbearer**
2. Another servant knew about David- not told how the servant knew so much about David.
3. Saul contacts Jesse who sends David to the palace with a gift.
4. David’s music calmed Saul so Saul made him his armorbearer.

**The “would be king” is in the palace serving the current king.** Knowing humans like we do this can’t end well, but you’ll have to come back next week to see how things progress. **Slide 36 For now, let’s look at some LESSONS FOR LIFE we can take from these events and apply to our lives.** We’ll use these as our TAKEAWAYS. **The 1st is… Slide 37**

**YOU TAKEAWAYS- Lessons for Life**

1. **Life Lesson #1- God is always working out His plan in our lives.**
2. God sovereignly controls of all events. **That’s a big word, what’s it mean? Slide 38**
3. Definition- As the self-existing, infinite Creator He has the power, wisdom, and authority (the right) to do anything He chooses with His creation to accomplish His plans.
4. This does not remove our free will/personal responsibility.
5. God is infinitely wise/powerful, can work in/through our right/wrong choices to accomplish His plans.

**Like all the details/interactions that needed to happen in Samuel’s life/David’s life for God’s plan to be worked out God is working in your life to bring about His plan.** That means that**… Slide 39**

1. No event is a mistake or a surprise to God.
2. **His Plan-** He’s revealing Himself, drawing us to Him for salvation, then using us/life events to draws others to Him.

**That’s the point of the Bible.** There’s a lot there so if you have specific events you want to talk about set up a time to meet. **Another LIFE LESSON is that… Slide 40**

1. **Life Lesson #2- We can’t let other people’s disobedience/rejection of God derail us.**
2. Samuel was deeply upset/grieved over Saul’s disobedience.
3. Samuel couldn’t stay there, God had work for him to do.
4. I get it! It’s hard to watch others reject God especially if you’ve put a lot of time into them, but God’s only holding us responsible for our obedience, not someone else’s.

**Speaking of OBEDIENCE another LIFE LESSON is that God rarely gives us His whole plan, He’s more about STEP BY STEP OBEDIENCE. Slide 41**

1. **Life Lesson #3- God leads us step by step; just do the next right thing.**
2. Samuel/David didn’t know the whole plan, they just did the next right thing.
3. We struggle because we want to know the end results/think we know what the end results should be.
4. We end up getting impatient, frustrated, even bitter at others and God when He just wants us to do the next right thing and leave the outcome to Him.
5. God’s working to grow our trust in Him and Him getting the glory for the outcome.

**Whatever you’re facing stay focused on just doing the next right thing.** The last LIFE LESSON and probably the most important since everything else flows from this is that GOD LOOKS AT OUR HEART. **Slide 42**

1. **Life Lesson #4- God Looks at Our Heart**
2. **If God were to evaluate your heart what would He say?**
3. **Are you responding to life/to your struggles God’s way or your way?**
4. A heart that is after God’s own heart will ultimately do life His way because God is working His plan in and through us.

**As we close I pray that we would ask God to show us where we need to make adjustments in our lives so that He sees that we have hearts that are committed to Him.**

**PODCAST: Would God say you have a heart for Him? What does that even mean? 1 Samuel 16:1-23; 13:14.**