

SESSION 2 David with a Heart after God: Twelve Qualities

I. SAMUEL PROPHETICALLY DESCRIBES DAVID AS SAUL'S REPLACEMENT

- A. God described David's personality and character more than anyone else in Scripture except for Jesus. Moses, Paul and the apostles were only described a few times in a personal way in Scripture.
- B. The first description that God gave of David is the most well-known. God gave this revelation through Samuel to Saul (David's mortal enemy) in 1 Sam. 13. David was called *the man after God's own heart* while still a boy. God knew the seeds that were in his heart. God knew how the best journey for the seeds to mature.

The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander (leader) over His people... (1 Sam. 13:14)

- 1. To **obey the commands** of God's heart (sincerity of intention) - Psalm 101 is the clearest statement of David's practical pursuit of 100-fold obedience in his *personal life* (Ps. 101:1-4) and then within his *corporate life* (team ministry) to build with the core value of seeking God with full obedience and faithfulness (Ps. 101:5-8).
 - 2. To **study the emotions** of God's heart (intimacy and encounter with God's beauty and heart)
 - 3. To **contend for the purpose of** God's heart (full power/promises in our destiny). Especially to build a resting place for the Lord in his generation through prayer and worship. The result is that God would manifest His glory and defeat His enemies. David's heart cry for God to come in a manifest dwelling place (God's rest). Psalm 101; 132; 69; 1 Chr. 22; 28-29 are the clearest statements of David's pursuit of a corporate resting place for God. Nothing was more like David than to build a place for prayer and worship for the manifest presence of God to go forth to conquer the enemies of God now and in the Millennial Kingdom.
- C. God evaluated David in the same way, *before and after his life* was over (1,000 years later in Acts 13). ***He is established in Scripture as God's standard of obedience.*** Even in his weakness, he was esteemed by God as "one who did **all** of God's will and served God's purpose" (Acts 13:22, 36).

The LORD has sought for Himself a man after His own heart... (1 Sam. 13:14)

He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, "I have found David...a man after My own heart, who will do all My will." (Acts 13:22)

David after he had served his own generation BY THE WILL OF GOD, fell asleep...(Acts 13:36)

David after he had served the PURPOSE OF GOD in his own generation, fell asleep...(NAS)

- D. God's second description of David is in context to Saul's sin with the Amalekites (1 Sam. 15).
Samuel said to him (Saul), "The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today, and has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you." (1 Sam. 15:28)

II. FOUR DIFFERENT SIDES TO THIS PROPHETIC DRAMA

- A. **God's side of the story:** The Lord "sought" for David and is still seeking for this type of person (2 Chr. 16:9; Jn. 4:24) and found him (Ps. 89:20).

I have found My servant David; With My holy oil I have anointed him. (Ps. 89:20)

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. (2 Chr. 16:9)

The hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. (Jn. 4:23)

- B. **Samuel's side of the story:** God told him to anoint another to replace Saul. Samuel feared that this would cause Saul to kill him (1 Sam. 16:2).

Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." (1 Sam. 16:2)

- C. **David's side of the story:** he was seeking to know God as the highest vision for his life.

- D. **Saul's side of the story:** he knew from these two prophecies (1 Sam. 13:14; 15:28), that God had decided to replace him with someone close and who was better, thus no one from his circle who had his values. (David does not come into the narrative until 1 Sam. 16). God said to Saul, "Your replacement is your neighbor and he is a better person than you." Saul knew that David was God's choice and thus had no excuse for seeking to kill David. However, this incited Saul in his sin to attack David, which was God's tool to train David to be king.

- E. **Leadership Lesson:** When God desires to raise up a "David," He uses a demonized leader with many resources like King Saul. The time of the replacement was still not for nearly another 15 years (Saul died at 70 when David was 30). God knew the whole time that He would kill Saul, but waited until David was ready to rule.

