

David

Psalm 23 A psalm of David

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His names sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil, my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

You cannot really go through the Old Testament choosing Heroes and not include David at some point. David has brought much joy, heartache, so much strength and fear, in so many ways that you just know that he is human after all.

Here are five points on David....

1. **A Heart for God Prepares Us to Be Used by God**

David had a heart for God, he knew what God could do and he wanted to get involved. He was chosen to be king for that very reason. Saul did not have a heart for God, that's why God Chose David. 1 Samuel 13:14 says **'the Lord "sought out a man after his own heart"** to be king, and Saul was not the man. Neither were any of David's brothers come to that! When Samuel goes to anoint the new king of Israel, he assumes David's strong and noble oldest brother must be the chosen one.

However, God tells Samuel not to focus on physical prowess: **"Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have I rejected him. 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.

The question I ask myself is, 'do I have a heart for God, or am I just doing my own thing hoping that God joins me at some point? I think it is an important question to ask, and take a stock of our lives, at this present time. 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 Equips Us to Do the Will of God

Being filled with the Spirit confused me when I was a young Christian, I really did not understand what that meant. It just means the Holy Spirit come and lives in your heart and guides you. But when we look at the difference between David and Saul, how they behaved, worshipped and prayed we can see that David was filled with the Holy Spirit. It is the same for us today, if we want to do God's will, we must be filled with the Spirit.

Saul was filled with the Spirit and prophecies early in his public life, but his disobedience causes the Spirit to depart from him and instead **"rush upon David"** 1 Samuel 16:13-14. Without the Spirit, we are powerless to fulfil 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 will not "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. Eph5:18.

3. It is Better to Fear God than to Be Nine Feet Tall

David's defeat of Goliath is one of the most vivid examples of what 'fear of God' can accomplish. David feared God more than he feared Goliath, so he was not intimidated by this nine-foot giant before him. David believed the promises of God more than he feared Goliath. The Lord had promised the Israelites that they would conquer the Philistines, and David trusted him. God wants this same kind of fear to be a part of our lives. If we fear God more than anyone or anything else, we will be able to obey and please him in powerful ways.

Some commentators suggest that, David defeating Goliath, is really a picture of what Jesus has accomplished on the cross. David defeated the enemy and delivered a nation, in one battle, for a short time. Jesus Christ defeated the enemy, the devil, sin, and death and delivered his people for all time. That leads us to the next lesson we learn from David.

Lesson 4: The Glory of David is not David At All—It is Jesus Christ

David's life is one example of the many that point to, and prophecies that speak of Jesus Christ throughout the Old Testament. In David's "last words" in 2 Samuel 23:1, he alludes to Jesus several times. He first calls himself "**the anointed of the God of Jacob**" (v. 1). David was the "anointed" because Samuel anointed him with oil, and because God anointed him with the Holy Spirit, 1 Sam. 16:13.

The word "**anointed**" in Hebrew is Messiah, and in Greek it is Christ. David is pointing to the Greater Christ. This is the significance of Peter's answer to Jesus in Matt 16:15-16: "**He (Jesus) said to them, 'But who do you say that I am? 'Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.'**"

Jesus is also the fulfilment of what David calls "**the everlasting covenant**" 2 Sam.23:5, '**When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever**'. 2 Sam. 7:12-13 This is significant, because David is not talking about a human king such as, Solomon, Hezekiah, Josiah. They may have been great kings of Israel, but only lived at best 70 or 80 years. None of them had an eternal kingdom. Only one has that, Jesus Christ, the Son of David, who is the King above all kings who will live and reign forever.

Less 5: Sin Can Bring Horrible Consequences, but Sin Can Be Forgiven

1-2 Samuel show that sin can result in horrible consequences. Eli the priest fails to fear God and his two sons are killed because of it. Saul fails to obey and honour God, and the kingdom is given to another man. But David's sin against Bathsheba shows this most vividly of all. When David takes Bathsheba and kills her husband Uriah, he sins in so many ways, and the Lord is not silent or indifferent to them. In fact, he promises to bring "the sword" upon David's house, and that sword takes four of his sons. Such sobering consequences for sin are meant to cause us to fear falling into sin.

But the good news is, there is forgiveness in the life of David. After Nathan, the prophet confronts David for his sin, David confesses. Nathan then speaks the forgiveness of God: "**The LORD has put away your sin; you shall not die**" 2

Sam.12-13. David's true repentance is matched by the Lord's forgiveness. In the end, God's forgiveness far surpasses any consequences we might experience.

Consequences can only last for a lifetime, but forgiveness lasts forever. When we stand before God in the new heavens and new earth, our sins and their aftermath will be behind us and only life and joy in the presence of a merciful saviour will be ahead.

Such forgiveness is ours when we believe in Jesus Christ, the one who forever and completely takes our sins away Heb 10:1-18. David's life teaches us not to take the glorious reality of God's mercy for granted.

Be Thou My Vision

We probably could have picked 105 lessons from David's life, but we would be here all day going through them. Let these words inspire our hearts to keep God first above all things. Let Him be our highest priority, our greatest passion, our first allegiance, our centre, our source, foundation and goal. Especially in these strange times we live in. In the words of that great hymn;

**Be thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping, my presence
my light.**

Blessings Mike