

## Stark Road Gospel Hall

Bi-Monthly Bible Reading

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### DAVID – DEVELOPING A HEART LIKE GOD’S

#### A. Significance of David’s Character

Although David was “skillful in playing the harp, a mighty man of valor, prudent in speech and handsome” (1 Sam. 15:18) ultimately, God chose him to lead His people because of his character.

- David is called a man after God’s own heart. (“I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will” – Acts 13:22).
- God’s word to Jeroboam regarding David (“you have not been as My servant David, who kept my commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only what was right in My eyes – 1 Kings 14:8) See also 1 Kings 11:4; 15:3.
- “He (God) chose David His servant, and took him from the sheepfolds ... to shepherd Jacob his people... he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart” - Asaph (Ps 78:70-72)

#### B. Importance of Godly Character for Christian Service

- a. God saved us to change our character from one of self-centeredness to God-likeness.
  - “what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2 Peter 3:11)
  - “Grace of God that brings salvation hath appeared...teaching us that.... we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12).
- b. Ultimately we will be made like the Lord Jesus.
  - God “did predestinate (us) to be conformed to the image of his Son” (Rom 8:29)
  - “when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is” (1 John 3:2)
- c. Our character will determine the effectiveness of our service for God.
  - “Keep thy heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life” (Prov 4:23)
  - “Be an example to believers in word, in conduct, in love, in faith .... (1 Tim 4:12)
  - “shepherd the flock of God not as lords ... but being examples unto the flock (1 Pet 5:2-3).

#### C. Features of “A Man after God’s own Heart’.

The principles seen in David’s early life which helped produce his godly character.

##### 1. Priority on Learning Who God Is (Ps 63:1-2)

##### David the Psalmist

If we are going to be like God, we must first know what God is like. David’s appreciation of God’s person, character and program is detailed in the Psalms. It is clear that David had a very deep understanding of who God is and what He is like.

How did David learn about God?

- a. **Appreciating God’s Creation** – David learned from nature about God’s character.
  - “When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars” (Ps 8:3)
  - “The heavens declare the glory of God and firmament showeth his handiwork” (Ps 19:1)God’s Creation although now marred by sin still reveals much about the character of God.
  - “The invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen.. (Rom 1:18)
  - “whatever things are true,... noble ... meditate on these things (Phil 4:8)
- b. **Loving the word of God** – David loved the Scriptures and the Law. It is the Scriptures which reveal the person of Christ and the character of God. If we want to know God we must study the Scriptures.
  - “The law of the Lord is perfect ....the statutes of the Lord are right... more to be desired are they than gold” (Ps 19:7-11)
  - “Search the Scriptures for in them ye think ye have eternal life but they are they which testify of me” (John 5:39).
  - “Study to show thyself approved unto God, rightly dividing the Word” (2 Tim 2:15)
- c. **Communicating with God** – David loved to commune with God. His life especially in the wilderness was characterized by seeking the mind of God in all matters of life.
  - “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord” (Ps 5:3)
  - “I will call upon God ... evening, morning and at noon, will I pray” (Ps 55:16-17)

If we want to know God we must communicate with Him.

- "Pray without ceasing" (1 Thess 5:17)
- "Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant in it with thanksgiving" (Col 4:2).

- d. Understanding God's character** - David exhibited a great understanding of who God is. As a teenager he understood God to be the "living God" and "the Lord of Hosts" (1 Sam 17) "I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty and wondrous works" (Ps 145:5)

**Challenge: Do we put the same priority on knowing God?**

Paul counted all things loss for the knowledge of Him and had one burning desire that he might know Christ! (Phil 3:8-10)

**2. Loving God's Presence** (Ps 26:8; 27:4)

**David the Worshipper**

David wrote many Psalms which reveal the heights of his worship to God. Throughout his life, David had a keen interest in the house of God and the worship of God.

**a. Praising God** – David's priority on worship (Ps 69:30)

- "I will extol You, my God, O King; and I will bless Your name forever and ever. Every day I will bless You, and I will praise Your name forever and ever (Ps 145:1-2).
- "O, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness" (1 Chron 16:29)
- "let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually... (Heb 13:15).

**b. Valuing the House of God** – David loved God's dwelling place.

David returned ark of God to its proper place (2 Sam 6)

David conquered the City of Jerusalem (1 Chron 11)

David obtained the plans for the Temple and arranged its worship (1 Chron 23-28)

David spent much of his life gathering the treasures to build the Temple (1 Chron 22)

- "I have set my affection on the house of my God" (1 Chron 29:3)

We are called on to value the New Testament House of God – the Assembly

- "for where two or three are gathered there am I in the midst" (Matt 18:20)
- "Forsake not the assembling of yourselves together" (Heb 13).

