

**June 18, 2006 (Father's Day)**

**"The LORD has sought out a man after His own heart"**

**1 Sam 13:14(NIV)**

[Click here for the notes that were in the bulletin.](#)

Acts 13:22 NLT

David, a man about whom God said, 'David son of Jesse is a man after my own heart, for he will do everything I want him to.'

God is seeking out men after His own heart. Acts 13:22 tells us what that means, a man after God's own heart is a man who will do everything God wants him to. That's a tall order. Has any man ever done *everything* God wants him to? David is given as an example. Wait a minute...David? Did David do everything God wanted him to? Far from it. David did some horrible things. Sorry, to burst your bubble about David. I don't mean any disrespect to David. We think of him as a super hero of the Bible and he is. We all know the story of David and Goliath. I love that story. It was a great example of David's faith and trust in God. And that's what it is...sure David showed courage but, he had courage because he had faith. Talking about Goliath, he says to Saul (the king he would later replace), 1 Sam 17:37 (NLT), "The LORD who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine!" (as a shepherd boy, God helped David protect his flocks from lions and bears... "Oh, my!" and he believed God would save him from Goliath too). And when he faced Goliath...1 Sam 17:45-47 (NLT) David shouted in reply (to him), "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD Almighty--the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. Today the LORD will conquer you, ...and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone will know that the LORD does not need weapons to rescue his people. It is his battle, not ours. The LORD will give you to us!"

Then he went out with his faith and trust in God and what God could do, and, as we know, David rocked Goliath (literally). We've heard the story even as little children and have told the story to our children. I really admire David in this story and I would never bad mouth a super hero of the Bible.

But when it comes to well known people of the Bible, we have a tendency to think of them much higher than we ought. David was an ordinary man just like us. We think of him as a super-human – a super-godly person. He *was* a great man of faith. God said, "I love this man's heart." But, let's be honest, David did some horrible things. I could give you a few examples, let me give just one incident from his life. It is probably the most familiar disappointment from David's life.

[2 Sam 11 (David commits adultery and murder)]

One time David was not where he was suppose to be. He was home when he was suppose to be at work. He should have been with his army, instead, he was at the palace. He was idle at the palace with not a lot to do. And you know what they say, "an idle mind or boredom is the devil's workshop." He goes to the roof of the palace and sees a

beautiful women bathing. He looks a little too long. Then to make things worse, he has her brought to him and he commits adultery with her. Then to make it worse she gets pregnant. And to make things worse she is the wife of someone he knows, Uriah, a man who not only serves in David's army, but someone referred to as one of David's mighty men, part of his special forces. Uriah is someone who has been very loyal to David. And to make it worse, David lies and schemes, to make the husband think he is the one who made his wife pregnant, David brings him home from battle. But the scheme doesn't work because of Uriah's sense of duty and loyalty. And so to make things worse David arrangers for the husband to be killed by sending him to the front lines with orders that when the battle is fiercest, pull back so that he will be killed.

That is how sin is, one sin leads to another and can get progressively worse. Like I said, this is just one example of David's immorality and violence. How can he be called a man after God's own heart?

First realize that this does not mean his heart was just like God's heart. That he was just as holy and loving as God - that his heart was just the same as God's. That God has a heart and David has one just like it. That is not what is meant here.

The context of 1 Sam 13: 14 is that when Israel's first king, Saul was disobedient to the laws of God, God named David to be made King because he was a man who unlike Saul would do what God wanted him to do as Israel's king. In other words, David, in his public life, not private life, would obey God and do the things God required, thus being a man after God's own heart.

He would give strict attention to the law and worship of God.

He would never attempt to alter any of God's laws.

He would admit that God was King in Israel, and that he himself would be like a deputy acting under the authority of God. In all his public official conduct he would act according to and in fulfillment of the will of his God: these are the reasons he was a man after God's own heart.

In reference to his private or personal moral conduct, the phrase is never used. Yet, I have to tell you...though David being a man after God's own heart meant that as king he would do all that God wanted him to do. He still had a heart for God. And I love this guy's heart. Let me tell you why...as a matter of fact I will let David himself tell you.

David did a lot of writing that is recorded in the Bible, specifically in the Psalms. So let's look at some of the things he wrote and you will know why I and perhaps God also, loved this guy's heart (and, of course I want you to think about your life as we go over these, for God still seeks out men after His own heart:

1. David trusted in the sovereignty of God

Ps 31:15 (NIV)

My times are in your hands;

[He knew God had a plan for his life, and his trust in God brought stability to his life ...and trust in God will bring stability to your life too.)

2. David had Respect, awe, reverence for God and passion for His presence

Ps 34:1-3 NCV

I will praise the LORD at all times;

his praise is always on my lips.

2 My whole being praises the LORD.

The poor will hear and be glad.

3 Glorify the LORD with me,  
and let us praise his name together.

Ps 63:2-4 (NIV)

I have seen you in the sanctuary  
and beheld your power and your glory.

