

11 October 2015

David was a man after God's own heart (Pt 1 David).

Introduction:

This is our first study on an individual in the scriptures, and our first person is David.

Three points are established from the Scriptures for this study.

(1) God chose David to be king because of his heart, and (2) the Lord sought David, a man after His own heart, and (3) David obeyed his father and showed his heart was submissive to authority.

Our three points in more detail.

1. God chose David to be king because of his heart, not his outward appearance.

Supporting verse.

1Sam 16:7 & 12 "But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance...for [the] [Lord] [seeth] not as man seeth...but the Lord looketh on the heart." And verse 12 "And he sent, and brought him in...And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this [is] he."

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The Lord had rejected Saul from being king (verse 1), and so he told Samuel the seer to "fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Beth-lehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons." The first thing that Samuel does is question God sending him, given that "if Saul hear it, he will kill me" (verse 2). The Lord allowed Samuel to say he was going to "sacrifice to the Lord" even though that was not his purpose. Samuel calls Jesse to the sacrifice (verse 3), and he sanctified Jesse and his sons and called them to the sacrifice (verse 5). Samuel then looked on Jesse's son Eliab and said "Surely the Lord's anointed is before him" (verse 6). The Lord says "Look not on his countenance...for the Lord seeth not as a man seeth...but the Lord looketh on the heart" (verse 7). The same result came from seven of his sons when they passed "before Samuel" (verse 10). So Samuel asked if there are any other children, and there remained "yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep" (verse 11). Then David came, and "he was ruddy...And the Lord said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he" (verse 12). Hence God chose David because He looked on the heart of man, and not on his outward appearance.

Other scriptural support.

Jer.17: 10.

Application of our verse today.

* Given that a man believes the gospel of Christ crucified today in his heart, God still looks on the heart of man and not on the outward appearance (Jam.2: 2-4).

Illustration.

* There are men in the main-stream churches who have a form of godliness with their brethren, but in secret they molest young boys, and so indulge in "vile affections" (Rom.1: 26) and love the pleasures of the flesh "more than lovers of God" (2Tim.3: 4). And when brethren seek to "restore such an one in the spirit of meekness" (Gal.6: 1) and they respond with cover ups and denials whilst continuing to sin, then they are only fooling themselves, NOT God!

Learning from our Illustration.

* Regardless of the form of godliness, words mean nothing when our heart is evil, when a person is a lover "of their own selves...Without natural affection" (2Tim.3: 2 & 3), for God Almighty looks on a man's heart. "For this sort are...Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (2Tim.3: 7).

Challenge & or encouragement.

* How do you know what God sees when he looks at your heart? "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matt.12: 34). A man will know if he speaks the truth about his actions or whether he lies about what he does in secret. Let us encourage each other to be the same whether in a church meeting or behind closed doors. Be challenged, that just as God looked on the heart of David and called him to be king, so He sees each of our hearts today, whether it be good or evil (Lk.6: 45), whether we seek to cover up, or turn from our sin.

2. When God looked upon David He saw he was a man after His own heart.

Supporting Verse.

1Sam.13: 14 "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people".

Context and meaning of our verse.

* Leading up to our verse we see the fall of Saul when he disobeyed the Lord (verse 13), and did what he felt was right (see also 1Sam.15: 9 & 11). His demise began with him gathering 2000 men in Michmash and Mt Bethel, and Jonathan gathering 1000 men in Gibeah (verse 2). Verse 3 points out that Jonathan smote the Philistines in Geba, but then we see in verse 4 that all Israel heard it was Saul "had smitten a garrison of the Philistines". Saul gathered the people in Gilgal (verse 4), and the Philistines were gathered to war against Israel in Michmash. Even though we are not given a comparative number of soldiers for Israel, they felt distressed by the number of the Philistines, and so hide in caves (verse 6). Saul stayed in Gilgal seven days, but Samuel came not and the people were scattered (verse 8), so rather than waiting for Samuel, rather than trusting in the words of God spoken by His prophet, Saul organised a burnt offering and a peace offering (verse 9), and "as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold Samuel came" (verse 10). Samuel challenged what Saul did, and Saul gave a reason for him disobeying the words of the Lord (verse 12). Samuel's reply "Thou hast done foolishly; thou hast not kept the commandment of the Lord" (verse 13 c.p. 15: 26). 1Sam.10: 8 is the reference to the commandment that Saul was given. Saul's kingdom would have been established for ever, if he had not disobeyed the commandment of the Lord (verse 13). Then we have our verse where Samuel explains the consequences of Saul's disobedience: Saul's kingdom shall not continue, but the Lord has sought a man to rule over His people who is "a man after his own heart" (verse 14).

Other scriptural support.

Acts 13: 22.

Application of our verse today.

* Our verse is written within the pages of the Old Testament, and therefore the audience is the nation of Israel. But given that God is the same yesterday, today, and for ever (Heb.13:8) then I suggest that the Lord could look upon a man today and see him to be a man after His own heart.