III. DAVID: GOD'S PATTERN (WITNESS) FOR THE REDEEMED

David is a picture of what God wants to release by the Holy Spirit on the end-time-David generation. David is the model for obedience and faith. We look for NT counterparts to these qualities in the grace of God. David is a picture of the Church that loves, worships and wars in the Spirit.

I will make an everlasting covenant with you--The sure mercies of David. ⁴Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people. (Isa. 55:3-4)

I will give you shepherds according to My heart...will feed you with...understanding (Jer. 3:15)

You promised...David, saying, "You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me." (1 Kings 8:25)

Show me a sign for good...because You, LORD, have helped me and comforted me. (Ps. 86:17)

IV. DAVID'S CORE REALITY: SPIRITUAL IDENTITY BASED IN INTIMACY AND MEEKNESS

- A. The primary way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life was by two core issues: *intimacy with God* and *meekness before people*. In other words, first he established his primary identity (his sense of value/success) in intimacy with God as being loved by God and in being a lover of God, then second he walked in meekness. David *felt successful before God* (ultimate sense) *in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love and meekness*.
- B. **Leadership Lesson:** Our primary identity in life is to be one who is “loved and a lover;” therefore, we are successful before God (which is ultimate).
- C. **The primary challenge:** to see God as our source and goal, not the promotion and those things related to promotion.

These were strengthened in each of seasons of his life. His calling and function flowed from these.

David lived in Bethlehem until he was approximately 17 years old. God's purpose for him in the “Bethlehem years” was to be established in this. **Leadership Lesson:** Our primary identity in life is to be one who is “loved and a lover” therefore, we are successful before God (which is ultimate). Our primary attitude must be to grow in lowliness of heart (meekness or a servant spirit) as one faithful in small things.

V. DAVID'S PRIMARY IDENTITY: INTIMACY WITH GOD (WHO HE WAS BEFORE GOD)

- A. David's primary identity (value and success) was established in who he was spiritually or who he was in his intimacy with God. In other words, who he was before God as “*one that God loved*” then as “*one who loved God*” *in return (overflowed to others)*. By the anointing of the Spirit, David *felt* the power of being loved by God and of loving (God/others) in return. David's *primary paradigm of success* was in being successful before God (which is ultimate success) with the “anointing to love and live in meekness.” This is a radical paradigm for living on earth.

I am my Beloved's, and His desire is toward me. (Song 7:10)

- B. This was the first way in which David saw himself and measured (evaluated) the success of his life. In other words, he *felt successful before God in context to how much he grew in the anointing of love*. Based on this, Jesus told Martha that Mary of Bethany had chosen the best part of life which could not be taken from her (Lk. 10: 38-42). All that is truly of God leads us to grow in receiving more of His love (often this includes feeling its tenderness) or returning it to Him, then overflowing in it (love and meekness) towards others. All that is of love lasts forever. This is the only reality that we will bring with us when we stand before God.
- C. **Summary:** David's primary identity was in being one who was “*loved* (by God) *and was a lover* (to God/others) *therefore, successful.*” Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving, therefore, he felt successful even when his kingship was threatened.

- D. David's primary attitude: walk in meekness. David's primary attitude in each season of his life was to walk in meekness or with a servant spirit whether as a shepherd, armorbearer, fugitive or king. He expressed this in a practical way, by being faithful in the small things (mundane tasks). The only character trait Jesus proclaimed about Himself was His meekness.

Take My yoke...learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart... (Mt. 11:29)

...for I am gentle and humble in heart...(Mt. 11:29, NIV, NAS)

