



REDEMPTION BIBLE STUDIES #4

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

The Redemption of David

"The Story"

1 Samuel 16: 4-13

⁴ Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?" ⁵ Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." ⁹ Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The LORD has not chosen these." ¹¹ So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down [1] until he arrives." ¹² So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one." ¹³ So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah.

When Samuel was sent by God to Bethlehem to find a king to replace Saul, there was little doubt that David was the man. God made it clear that the older, bigger, stronger and handsome brothers were not the ones. David the young boy tending the sheep was to be the next king of Israel.

As young children many of us learn the stories of David from the Old Testament. His heroic short battle with the giant, Goliath; taking 5 little stones from the creek bed and his amazing use of a sling. We learned about how he killed both lion and bear with nothing but his hands and whatever he had close. The stories of his amazing victories in battle stand out amongst the greatest war stories in the Bible. We heard of how Saul tried to kill him over and over again, but failed. One of the greatest things we hear about David is that he was considered a man after God's own heart.

All that being said, David was a man and as a man he had shortcomings as you and I do. If we look we will read of how he hid, fearing for his life at times. We find more about his bad choices with Bathsheba and then her husband. The Psalms are full of David's discouragements and prayers of mourning. Is this a man after God's own heart? Well after continually be redeemed, yes it is.



A MAN OF GOD, BUT NOT LIVING LIKE IT

WHAT DID IT MEAN TO THEM

1) The "King" on the run

In the last 7 studies we have talked about God's timing and keeping our faith in the fact that if God is working we can rest on the fact that He will get it done. Each of us, from smallest to greatest, have times where we question if things are really true. Those things that we have believed to be true for a long time come into question in our minds at times. However, the things of God shouldn't be this way... that doesn't mean that we don't question at times, but we shouldn't.

David had been pursued by Saul for some time. He had narrowly escaped being killed a few times already and now David makes a statement that shows his lack of trust.

Then David said to himself, "Now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than to safely escape into the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of searching for me anymore in all the territory of Israel and I will escape from his hand." 2 So David set out and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. (1 Samuel 27:1-2)

Here is a young man that was anointed king by one of God's greatest prophets, a man that killed bears and lions with his bare hands, the same man that picked up a small stone and dropped a giant and potentially saved a nation. This young man should have no doubt in what God was doing and was going to do. Yet here he was running for his life because he feared that Saul would kill him.

David gets hung up on his present circumstances. His outlook was that of complete doom, gloom and despair. We can all empathize with him when we look at his situation. The present king and the first king of Israel, Saul was out to take David's life. The song was sung, "Saul has killed his thousands and David his 10 thousands." This made the king jealous and now Saul was bitter towards David.

The reality that Saul wanted to end David's life was a grind on the heart and mind of David. He wanted to get away from that. He wanted to run from it. He wanted to be free of it. Every day that David woke up in the morning and every night when he would lay his head down to sleep there was a constant pressure that existed in knowing that his life was in great danger.

Again didn't God call out Samuel to anoint David to be Saul's successor? Didn't God promise David that he would soon have the throne? He did. Those promises are rich and they came from God Himself. Oh, how David should have been comforted by that! Somehow David seems to have completely forgotten what God has done in his life.



2) The King shrinking his duties?

In 2 Samuel 11 we read of a time in David's life that is something that I am sure he wasn't proud of. After killing Goliath, this story is probably one of the stories that David is most remembered for. Unfortunately, the times we mess up in life can be what people remember us for. Consider many of those men that stood on stages on TV. Those that fell to sexual or other sin are remembered for their sin, not for the work they did before they fell. The same is true of David. The good news is this. God doesn't remember David for that sin. Yes, we read about it in God's word, but that is so we don't do the same things David did. This story and what we gain from the end of the story teaches of us of God grace and redemption. Let's take a look at the first part of chapter 11.

Then it happened in the spring, at the time when kings go out to battle, that David sent Joab and his servants with him and all Israel, and they brought destruction on the sons of Ammon and besieged Rabbah. But David stayed in Jerusalem. 2 Now at evening time David got up from his bed and walked around on the roof of the king's house, and from the roof he saw a woman bathing; and the woman was very beautiful in appearance. (2 Samuel 11:1-2)

It's interesting that the writer starts this chapter out like this. The story doesn't seem to be about war, although we will see later how it relates. But why does it start with "Then it happened in the spring"?

