

Path to Discipleship – What we can learn from Saul and David- Part 2 | 10/8/17

- Introduction
 - David certainly contrasts that of Saul. Saul had caused God to regret that He had made him king, while God said that David was a man after His own heart.
 - 1 Samuel 15:11a
 - “I regret that I have made Saul king, for he has **turned back from following me and has not performed my commandments...**”
 - Acts 13:22
 - “And when he had removed him, he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart, who will do all my will.**”
 - While God said this of David he was certainly not perfect.
 - David committed adultery and murder which anyone would consider very grave and serious sins.
 - But David overall had had his heart in the right place, he sought to live an obedient life and when he did fail he showed true repentance.
 - 1 Samuel 16:7
 - “But the LORD said to Samuel, Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outwards appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.”
 - David shows many traits that we as Christians can look to as an example of what it means to live our lives as a true disciple of Christ.
- David trusted God | 1 Samuel 17:33-37
 - In perhaps one of the greatest examples of trusting God in all of Scripture would be when David faced Goliath.
 - David a young boy showed great courage to and fight a giant of a man when all worldly wisdom would say it was impossible.
 - However, David’s courage didn’t come from his own abilities, his courage came from his trust in God.
 - **1 Samuel 17:33-37**
 - David’s faith was so strong that no matter how difficult or impossible the situation at hand may seem from a human perspective, David knew that God could overcome.
 - David’s example shows us how important it is that we put our absolute faith and trust in God.
 - Trusting God is not only vital to our salvation, but it is vital in how we live out our lives for Christ.
 - A Christian who is striving to become a disciple will grow in their maturity and will more and more put their trust in Him.
 - David’s trust in God was later seen when he was endangered by the Philistines
 - Psalm 56:1-4
 - “Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me.”
 - David also shows his trust from Psalm 62.

- Read Psalm 62
 - Powerful statements:
 - My hope is from him
 - He alone is my rock and my salvation, my fortress;
 - I shall not be shaken
 - On God rests my salvation and my glory;
 - My mighty rock, my refuge is God
 - Trust in him at all times
 - Pour out your heart before him
 - God is a refuge for us.
 - Power belongs to God
 - **How has putting your trust in God impacted your life? Has it been able to get through a difficult time that would seem “impossible” by worldly standards?**
 - **How would you describe your trust with God in relation to your spiritual maturity?**
- David showed obedience to God by letting Him take of a difficult situation and to not take matters into his own hands.
 - God chose David to replace Saul and unfortunately Saul kept up his life of disobedience and pursuance of his own desires.
 - As Saul saw that the Spirit of God had left him and was obviously upon David he became very jealous and sought to kill him.
 - Throughout this time God was with David and never allowed Saul to kill him.
 - **However, we all saw through these events that David showed great restraint and obedience to God. He ultimately gave the difficult problem of Saul to God instead of taking care of it himself.**
 - There were two occasions recorded in Scripture where David had prime opportunities to kill Saul however he restrained himself from doing so.
 - David knew that it was not God’s desire for him to kill Saul even though his human-self and even peer pressure said that he should.
 - David through this showed that he cared more about being obedient to God than fulfilling his own desires (although he failed at this later in life.).
 - David gave this difficult problem in his life to God to let Him take care of.
 - David spares Saul | 1 Samuel 24:1-11
 - **Read 1 Samuel 24:1-11**
 - Even though his men gave good arguments that he should kill Saul David knew this was not what God wanted him to do.
 - **Even though by doing this it would be justified from a worldly perspective since Saul was seeking to kill him it was not what God wanted.**
 - **In what ways is being able to restrain our personal, fleshly desires (even though justifiable) in a difficult situation and instead giving it over to God a sign of a disciple?**
- David’s humility | 2 Samuel 7:18-19
 - God gave David a glimpse of the future plans that He had for him and His kingdom.
 - God spoke of a kingdom that would be realized in his son Solomon, but also a future kingdom that would last forever ruled by the coming Messiah.
 - 2 Samuel 7:11-17
 - These details were not given to David, but this promise David trusted and believed in what he told him was true.
 - David prayed a prayer of thankfulness to God for what had just be revealed.
 - **Read 2 Samuel 7:18-19**