- E. In Bethlehem, even in his youth, David developed a spiritual root system of intimacy with God and meekness before people. This foundation was strengthened in each of the following seasons in his life. Because David felt the power of being loved and of loving, he felt successful, thus had "clear perspective" even when his kingship was threatened. In promotion, David continued in his primary spiritual identity without being distracted by many new opportunities and responsibilities in being king.
- F. **Leadership Lesson:** We must cultivate the grace to be lowly in heart (humility, meekness or a servant spirit) as we serve diligently in *very little* (Lk. 19:17) or *few things* (Mt. 25:21). We can only do this as we develop our primary spiritual identity as one who is "loved and a lover" so that we are ***already profoundly successful before God***. When we "feel successful" because of who we are in the love of God, then we have the foundation and strength to walk out our assignment faithfully before others (in times of honor and dishonor, prosperity and difficulty) without losing either our intimacy with God or our meekness before men. This is a dynamic place of stability and fruitfulness that helps us not to waver in prosperity or difficulty. Like David, we must focus on being established in our primary identity and meekness, rather than in "our future leadership opportunities." We must also continue to develop the *oil of intimacy* with Jesus while having a servant spirit in seasons of new opportunities, responsibilities, and prominence.

VI. VALUES AND SKILLS THAT DEFINE DAVID AS HIGHLIGHTED IN SCRIPTURE

- A. ***Passionate worshipper:*** longing to encounter and understand God's beauty (Ps 27:4; 18:1; 31:23; 36:8; 145:5) and wonder (Ps. 19; 36; 145). David **was first and foremost a worshipper**.

One thing I have desired of the LORD, that will I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD. (Ps. 27:4)

LORD, remember David... ²How he swore to the LORD, and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob: ³"Surely I will not go into the chamber of my house, or go up to the comfort of my bed; ⁴I will not give sleep to my eyes or slumber to my eyelids, ⁵UNTIL I find a place for the LORD, a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob." (Ps. 132:1-5)

The LORD said to my father David, "Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well in that it was in your heart." (2 Chr. 6:8)

Gentiles...whom God drove out (of the land)....until the days of David, ⁴⁶who found favor before God and asked to find a dwelling for the God of Jacob. (Acts 7:45-46)

Leadership Lesson: David as “worshipping warrior” sought to gain victory over God’s enemies (ministry/marketplace) with worship as his foundational strategy

- B. **Confidence in God’s mercy** (Ps. 13:5; 18:19): in failure and weakness (Ps. 32; 38; 51; 69), David had unusual ability to fully receive the free mercy and goodness of God.

I have trusted in Your mercy; My heart shall rejoice in Your salvation. (Ps. 13:5)

He brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me because He delighted in me. (Ps. 18:19)

This confidence was especially seen in his **Ziklag years** (1 Sam. 27-30). and then in his failure in committing *adultery with Bathsheba* and *murdering Uriah* (2 Sam. 11-12), leading unto the time of the civil war in Israel (2 Sam. 15-20).

Leadership Lesson: Even in David’s weakness, he pressed in as a genuine worshiper instead of putting himself on a self-determined religious time of ‘probation.’

- C. **Confidence in God’s Sovereignty:** David saw **God as his source** of protection, promotion, provision, and direction. This was the key to his peace in times of loss or mistreatment.

Into Your hand I commit my spirit...(Ps. 31:5)

LORD has commanded him to be commander (leader) over His people..." (1 Sam. 13:14)

Let the LORD judge between you and me, and let the LORD avenge me on you. but my hand shall not be against you. 13...my hand shall not be against you....15 Therefore let the LORD be judge, and judge between you and me, and see and plead my case, and deliver me out of your hand." (1 Sam. 24:12-15)

David often settled conflict by proclaiming “*let the Lord judge or decide*” (Ps. 31:5; 1 Sam. 24:12, 15; 26:9-11, 23-24; 2 Sam. 2:1-4; 5:12; 15:26; 16:5-14; 1 Chr. 12:17; 19:13). David **rested** in knowing he was a **God-appointed leader** and not a *self-appointed leader* like Korah (Num. 16-17), nor *man-appointed leader* like Saul (1 Sam. 8). Therefore, David was not consumed in protecting his sphere of authority. This is especially seen in his early years when he was being pursued by Saul as he hid in the area of Adullam (1 Sam. 20-31), and then in the revolt of Absalom against him in his later years (2 Sam. 15-20).

Leadership Lesson: David was **not** preoccupied in protecting his sphere of accomplishment and authority, but stepped back to let the Lord establish him.

