

Talk Park Road Baptist Church 27.06.2021

Today we come to the final service on looking at King David.

We have learned about him being a boy, about him being a friend, about him being a sinner and today we look at 'a man after God's own heart.' Something that encompasses all of David's life. In lots of ways we are like David, our lives are very similar to his. We have been children, we all have personal friends, we are certainly all sinners and we strive to put our hearts into Gods ways. If we think about it this is the way most of life is.

David put his heart and soul into serving God from a very young age, by killing the Giant Goliath he showed that God has a heart and a job for children. When I was younger it was always thought that children should be seen and not heard, especially in church and I thank God that in today in most churches children are recognised not as nuisances but part of the family of God. After all they are the ones that will carry on the work of God when we are no longer around. Jesus said 'that we should become like children, if we want to be part of God.'

His friendship with Jonathan was 2nd to none. They loved each other as brothers, Johnathan even took David's side against his father Saul. A friendship born out of God's grace. Jonathan knew he wouldn't be king so gave his heart and soul to keep David safe. To quote our Jonathan from 2 weeks ago, 'their friendship was one of lasting commitment even through hardship. Their friendship was one of faithfulness and commitment, they remembered each other and were loyal to each other and their friendship had a spiritual dimension, it was rooted in God.' Do you have a friend like that?

Yet David was a sinner, he broke the commandments of God, do not commit adultery, do not murder and although it can be argued that he didn't actually murder Uriah the Hittite he was complicit in the way that it actually came about as you heard last week.

And today we come to David a man after God's own heart. Our reading this morning from Act 13:22 said this, *After removing Saul, he made David their king. He 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''* why was David called this, it was because he would do everything that God wanted him to do. David's heart was always pointed towards God. His faithfulness and thankfulness never wavered, even in the darkest of times, He loved God's word and meditated on it daily.

Sometimes we ask the question, why God would forgive David for his wrongdoings. For he had committed an act that was directly in opposition to God's divine instructions, Yet God forgave David, because he truly repented of what he had done, and asked for forgiveness but we all know that there are consequences of sin and In spite of David's prayers, the child that was conceived with Bathsheba died, and David was also told by God that his family would suffer division and public humiliation and even the same immorality that David had partaken in. Even so David still remained faithful to God.

David's life was marked by seasons of great peace and prosperity as well as times of fear and despair. But through all of the seasons in his life, he never forgot to thank the Lord for everything that he had. It is truly one of David's finest characteristics. *"Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!" (Psalm 100:4, ESV)*. As followers of Jesus Christ, we would do well to follow David's lead of offering praise through thanksgiving to our Lord every day no matter what circumstances we find ourselves in.

If you want to look at the relationship that David had with God the book of Psalms is the place to look. Over half of them were written by David. For example Psalms of praise, **Psalm 8, 145**, of Joy, **Psalms 6, 66**, of peace **Psalms 23, 131**, of mercy **psalm 51**, of repentance **Psalms 32 and 51** Psalms of forgiveness and thanksgiving **Psalm 32**, these are just a few of the references in bible to where we can find the relationship between God and David and if we read them then they will certainly help in our own relationship with God

So what can we do to be people after God's own heart?

We can take stock of our lives. Are we doing what God wants us to do? Do we take time out just to be with him? Is our relationship with God good? You see it is possible for someone who is passionate about God, who loves him unconditionally to be vulnerable to a moment of madness, (not just like David was with Bathsheba) but in other avenues of life, such as gossip, hardheartedness, un-forgiveness etc. which causes us to fall short of God's glory.

We can all learn something from the life of David. We are all going to sin. It doesn't matter if you are a king, elder, judge, president, preacher, CEO, policeman, grandparent, or whatever title you have been given or whatever maturity you might have obtained. It is important to own up to your sin when it

is brought to your attention. It is imperative for you to fully repent and show a desire for change in your heart and mind and life. And it is important, that you not lose your faith in God when you are punished for unrighteousness. There will always be temporal consequences to sin. But they don't have last for an eternity.

David was a man after God's own heart because he demonstrated his faith and was committed to following the Lord. Yes, his faith was tested on a grand scale, and he failed at times. But after his sin he sought and received the Lord's forgiveness. And we can do the same, We CAN change and we CAN be forgiven of any sin, no matter how grievous. But in order for that to happen, our hearts must be soft. We need to have the heart of David, who had a heart like God's (Acts 13:22).