

“The Heart of David”

Introduction – I Samuel 12:1-13 (NIV1984)

This week we are going to look at “the heart of David”. We will find the dramatic difference between how Saul moved forward in his life and when confronted on his disobedience how he would not take responsibility for his actions and put the blame on others. Whereas David when confronted confessed it was his responsibility!

So let’s take a look!

I. DAVID’S BEGINNINGS

King David is born in 1040 BC and by age 30 becomes king of Judah. David is born to a man named Jesse in the city of Bethlehem. He is the eighth and youngest son (I Samuel 17:12-13, I Chronicles 2:13-15) and the great grandson of Ruth and Boaz (Ruth 4:17-22). His family also includes two sisters (I Chronicles 2:16). As he grows up he is considered the least of Jesse’s sons and assigned the humbling task of tending sheep (I Samuel 16:11).

We first hear a reference to what God was looking for in a king when Samuel confronted Saul on his disobedience:

I Samuel 13:13-14 (NIV1984)

13 “You acted foolishly,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. **14** But now your kingdom will not endure; the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”

As God rejected Saul’s reign as king, He led Samuel to go to Jesse’s family and to choose one of his sons:

I Samuel 16:6-13 (NIV1984)

6 When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.” **7** But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” **8** Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” **9** Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” **10** Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” **11** So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?” “There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered, “but he is tending the sheep.” Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.” **12** So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; he is the one.” **13** So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

A. THE BIG BATTLE WITH GOLIATH - *Summarize the story*

I Samuel 17:33-37, 41-51 (NIV1984)

33 Saul replied, “You are not able to go out against this Philistine and fight him; you are only a young man, and he has been a warrior from his youth.” **34** But David said to Saul, “Your servant has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, **35** I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. **36** Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. **37** The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.” Saul said to David, “Go, and the Lord be with you.” **41** Meanwhile, the Philistine, with his shield bearer in front of him, kept

coming closer to David. **42** He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy, glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him. **43** He said to David, “Am I a dog, that you come at me with sticks?” And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. **44** “Come here,” he said, “and I’ll give your flesh to the birds and the wild animals! ” **45** David said to the Philistine, “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. **46** This day the Lord will deliver you into my hands, and I’ll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. **47** All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord’s, and he will give all of you into our hands.” **48** As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet him. **49** Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground. **50** So David triumphed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone; without a sword in his hand he struck down the Philistine and killed him. **51** David ran and stood over him. He took hold of the Philistine’s sword and drew it from the sheath. After he killed him, he cut off his head with the sword. When the Philistines saw that their hero was dead, they turned and ran.

So David is launched into the history of Israel! He is actually spoken of more in the bible than Abraham or Moses! He is mentioned in 28 books of the bible and his name more times than anyone else. (1,139 times more!) 😊

B. HIS YEARS OF TRAINING IN THE SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

In defeating Goliath we saw King Saul become very jealous of David to the point of trying to kill him numerous times in the years between Goliath and King Saul's passing.

In this time David's faith grew and matured in those hard difficult days:

I Samuel 30:6 (NIV1984)

6 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.

C. SAUL'S SON JONATHAN BECOMES DAVID'S BEST FRIEND

I Samuel 20:16-17 (NIV1984)

16 So Jonathan made a covenant with the house of David, saying, "May the Lord call David's enemies to account." **17 AND JONATHAN HAD DAVID REAFFIRM HIS OATH OUT OF LOVE FOR HIM, BECAUSE HE LOVED HIM AS HE LOVED HIMSELF.**

II. COMING TO THE THRONE AS KING OF JUDAH AND EVENTUALLY ISRAEL

A. ANNOINTED KING OF JUDAH AT AGE 30

II Samuel 2:3-4 (NIV1984)

3 David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. **4** Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. When David was told that it was the men of Jabesh Gilead who had buried Saul,

B. ANNOINTED KING OVER ALL OF ISRAEL

II Samuel 5:1-5 (NIV1984)

1 All the tribes of Israel came to David at Hebron and said, “We are your own flesh and blood. 2 In the past, while Saul was king over us, you were the one who led Israel on their military campaigns. And the Lord said to you, ‘You will shepherd my people Israel, and you will become their ruler.’” 3 When all the elders of Israel had come to King David at Hebron, the king made a compact with them at Hebron before the Lord, and they anointed David king over Israel. 4 David was thirty years old when he became king, and he reigned forty years. 5 In Hebron he reigned over Judah seven years and six months, and in Jerusalem he reigned over all Israel and Judah thirty-three years.

C. DAVID CONQUERS JERUSALEM

II Samuel 5:6-7 (NIV1984)

6 The king and his men marched to Jerusalem to attack the Jebusites, who lived there. The Jebusites said to David, “You will not get in here; even the blind and the lame can ward you off.” They thought, “David cannot get in here.” 7 Nevertheless, David captured the fortress of Zion, the City of David.

D. DAVID’S CONQUEST OF THE LAND DRIVING OUT THEIR ENEMIES (II Samuel 5-8)

The Philistines, the Moabites, the Arameans, etc.

E. DAVID THE PSALMIST

75 of the 150 Psalms are written by David! Expressing our faith, walk and overcoming life’s challenges.

