

A Man After God's Own Heart

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Sermon in a Sentence: God is looking for people whose hearts are aligned with His.

Application: King David is called a man after God's heart, yet scripture reveals him to be a complex person who didn't always make the right decisions. Why did God choose to bless him, and how can we follow in those footsteps today?

Me

Have you ever had a friend that you could finish their sentences? Where you know what they will like and not like?

It's a matter of alignment. When you're aligned, things are easy. When you're not, it's not.

- On a car, it pulls, the car shakes and the tires wear faster
- We pay thousands to get teeth realigned
- When things are aligned we don't usually notice, but...
 - [IMAGE] Tile
 - [IMAGE] Bridge
 - [IMAGE] Manhole cover
- [IMAGE] Aurora My twitter timeline was aligned on Saturday morning, with everyone showing off pictures of the Aurora Borealis.

David's heart was in alignment with God

Acts 13: 21-22

²¹ Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. 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.'

What do we know about David? Giant slayer – Shepherd – Worshipper – Psalmist – Priestly King

That sounds pretty good. But the Bible is honest that he wasn't perfect. Adulterer, murderer, used his power for selfish gain.

Tension Set: Begs the question, with all of his many failings, why was David considered a man after God's own heart, and how do I get there?

We (Exploring the tension)

In Acts we just read that God was looking for someone who would do "everything I want him to do." (But not everything he did was God's will, obviously.)

What does it mean to be "of the same heart" as another person?

What is the big picture (sermon in a sentence):

[SLIDE] God is looking for people who's hearts are aligned with His.

God

David's heart was marked by several specific things that showed his heart was aligned with God's heart.

We already talked about his mistakes, so let's start there:

[SLIDE] A Heart Marked by Repentance

David and Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11

- When kings went out to war, David stayed behind. Many mark this moment to show that he was already struggling. He should have been leading but he ignored his responsibilities and sin was planted in his heart
 - Some of you have been called to lead, and gifted to lead, but have ignored your calling.
- David sees Bathsheba bathing and asks for her to be brought to him, then he sleeps with her and she ends up pregnant.
- To cover his mistake he tries to get her husband drunk, but he has too much integrity, so David sends him back to the battle that he should have been fighting and has him put on the front lines to kill him.
- Nathan the prophet is sent by God to confront David
 - **2 Sam 12: 7- You are that man! God says "I anointed you king, delivered you from Saul, and gave you all of Israel and Judah.**
 - **Vs8- If this wasn't enough, I would have given you even more!**
 - Therefore, your family and the nation will be punished
 - **2 Samuel 12: 13 (NIV)- ¹³Then 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.**
- **Psalm 51: 1-2, 10-12 (NIV)**

- **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.
- **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.
 - He points out that his sin was against God.
 - Our sin has worldly consequences, but it also breaks relationship with God.
 - When you sin, how do you handle it? Lie? Deny? Have the prophet exiled? David still had options, but he chooses repent because it's in his heart.
 - When we sin, and we all will, we have to say sorry
 - Repentance is more than sorry, it's turning back to God to meet those needs
- David was far from perfect, but that's not the standard. God's standard is holiness, and it's only found in relationship with Him.
- **Psalm 139: 23-24 (NIV)**
²³ Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts.
²⁴ See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.
- Let's take time to be quiet before God right now, search me O God.
- We need to be a people marked by repentance!

David had a deep love for the law of God that drove him to repent and worship God

[SLIDE] A Heart Marked by Obedience

- **Psalm 1:1-2 (NIV)**
- **¹ Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers,**
² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night.
- **Psalm 19: 1, 7-8, 10 (NIV)- The law of God is perfect, it brings life and wisdom**
¹ The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands.
⁷ The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.
⁸ The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart.
The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
¹⁰ They are more precious than gold
- **Psalm 119:1, 105 (NIV)**
¹ Blessed are those whose ways are blameless,
who walk according to the law of the Lord.

**¹⁰⁵Your word is a lamp for my feet,
a light on my path.**

- David knows that when you study and meditate on the word of God, your life is blessed, you have direction, you have wisdom, you are kept from sin, you have joy, and so much more!
- **Psalm 119: 103 (NIV)**
¹⁰³How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

There's a story in 2 Samuel 6 that emphasizes David's obedient heart, and also his heart of worship.

[IMAGE] Ark of the Covenant

It starts before Israel has a king, under the high priest Eli, when the presence of God (the ark) was being used as a lucky rabbit's foot in order to win a battle.

[IMAGE] Journey of the Ark

- Battle with the Philistines, they lose, the ark is brought from the tabernacle in Shiloh to Ebenezer, and then lose 30,000 men plus the ark
- The Philistines take the ark to their temple in Ashdod and place it in front of their god. First night the idol is found laying on it's face before the ark, second night same but missing head and hands. (Our God is all powerful!!!) It is then taken to the cities of Gath and Ekron where God strikes them with plagues.
- After 7 months they return the ark but it stays in Kiriath Jearim
 - Side note: King Saul ignores the ark of God during his entire reign
 - One of David's first acts as king is to bring the presence of God back to the nation
- Why are we spending so much time on this? Because God is holy, and there is a prescribed way to interact with His presence.

David has a lot of passion for God but is ignorant of the right way to do things and it results in a man dying for treating the presence of God casually.

2 Samuel 6: 6-9 (NIV)

⁶When they came to the threshing floor of Nakon, Uzzah reached out and took hold of the ark of God, because the oxen stumbled. ⁷The Lord's anger burned against Uzzah because of his irreverent act; therefore God struck him down, and he died there beside the ark of God. ⁸Then David was angry because the Lord's wrath had broken out against Uzzah, and to this day that place is called Perez Uzzah.

⁹David was afraid of the Lord that day and said, “How can the ark of the Lord ever come to me?”

[SLIDE] The presence of God is to be carried by people, not things

- We are the temple of God

David spends 3 months learning the right way to transport the ark, and after hearing about how God was blessing the house of Obed-Edom, he goes to get it.

[SLIDE] A Heart Marked by Worship

- This is where we see David’s extravagant worship.

2 Samuel 6: 13-15 (NIV)

¹³When those who were carrying the ark of the Lord had taken six steps, he sacrificed a bull and a fattened calf. ¹⁴Wearing a linen ephod, David was dancing before the Lord with all his might, ¹⁵ while he and all Israel were bringing up the ark of the Lord with shouts and the sound of trumpets.

- Nowhere is the sacrifice commanded, but he wants to make sure he’s honoring God, taking 6 steps (man’s number) and then offering 2 sacrifices.
- Every time the ephod is mentioned in the Bible, it references someone fulfilling a priestly duty.
- I think the main point here is that David took off his royal robes in order to worship with the people.
- We should never be “too cool” to worship before our God.
- His wife confronts him, and I love his response:

2 Samuel 6: 21-22 (NIV)

²¹David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. ²²I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

- David’s worship was passionate and costly
- **2 Samuel 24:24 (NIV): But the king replied to Araunah, “No, I insist on paying you for it. I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing.”**
- When is the last time you sacrificed to worship God?

David was humble in repentance, steadfast in obedience, and passionate in worship. This is a heart that is seeking after God.

Altar- Let’s spend some time worshipping God together with passion!