- D. **Deep intention to obey:** David had a deep resolve to obey God. In his weakness, he would receive God’s mercy as the means to return to radical obedience. There was a strong and persistent *yes* in his spirit to God.

I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart. (Ps. 40:8)

He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, “I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.” (Acts 13:22)

David after he had served his own generation BY THE WILL OF GOD, fell asleep...(Acts 13:36)

David after he had served the PURPOSE OF GOD in his own generation, fell asleep...(NAS)

The LORD appeared to Solomon...¹⁷“As for you, if you walk before Me as your father David walked...¹⁸then I will establish the throne of your kingdom (2 Chr. 7:12-18)

I will not take the whole kingdom out of his (Solomon’s) hand, because I have made him ruler... for the sake of...David, whom I chose because he kept My commandments. (1 Kings 11:34)

Samuel said: “...Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice...²³For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft...because you (Saul) have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.” (1 Sam. 15:22-23)

- E. **Operating in the opposite spirit of immorality:** pure eyes. New boundaries (reaching unto the inner man): establishing a covenant with our eyes (Ps. 101:2-3) David understood the eye gate was the battle front to walk perfect (mature) before God (Mt. 5:48)

I will behave wisely in a perfect way. Oh, when will You come to me (greater intimacy with God)? I will walk within my house with a perfect heart. ³I will set nothing wicked before my eyes; I hate the work of those who fall away; it shall not cling to me. (Ps. 101:2-3)

I have made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman? ⁹If my heart has been enticed by a woman, or if I have lurked at my neighbor's door, ¹⁰Then let my wife grind for another... (Job 31:1, 9-10)

Leadership Lesson: David’s desire to please God was greater than his desire to achieve greatness before people. Disobedience (that is not followed by deep repentance) leads to dimensions of real loss in terms of our role in God’s plan on earth and the fullness of our destiny.

- F. **Humble leadership style** (King): David had a teachable and servant spirit and was restrained in victory. He was humble before God and man. He was easy to correct. This carried over in his attitude toward his enemies (2 Samuel 16). He had grace to inspire loyalty in others by this. David’s meekness is seen in inheriting a Millennial Kingdom position that can only be done with profound meekness.

Leadership Lesson: God is looking for leaders who, like David, possess a teachable, servant spirit.

- G. **Integrity of heart** (servant spirit): faithful in small things with a servant spirit. God’s view of David through Asaph who was a fellow-psalmist in David’s choir (1 Chr. 6:39) and seer (2 Chr. 29:30)

He (David) shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, and guided them by the skillfulness of his hands. (Ps. 78:72)

His lord said to him, “Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.” (Mt. 25:21)

David left his supplies in the hand of the supply keeper, ran to the army...(1 Sam. 17:22)

Leadership Lesson: David was faithful in small things with a servant spirit as he lived the same in public as he did in private.

- H. ***Zealous warrior*** (courageous): David was a man of war or one who was in courageous aggressive pursuit of driving out the enemy from God’s people (1 Sam. 16:18). David killed the lion and the bear (1 Sam. 17:34), then Goliath (1 Sam. 17: 50).

Son of Jesse (David) is...a mighty man of valor, a man of war... (1 Sam. 16:18)

For by You I can run against a troop, by my God I can leap over a wall. (Ps. 18:29)

David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword....I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. ⁴⁶This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you...that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel...." (1 Sam. 17:45-47)

Leadership Lesson: David inspired courage in others because it was deeply rooted in his lifestyle.

- I. ***Prudent in speech***: David spoke with godly diplomacy because he was skilled with wise speech. He had skill in relational issues and solving complex tensions. Even in his youth, he possessed gracious diplomacy that unified people in God instead of separating them.