Psalms 23 (KJV)

1 The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. 2 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. 3 He

restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. **4** Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. **5** Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. **6** Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

III. KING DAVID'S FALL INTO SIN

Bathsheba – the wife of Uriah the Hittite, one of David's mighty warriors – David commits adultery and then ends up murdering Uriah by sending him to the front line to be killed. A sad and horrible decision that brought tragedy into David's life big time!

II Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27 (NIV1984) - *Summarize the story*

1 In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war, David sent Joab out with the king's men and the whole Israelite army. They destroyed the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained in Jerusalem. **2** One evening David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the palace. From the roof he saw a woman bathing. The woman was very beautiful, **3** and David sent someone to find out about her. The man said, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite." **4** Then David sent messengers to get her. She came to him, and he slept with her. (Now she was purifying herself from her monthly uncleanness.) Then she went back home. **5** The woman conceived and sent word to David, saying, "I am pregnant." **26** When Uriah's wife heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. **27** After the time of mourning was over, David had her brought to his house, and she became his wife and bore him a son. But the thing David had done displeased the Lord.

This brings us to our passage this morning:

II Samuel 12:1-13 (NIV1984)

12 The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him, he said, “There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. **2** The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, **3** but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him. **4** “Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for the one who had come to him.” **5** David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this must die! **6** He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity.” **7** Then Nathan said to David, “You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. **8** I gave your master’s house to you, and your master’s wives into your arms. I gave you all Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. **9** Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in his eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. **10** Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.’ **11** “This is what the Lord says: ‘Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity on you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will sleep with your wives in broad daylight. **12** You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.’” **13** Then David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the Lord.” Nathan replied, “The Lord has taken away your sin. You are not going to die.

Do you notice the difference here between David's response to being confronted with his sin: "I have sinned against the Lord". He didn't blame Bathsheba or the soldiers, or anyone else; he took personal responsibility. In human terms from my perspective David's sin was huge and appeared much worse than Saul's sin of disobedience but the difference in Saul not taking responsibility wanting to blame Samuel, the soldiers, anyone but himself is a big lesson for all of us! God help us to see this! Recorded in the Psalms are David's cries for forgiveness that we go to in our cries for forgiveness!

Psalm 32:1-5 (NIV1984)

1 Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered. **2** Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them and in whose spirit is no deceit. **3** When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of summer. **5** Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Psalm 51:1-13 (NIV1984)

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. **2** Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. **3** For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. **4** Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge. **5** Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me. **6** Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place. **7** Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. **8** Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. **9** Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity. **10** Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. **11** Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me. **13** Then I will teach transgressors your ways, so that sinners will turn back to you.

We see lots of tragedy unfold in David's life; King David's son Amnon raping his sister Tamar (II Samuel 13), Absalom, King David's son killing Amnon because of this. Absalom rebelling against his father and tries to overthrow him! (II Samuel 14 & 15)

But through it all David found strength in his relationship with the Lord! He didn't give up, he didn't throw in the towel, he overcame all these obstacles.

Listen to his last words:

II Samuel 23:1-5 (NIV1984)

1 These are the last words of David: "The inspired utterance of David son of Jesse, the utterance of the man exalted by the Most High, the man anointed by the God of Jacob, the hero of Israel's songs: **2** "The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; his word was on my tongue. **3** The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me: 'When one rules over people in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God, **4** he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning, like the brightness after rain that brings grass from the earth.' **5** "If my house were not right with God, surely he would not have made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part; surely he would not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire.

And his charge to Solomon:

I Kings 2:1-4, 10-12 (NIV1984)

1 When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son. **2** "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, act like a man, **3** and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands,

his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go **4** and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’ **10** Then David rested with his ancestors and was buried in the City of David. **11** He had reigned forty years over Israel—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three in Jerusalem. **12** So Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his rule was firmly established.

As the prophet Jeremiah brings out in I Kings:

I Kings 15:5 (NIV1984)

5 For David had done what was right in the eyes of the Lord and had not failed to keep any of the Lord’s commands all the days of his life—except in the case of Uriah the Hittite.

Conclusion

So in conclusion, we gave a brief overview of King David’s life and I pray that the truths we looked at today will encourage us to be drawing near to the Lord our God just as King David did! May these words be a foundation in our hearts:

Psalm 103 (NIV1984)

1 Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name.

2 Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits— **3** who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, **4** who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, **5** who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. **6** The Lord works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. **7** He made known his ways to Moses, his deeds to the people of Israel: **8** The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love. **9** He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; **10** he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us

according to our iniquities. **11** For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; **12** as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. **13** As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him; **14** for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust. **15** The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; **16** the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more. **17** But from everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear him, and his righteousness with their children's children — **18** with those who keep his covenant and remember to obey his precepts. **19** The Lord has established his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. **20** Praise the Lord, you his angels, you mighty ones who do his bidding, who obey his word. **21** Praise the Lord, all his heavenly hosts, you his servants who do his will. **22** Praise the Lord, all his works everywhere in his dominion. Praise the Lord, my soul.

Remember the testimony of David in the New Testament?

Acts 13:22 (NIV1984)

22 After removing Saul, he made David their king. God testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse, a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'

So may all of us seek to be men and women after God's own heart!