3 Because your love is better than life,  
my lips will glorify you.

4 I will praise you as long as I live,  
and in your name I will lift up my hands.

Ps 122:1(NIV)

I rejoiced with those who said to me,  
"Let us go to the house of the LORD ."

[this is why I believe God loved this guy's heart. He had a passion for the presence of God and for the worship of God.]

3. David Loved the Word of God

Ps 119:11,18,32 NLT

11 I have hidden your word in my heart,  
that I might not sin against you.

[not only did David have a desire to know God's Word, but he also had the desire to not sin against God. As we have seen he was not sinless, but his desire, his intention was to not sin against the God he loved.]

18 Open my eyes to see  
the wonderful truths in your law.  
[you can hear the love he had for God's word]

32 If you will help me,  
I will run to follow your commands.

Ps 119:72-73

72 Your law is more valuable to me

than millions in gold and silver!

[are you motivated by money or by God changing and transforming you into the image of Christ?]

73 You made me; you created me.

Now give me the sense to follow your commands.

Ps 119:148

I stay awake through the night,

thinking about your promise.

[don't meditate on your problems, but on God's promises and your problems will dissolve. God's word guided David's heart.]

4. And perhaps this more than anything else is the reason God loved this guy's heart. David was passionate for God in his life. David was desperate for God in his life. David understood his need for regular, personal renewal of his relationship with God.

Let me pick up the story of what followed after David had Uriah killed.

2 Sam 11:26-27 NLT

When Bathsheba heard that her husband was dead, she mourned for him. 27 When the period of mourning was over, David sent for her and brought her to the palace, and she became one of his wives. Then she gave birth to a son. But the LORD was very displeased with what David had done.

2 Sam 12:1-13 NLT

So the LORD sent Nathan the prophet to tell David this story: "There were two men in a certain town. One was rich, and one was poor. 2 The rich man owned many sheep and cattle. 3 The poor man owned nothing but a little lamb he had worked hard to buy. He raised that little lamb, and it grew up with his children. It ate from the man's own plate and drank from his cup. He cuddled it in his arms like a baby daughter. 4 One day a guest arrived at the home of the rich man. But instead of killing a lamb from his own flocks for food, he took the poor man's lamb and killed it and served it to his guest."

5 David was furious. "As surely as the LORD lives," he vowed, "any man who would do such a thing deserves to die! 6 He must repay four lambs to the poor man for the one he stole and for having no pity."

7 Then Nathan [pointed his boney finger in David's face and] said to David, "You are that man! The LORD, the God of Israel, says, 'I anointed you king of Israel and saved you from the power of Saul. 8 I gave you his house and his wives and the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. And if that had not been enough, I would have given you much, much more. 9 Why, then, have you despised the word of the LORD and done this horrible deed? For you have murdered Uriah and stolen his wife. 10 From this time

on, the sword will be a constant threat to your family, because you have despised me by taking Uriah's wife to be your own.

11 " `Because of what you have done, I, the LORD, will cause your own household to rebel against you. I will give your wives to another man, and he will go to bed with them in public view. 12 You did it secretly, but I will do this to you openly in the sight of all Israel.' "

13 Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD."  
[and that more than anything else, is one of David's greatest moments. He admits his sin and seeks God's forgiveness and so when he says "I have sinned against the LORD." ...]

Nathan replied, "Yes, but the LORD has forgiven you,

You see, what I love about David is that he was an ordinary guy. He had his problems. He did things most would never do. He was not sinless, yet God loved his heart. Why? Because David was commitment to God and had a growing love for God. When he was confronted with his sin, he confessed immediately. That more than anything makes him a man who is seeking after the heart of God.

Our behavior is not the foundational problem, it is a symptom. We must have right conduct. We have too much sinful conduct... in the church! And we need to correct it. But, our conduct is not the foundational problem. What is missing is a passionate pursuit of God. We are not desperate enough for God.

Let me read once more from the Psalms:

Ps 42:1-2 NLT

As the deer pants for streams of water,  
so I long for you, O God.

2 I thirst for God, the living God.

Does that describe your feelings for God? If not then start being passionate for God. You say, how can I create a passion for God? Doesn't it just have to come over me. No! Passion, like so many other things, is a choice. You choose what you will be passionate about. And when you choose to be passionate then the feelings will follow.

Was David a super hero of the Bible? Yes!

It was David who stood up to Goliath

It was David who wanted a temple to be built for the worship of God

It was David who danced with all his might before God.

It was David who faithfully served God and country as King of Israel.

But was David without fault? No!

David was not a sinless man, *but* he was a man who pursued God. David was committed to God and had a growing love for God. This is what the church needs today. Not someone who is going to keep all the rules (not that I object to having rules, we need rules) not men who are sinless? No. If sinlessness is required we will all fail. Conduct is important, we must do right, but more than anything what the church needs today is men, and women, and teens with a passion for God. Let us be a people who will pursue the heart of God.