I have seen a son of Jesse (David)...who is...prudent in speech... (1 Sam. 16:18)

I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. (Mat 10:16)

David went out wherever Saul sent him, and behaved wisely. Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people.... (1 Sam. 18:5)

David behaved wisely in all his ways, and the LORD was with him. ¹⁵Therefore, when Saul saw that he behaved very wisely, he was afraid of him. (1 Sam. 18:14-15)

David behaved more wisely than all...his name became highly esteemed. (1 Sam. 18:30)

David understood the nature of people. He understood how to motivate and restrain sinful people without idealism in his decision-making. His patience and wisdom with people of ambition is profound. David could calm an explosive situation instead of adding fire to it.

Leadership Lesson: Godly diplomacy is vastly different than operating in a “political spirit” which is motivated by selfish ambition and is out of God’s will.

- J. ***Fasted lifestyle***: David spent much time in prayer, fasting, and the Scripture. His life was filled with study and meditation of the Scripture (Ps. 19:7-11; 145). He lived in much prayer and fasting (Ps 35:13; 69:7-12; 109:24). God honored David’s heart to build Him a house (2 Chr. 6:8; Ps. 132).

The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes; ⁹the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the

LORD are true and righteous altogether. ¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb. (Ps. 19:7-11)

Because for Your sake I have borne reproach....⁸I have become a stranger to my brothers, And an alien to my mother's children; ⁹Because zeal for Your house has eaten me up...¹⁰When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. ¹¹I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. ¹²Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards. (Ps 69:7-12)

Leadership Lesson: With so much responsibility, David continued to contend to live out of the power of his deep and consistent devotional life. Our lamps must not lose oil in the work (Mt. 25).

- K. ***Receives from and operates in the Holy Spirit:*** anointed with power (exploits, deeds) and as a prophet with prophetic revelation (messenger). God's favor was with him in releasing unique Holy Spirit activity (1 Sam. 16:18). A prophet who was connected to the prophetic destiny in the Millennial Kingdom (Acts 2:29-30).

I have seen a son of Jesse (David)....who is....a mighty man of valor, a man of war...and the LORD is with him. (1 Sam. 16:18-19)

The people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits. (Dan. 11:32)

Being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him (David) that of the fruit of his body....He (God) would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne (Acts 2:30)

Exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered...(Jude 3)

Leadership Lesson: We contend to go deep in the things of the Holy Spirit.

- L. ***Skillful anointed musician, singer, song writer (sweet psalmist) and preacher*** (Ps. 40:3, 9-10; 145:6; 1 Sam. 16:23; 18:10; 19:9; 2 Sam. 23:1): able to release God's presence to others. David played the harp during Saul's distress (16:16, 18) to refresh him by God's Presence (16:23).

I have seen a son of Jesse (David)...who is skillful in playing...and the LORD is with him. (1 Sam. 16:18-19)

He has put a new song in my mouth-- Praise to our God; many will see it and fear, and will trust in the LORD. (Ps. 40:3)

I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness in the great assembly; ¹⁰...I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth from the great assembly. (Ps. 40:9-10)

These are the last words of David. Thus says David the son of Jesse; Thus says the man raised up on high, the anointed of the God of Jacob, and the sweet psalmist of Israel: (2 Sam. 23:1)

Leadership Lesson: to invest the time to develop the skills related to our calling in God and not accept mediocrity.

- M. ***Generosity and tenderheartedness towards others*** (compassionate shepherd): free in kindness to people in need and including those who mistreated him. The generosity in the way he treated Saul, Jonathan, Abner, Joab, his Ziklag team, Mephibosheth, Absalom, as well as other enemies (Shimei in 2 Sam. 16), was an astounding reality of his life.

Blessed is he who considers the poor...² The LORD will preserve him and keep him alive, and he will be blessed on the earth...³ The LORD will strengthen him on his bed of illness; You will sustain him on his sickbed. (Ps. 41:1-3)

David sent messengers to the men of Jabesh Gilead, and said to them, "You are blessed of the LORD, for you have shown this kindness to your lord, to Saul, and have buried him. (2 Sam. 2:5)

Leadership Lesson: a spirit that is free in kindness to those in need especially those who mistreat us.