According to the history, wars were generally fought in the spring of the year. We have to understand the weather patterns of that part of the world to know what is meant by this. The weather from November to about March is usually rainy and in the spring the rain generally breaks and things dry up. Also the days were longer in the spring than in the winter. So it just makes sense that springtime is when wars were fought.

It makes one wonder about if the remainder of these two verses talk about David being on his roof, why wasn't he with his soldiers, when verse one ends with "at the time when kings go out to battle"? David is the king of Israel by this time and Biblical historians put his age at about 50. He has a great history of leading his soldiers into battle and God had blessed him with miraculous success. So why was he home? It seems that he is shirking his duties as the man that is leading the great nation on earth.

David goes to his roof in the evening and looking out over his kingdom. As he scans the horizon and considers all that God has done for and through him, he notices a woman on a neighboring roof. This woman was bathing and the Bible says that she is "very beautiful". The Bible doesn't use the word "Very" that often, so we can assume that she was a stunner. And David stops and stares.

Not only is David not with his soldiers he has now taken notice of this beautiful woman and he is allowing lust to get the better of him. This is an example of how when we start into sin, it can snowball and before long it is gaining speed as it rolls downhill quickly. And in David's case it is rolling downhill very quickly.

3) The King falls

David is called a “Man after God’s own heart”, yet we see him in the wrong place again.

First we saw David running for his life from Saul and even saying that Saul will eventually kill him. Then we see David still in Jerusalem when he was supposed to be leading his army at war. Next we see him walking on his roof, which is innocent enough, but now we see David stopping and assumedly lusting after a “Very beautiful” woman on the roof near his palace.

This progression of sin is similar to what we see in the first two verses of the book of Psalms.

¹ Blessed is the person who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! ² But his delight is in the Law of the LORD, and on His Law he meditates day and night. (Psalm 1:1-2)

There is a progression of sin that is shown in these three verbs, "walking," "standing" and "sitting" describes the progressive steps of a person's involvement in sin and evil. What we can learn from these two verses is that the person that begins a life in sin often progresses deeper into sin.

1 John 1:9 explains how we (Christians) can get out of sin and right with God. “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9) This is redemption.

Once we start falling into a sinful pattern we will continue deeper and deeper into it, unless we confess. David was on this downward spiral. He was “walking” on his roof, when he should have been with his army. Next he was “standing” and staring at the woman on the next roof. Then we see him “sitting” in the midst of a sinful life when he invites Bathsheba into his bedroom and sleeps with her.

This sinful spiral goes far deeper when David learns that Bathsheba is pregnant and David is the only possible father because her husband Uriah is off fighting the battles that David should be fighting. David brings Uriah back from the war and attempts to get him to go in and sleep with Bathsheba, but he refuses. Eventually, David has Uriah murdered to cover his own sin.

4) A king rebuked

David's life is a mess. He is now out of a close relationship with God and things aren't going well for him. In the progression that we looked at earlier we are at the “sitting” stage. David is living in the middle of his sinful choices and he does appear to be trying to get out. But God sees everything and He knows the mess David has made.

In 2 Samuel 12 we read that God send Nathan to confront David about his sin. First Nathan lays out a story of a poor man that raised just one small sheep. A wealthy man with countless sheep came and took the poor man's sheep and slaughtered it. (2 Samuel 12:2-4)



When David heard about this gross injustice he was furious and said, “This man deserves to die” (2 Samuel 12:5). Little did David know, he was signing his own death sentence. The wealthy man that Nathan spoke of was David himself and the situation was what David had done to Uriah when he took his wife and had him killed. In David’s own words, “This man deserves to die”.

Our God is a merciful God and He loved David like He loves you and me. David confessed his sin and God forgave him. Even though he was forgiven, Nathan laid out the consequences that David would deal with for many years to come.

We must realize that even though we can be forgiven and redeemed, there will always be consequences for the sins that we commit. God is merciful and He will give us what we need to get through the consequences, but many of these issues we will deal with will be painful.

5) A man after God’s own heart

Through all of the sinful issues that David dealt with God still saw something in him that was useful. David was human like the rest of us. We are in need of redemption because as Romans 3:23 says, “For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God”.

It’s like a talented woodworker that can see a log and he sees what is on the inside. He sees what can be made from the beautifully grained wood when most of us see the rough, ugly bark. He cuts, shapes and sands that wood until the finished product is an amazingly beautiful piece of art.

It’s a great example of how God sees you and I. From the time we were in the womb, God knew us and saw something about us that could someday be beautiful.