Illustration.

* Many in the churches today claim to be Christian, yet when you place a copy of the scriptures (God's written revelation) in their hand they will often turn to a verse and say they believe God, and they obey Him, but then reject the verses on the preservation and purity of God's words in the 1611 Authorised Bible. And what often follows is their reasons why they compartmentalise their beliefs, why they believe some of what God says and not other things He says.

Learning from our Illustration.

* We know that "all have sinned and come short of the glory of God" (Rom.3: 23).

i) What was it that Saul did that made God remove His Spirit from him (15: 28)?

God spoke words through His prophet and Saul **disobeyed**, he rebelled against those words, he gave excuses for his rebellion in this account (1Sam.15).

ii) What was it that David did that pleased the Lord for him to have a heart after the heart of God?

God spoke words through His prophet and David **obeyed**, and when he sinned, he confessed his iniquity without giving excuses, and he accepted God's chastisement.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* God looked at David's heart when he was a shepherd boy, and He saw a heart that was tender, obedient, and submissive, whereas Saul showed himself to be disobedient and rebellious to the words of God. Do you drift toward Saul who was rebellious, and made excuses for his sin? Or toward David who was obedient, submissive, without excuses when he sinned? Don't convince me, or yourself, but rather examine yourself with the scriptures as a mirror, and then ask the question. Be encouraged to be more like David, whose heart was akin to the heart of God Almighty, and take up the challenge today if your heart is more like Saul's, that you spend time with the Lord and His holy scriptures and seek His help to be more like David, a man after His own heart.

Question: How would man have observed what God saw in David's heart?

3. David obeyed his father and showed his heart was submissive to authority.

Supporting Verse.

1Sam 17:20 “And David rose up early in the morning, and left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him”.

Context and meaning of our verse.

* The scene is set in verses 1–3 with the opposing armies of Israel and Philistines arrayed against each other. Then Goliath appears in verse 4 as a champion of the Philistines with a list of all his armour and weapons in verses 5–7. Goliath stands before the army of Saul and lays down a challenge for them to send out a man that they think can defeat him, and whoever is defeated, their country will serve the other (verse 9), hence he defied the armies of the God of Israel (verse 45). Saul and all Israel were sore afraid at his words. In verse 12 David is introduced as the youngest son of Jesse (verse 12–14). “David went and returned from Saul to feed his father’s sheep at Bethlehem” (verse 15). Verse 16 brings in again Goliath, as presenting himself twice a day for forty days laying down his challenge to Israel and their God. Then we are back to David and the beginning of when his father told him to “Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to the brethren” (verse 17 continues in 18). Then we have our verse where the scriptures record the account of David submitting to his father’s instruction; “David rose up...left the sheep with a keeper, and took, and went, as Jesse had commanded him”. Hence David obeyed his father.

Other scriptural support.

Eph.6: 1 & Col.3: 20.

Application of our verse today.

* The example of David obeying his father was recorded in the Old Testament as part of the “Oracle of God” given to the Jews (Rom.3: 2), and given Paul’s instruction in his letters to the churches it would be reasonable that this example is applicable to us today.

Illustration.

* Stubborn, defiant, and rebellious children are what society has generally created today, as one generation of obstinate children take on parenting and struggle to control their own children. The government steps in to control family violence through anti-smacking legislation, that only serves to deny the honourable parents their God-given right to use a rod and so bring about order in their homes. What is society left with? Self-willed children growing up doing everything their way.

Learning from our Illustration.

* In the wilderness Israel as a people were identified as “stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears” (Act 7: 51), because they resisted and disobeyed Moses and the prophets that God sent to correct them. They were as a rebellious child. Hence, the law of Moses requires children to “honour their father and mother” (Deut.5: 16), reiterated by the Lord Jesus (Jn.5: 23), and reinforced by Paul to the church (Eph,6: 2 & 6). Why? Because a child that obeys his earthly father as David did is more inclined to submit to the will of his heavenly Father, as David did.

Challenge & or encouragement.

* A challenge for all of us is to submit to those who have authority over us. Our flesh desires to do what it wants but scripture says that it is WELL PLEASING to the Lord for a child to obey their parents (Col.3: 20). But as parents have to work longer hours, or single parents struggle financially, these pressures effect what parents put in to disciplining their children, which fosters disobedience rather than submission. David was chosen by God to be king because he was submissive to authority, which begins when we are children. Let us pray and encourage Christian parents to not give in to the pressures of society and become relaxed in their discipline of their children. When that happens we set up our children to be the opposite of David, who obeyed his earthly father, as he did His heavenly father, because his heart was submissive to authority.

Summary of our three points.

(1) God chose David to be king because of his heart, and (2) the Lord sought David, a man after His own heart, and (3) David obeyed his father and showed his heart was submissive to authority.