

# King David, Early Life and Kingship

---

## 1, 2 Samuel

### - *Introduction*

- One of my professors would always encourage people to think about their worship of God in three parts: head, heart, hands. I've found this to be really a very helpful way of thinking of worship, and in my experience, usually people are good at one or two, but never all three. Some people are all head--they know all about God, but they struggle with loving him and loving people. They would rather discuss a passage of scripture endlessly than actually do what it teaches. Others will serve a church their entire lives and never open up the word, or tell a fellow church member they love them, or allow any of their beliefs to be changed. Others will passionately follow the Lord, but they are easily deceived by false doctrine because they don't spend time really digging into the scriptures and struggling with the nature of God or the true practice of the faith. My hope is that you will do work in your areas of weakness, and partner with those who complement you. God calls us to worship him with head, heart, hands, mind, heart, soul, strength--he loves all of you, and desires to be worshipped with everything, with abandon.

### - *Leader Prep Help*

- The first thing to note about David is that he is basically the opposite of Saul. Given his appearance and trade, he's the last person anyone would expect to be king (shepherding was a low profession in that society, and the youngest son had little inheritance and virtually no prospects in life). Notice, when Samuel asks Jesse to present his sons, David isn't even asked to come. He was a poor choice for king, except that God was with him. God almost always works this way--with people we wouldn't expect, with the weak and unimpressive--to show that worldly measures of strength and importance are off-base, and those works and people that really matter are the ones whom God chooses for his work in the world.
- David's un-kingliness should remind us of Jesus. The ruler of the universe coming to us as a shamed child from a small town, made to sleep with the animals. The one who has swallowed "kings and emperors, cities and realms," was mocked and executed by a provincial climber. God is never what we expect, or where, which should show us how far we have to go in conforming our sight and thought to that of our Father.

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

- David's relationship with Saul is complicated (understatement). He is son-in-law, usurper, faithful ally, enemy, minister, torment. Through this relationship, we come to know David as one who sought to follow the Lord through hardship, to show mercy abundantly (even to a fault), and to remain faithful to the Lord's plan and calling, even when the Lord's plans seems to mean hardship for him.
  - David's relationship with Jonathan is as inspiring as it is foreign to many of us. Some have made accusations of sexual immorality between the two of them, but that supposition is baseless, especially considering that the Bible delves deeply into David's sexual sins, but doesn't mention any impropriety between the two friends. What it does mention is a deep and abiding love between the two men, brought about by a deep and abiding love for the Lord. They were family, community. We, as a church, need to encourage such friendships in our society of isolation and loneliness. Such relationships are refining, and essential to lifelong faithfulness to God. We see in 1 Kings how this relationship was formed, through a shared love of God, a shared pursuit of the will of the Lord through adversity, and a kind of emotional vulnerability which is rare and precious in our modern day.
- *Discussion Questions: What does it mean to be a man after God's own heart?*
- Read 1 Samuel 16:1-13
  - A man after God's own heart...loves God above all else.
    - What does it mean to love God above all else (does it mean that you have to love other things less, or not at all)? How is our love for God different than our love for other things? How does David exemplify a love for God above all else in his life?
  - Fears God alone
    - If God loves us, why does he want us to fear him--what are we afraid of? What's the relationship between fear and love? How can you love someone and also be afraid of him?
    - What does it look like to fear people instead of God? How do we, as individuals and as a small group, cultivate these aspects of fear and love of God alone in our lives today
  - Fights from faith and for the Lord
    - Read 1 Samuel 17:37. What is David's faith based on--why is he so confident? How can we as Christians live with similar faith today? How can we as a church help others to live in faith like this?

Tuesday, September 26, 2017

- In verse 18:10, the text says an “evil or harmful” spirit came from God to torment Saul. What does this mean? Why would God torment one of his own people, and should we worry that he will torment us?
- Loves other people after God’s own heart
  - Do you love people the way you would want to be loved? Why or why not? What are some things standing in the way? What are some practical ways to love each other more as a community group?
- Shows mercy
  - David shows mercy multiple times to Saul at great cost to himself (1 Sam 26:10). Why would he do that? How can we show mercy today to people? What does showing mercy mean in an instance where it is not life and death?
- Honors the authority over him
  - In what ways did David honor the authority over him? Does he honor Saul?
- Submits humbly
  - What is submission, and how is it different from oppression? Why does God want us to submit to authority, and what if that authority contradicts with God’s calling on our lives, as it does with David?
- Worships God freely
  - Do you feel like you worship God as freely as he desires for you? What would it look like to worship God with abandon in your life and in the life of our church?