- David didn't respond with selfish pride or speak to how lucky God was to have him.
 - David responded with humility, praise and trust to all that God had told him.
 - David through humility thanked God for what he was going to do in his life.
- Humility is a trait of David that also is the trait of a disciple.
 - Scripture speaks to the importance of humility in the Christian life
 - Colossians 3:12
 - "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience."
 - Philippians 2:3
 - "Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves."
 - This is the example of Jesus Christ
 - Philippians 2:8
 - "And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."
 - Matthew 20:28
 - "even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."
 - 2 Corinthians 8:9
 - "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich."
 - Humility is the opposite of pride and arrogance.
 - We seek to uplift others before ourselves. This is why it is a trait of Christ and why it must be a trait of a disciple.
- **How does genuine humility show that one is a disciple of Christ?**
- David's repentance
 - **One of the greatest traits of David that showed he was a man after God's own heart and was himself a disciple of God would be in his repentance.**
 - David made mistakes with his affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband being the most obvious.
 - But yet God still saw David in a positive light.
 - **What this shows us is that it's not our sins that ultimately define us to God, it's the true condition of our heart which is shown with true repentance.**
 - God does not want us to sin, it is against His desires for us. However, if and when we do, He then looks to how we respond.
 - Do we feel the weight of that sin on our hearts and how it grieves God?
 - Do we show true sorrow and repentance for what we have done?
 - Do we come to God asking for forgiveness and mercy?
 - This was the response of David to his grave sins that he committed, unlike Saul so did not show the same act of repentance.
 - After David came to the realization of his sins against God he repented and recorded it in what we see have as Psalms 51.
 - David asked for God's mercy and to be cleansed | Psalms 51:1-2
 - **Read Psalms 51:1-2**
 - David asked for God's mercy, knowing that God was just to punish him for his sins and disobedience.
 - He asked God to cleanse him, to blot out the iniquity.

- David acknowledged his sins and that he sinned against God. | Psalms 51:3-4
 - **Read Psalms 51:3-4**
 - While his choices certainly had a negative impact on others, ultimately his sins were against God.
 - By his disobedience he showed evil that God despises.
- David knew his sin was not God's fault but that of his sinful nature. | Psalms 51:5
 - **Read Psalms 51:5**
 - David's sinful nature was his source of sin and desire to disobey God.
 - This is true of all Christians.
- David knows that God desires obedience and truth | Psalms 51:6
 - **Read Psalms 51:6**
 - God desires our clean hearts that speak truth and truly embrace the wisdom that He has given us.
- David asked to be made whiter than snow which shows God's forgiveness | Psalms 51:7-8
 - **Read Psalms 51:7-8**
 - David knew that God is a God of forgiveness, he knew that with that forgiveness he would be made whiter than snow.
 - Because His forgiveness can forgive any and all sins regardless of what it is.
 - David was feeling the pain of his sins and he wanted to hear the joy and gladness of His forgiveness.
- David asked for a clean heart and to be restored | Psalms 51:9-12
 - **Read Psalms 51:9-12**
 - He wanted his heart to be purged and made new again.
 - He desired for the spirit that sought obedience to God, to feel the joy of what it's like when we are made new.
- David desired to proclaim His mercy and truth to all | Psalms 51:13-15
 - **Read Psalms 51:13-15**
 - David knew that he would proclaim the glory, grace and mercy of God.
 - Because he would have such great joy in having received God's forgiveness for his sins.
- David knew the importance of being obedient to God and true repentance | Psalms 51:16-17
 - **Read Psalms 51:16-17**
 - It's not our works or actions that God desires most but our obedience.
 - But when we disobey He desires our genuine repentance, one that comes broken and knowing of our sin.
 - God will happily respond to this genuine repentance with His forgiveness and mercy.
- David's example of repentance is one that marks a true disciple of Christ.
 - Even the best of Jesus's disciples sinned and disobeyed, but it is how they reacted to those sins that shows their true heart.
 - The closer we are to Christ the heavier the guilt and shame from our sins will be because of our disobedience.
 - We will repentance and seek His forgiveness and grace, to restore our broken relationship because of our sins.
- **How has genuine repentance affected your personal relationship with Christ? How would you describe it?**