**Challenge: How much do I value the Assembly?**

**3. Adopting God's Value of People** (Ps 78:70-72)

**David the Shepherd**

As a young shepherd caring for sheep David learned principles which he would be able to use in leading God's people (Ps 78; 2 Sam 5:2; 7:8). We live in a world which fails to recognize the value of people. The Lord Jesus said that it would be a distinguishing characteristic of His disciples that they would love others. In the design of an assembly God has established shepherds who are responsible for the care of others.

**a. Loving the people of God** (Ps 16:3)

As a shepherd David learned to "keep", "feed", "follow" and protect the sheep.

David knew the value of one sheep - "a lamb" (1 Sam 17:34)

Viewed the flock as a stewardship - "my father's sheep" (17:34) (Acts 20:28)

Not as Eliab did – "those few sheep".

David translated the lessons from the sheepfold into his human relations;

He is seen bringing food for his brothers (1 Sam 17)

He uses his skill at harp playing to comfort Saul in his distress (1 Sam 16)

While on the run for his life David is concerned for his parents (1 Sam 22)

David in cave of Adullam (1 Sam 22:2) – respected the value of individuals although they were distressed, in debt and discontent. He saw the potential of mighty men.

David loved Jonathan and showed kindness to Mephibosheth – sons of his enemy.

We are responsible to care for all the people of God – Shepherd the flock of God (1 Pet 5:2)

- "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if you love one another" (Jn 13:35)
- "Let us do good unto all men especially those of the household of faith" (Gal 6:10)

**b. Respecting Divinely established Authority**

David respected God's placement of Saul as King – refused to harm him.

We are to respect earthly rulers as instruments of God (Rom 13).

N.T. teaches respect for elders in the assembly (1 Tim 5:17-19).

- "Obey them that have the rule over you" (Heb 13:17)

**Challenge: Does our value of people match how God values them?**

**4. Depending on God's Resources** (Ps 56:11)

**David the Giant Slayer**

David's life was marked by a dependence on God and his power. If we want to learn who God is we also must learn to live by faith.

- a. **Dependence in every day life** - David slew the lion and bear with God's help (1 Sam 17). David depended on God's guidance for his every day movements (attacking the Philistines, movements in the wilderness, what city he should dwell in)
  - *"Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not on thine own understanding" (Prov 3:5)*
  - *"the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God" (Gal 2:20)*
- b. **Faith in God's power** - David overcame Goliath by trusting the power of God.
  - *"I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts ... This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand... (1 Sam 17:45-46)*
  - *"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me" (Phil 4:13)*
- c. **Development of personal humility** - David did not exalt himself. Returned from Saul's service to feed his father's sheep (1 Sam 17:15) David's humility before Saul (1 Sam 18:18) and before God (2 Sam 7:18) - "who am I" David refused to take the throne by force. Godly men do not exalt themselves but rather are humble like Christ was.
  - *"all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility for God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble" (1 Pet 5:5)*

**Challenge: In a culture of self-reliance do we trust in ourselves or in God's power?**

**5. Trusting in God's Purposes** (Ps 37:5)

**David in Exile**

Although David had been anointed King it would be many years (15?) before God would bring him to the throne. David spent many years on the run from Saul. David understood that God's purposes would ultimately be brought to fruition.

- a. **Patience in Trials**

David was pursued by Saul and later his own sons.  
David endured a difficult marriage to Michal.

  - *"strengthened with all might according to his glorious power for all patience and longsuffering" (Col 1:11).*
  - *"the trying of your faith worketh patience" (James 1:3)*
- b. **Confidence in God's program** - David was unwilling to take Saul's life.
  - *"I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep..." (2 Tim 1:12)*

**Challenge: Is our confidence in God's plan or in our efforts?**

**6. Embracing God's holiness** (Ps 141:3-4)

**David the Warrior**

David spent much of his life fighting the Philistines/Amalekites which are pictures of the world and the flesh.

- a. **Avoiding evil** - David understood the need to avoid evil
  - *"I will set nothing wicked before my eyes" (Ps 101:3)*As Christians we are commanded to be holy like God. The Lord Jesus loved righteousness and hated iniquity.
  - *"be holy in all your conduct" (1 Pet 1:15)*
  - *"Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" (Rom 13:14).*
- b. **Separation from ungodly companions**
  - *"He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house ..." (Ps 101:5,7)*
  - *"Be not unequally yoked to unbelievers" (2 Cor 6:14).*Importance of developing godly friends.

**Challenge: Does my standard of righteousness meet God's standard?**