Psalm 139:13-14

“for it was You who created my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I will praise You because I have been fearfully and wonderfully made”.

God did the same with David. He removed those things that kept him from being what He saw deep down in David and then afterwards He sanded away the rough spots and eventually He hand polished him until God saw a reflection of Himself in David. At the time of his anointing and still at the end God saw something in David that made him know that David was “A man after God’s own heart”.



What Does It Mean to Us?

1) Are you on the run

We all have times of questioning the strength that is in us. Down deep if, we have surrendered our lives to Jesus, we should know that we have an all-mighty God that can do all things and that we “Can do all things through Christ who strengths me” (Philippians 4:13).

Like David that was running from Saul we all live in fear from time to time. The Covid Pandemic was a great example. Yes, Covid is real and absolutely Covid is bad. But Covid, like our other problems, is not bigger than an all-powerful God that loves us deeply.

We must remember and cling to Philippians 4:13. There is nothing that is too big for you and I when we keep our focus on Jesus Christ and what He did for us.

If you are on the run today from God, know that you can't outrun Him. He is right there waiting for you to turn around and come back to Him. David actually ran into the land of Gath, where he lived with the people that hated our God. Today's world hates our God and no matter if we even run into the middle of that place, God wants us back.

2) Are you shrinking your duties

Men, this is for you... God has given us responsibilities and in today's world we are being put down for living out the life and responsibilities that God has called us to. The world would rather see us home on the roof than being out and doing “battle”. We aren't expected to be the strong leaders that God has called us to be in our homes, work, churches and in the world.

Our world would rather have us be a Homer Simpson than a Ward Cleaver. For those that don't know who Ward Cleaver was, he was a strong father than loved and led his family. He worked hard to provide for them. Of course that was all TV, but it shows how our world wants to see men today.

Stand up and be a man of God in your world. Ladies, be a woman of God. Be strong and be an example for God.

3) Where are you walking, standing and sitting

God tell us that we are to be “In the world but not of the world”. This would seem to make it a hard in today's world. But this world has never been without sin, since Eve took the first bite. The same sins that plagued the world 2000 years ago are here now. They might be a little more in your face and out in the open, but they are the same.

Our world today has made many sins acceptable. What used to be hidden is now right out in broad daylight. That doesn't make it okay for God's children to be part of it. We are to be out there for others to see a godly example, without partaking of the sinful life.



With sin in the open and acceptable today we can easily walk into it at every turn, that isn't a problem. It's when we stand amongst it and then sit in it that we have an issue. Let's use a modern issue. Our computers and phones are full of all sorts of filth and sin. Things pop up in front of us often. We have a choice in what we do with it. We can "walk" past by it if we chose. If we take a quick glimpse instead of immediately deleting it, we are "standing" amongst it. When we "sit" down and desire to partake we are "sitting" in it. These sins lead to more and like David, we eventually end up over our heads and have lifetime consequences.

When I was in high school I remember my dad having a "talk" with me. He was warning me against sexual sin that can happen when a guy gets his driver's license and has a girlfriend. He told me that if I hadn't already decided ahead of time that I wasn't going to let that happen, I would be in the back seat before I even knew what was happening.

This is the case with all sin. If we don't decide ahead of time that we are going to "run away" like Joseph did from Potiphar's wife, but instead we stop and look down at the beautiful woman like David did with Bathsheba, we are already in the jaws of sin's trap. Make up your mind before you even see the temptation that you aren't going to give into it

4) Forgiveness and Redemption are waiting

It is hard to know how long David's fall lasted from the time that he didn't go to war with his soldiers in the spring until Nathan confronted him with his sin. The story lasts from 2 Samuel 11 thru 2 Samuel 12. There are times when our sinful walk is minutes and there are times when for some it might last a lifetime.

If we only took chapter 11 and studied that we would see a man with few godly qualities. J. Vernon McGee once said, "There is nothing in this chapter that would reveal that David is a man of God."

The enemy knows that if He can get our focus off of the Lord and onto ourselves in the events and situations that come into our lives this year, then our witness for Christ will not be what it should be. There will be times that, like David, we will fail. But the one thing that we can count on is the fact that God is standing waiting to forgive us.

Romans 6:23

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Jesus has paid the price for our sins and the forgiveness has been extended to us. Our redemption is secured by the blood of Jesus Christ.

**BEAR
MAN**



Wherever you are in your walk with the Lord, know that you are never out of His love. You might fall but Jesus is there to lift you back up again. You can count on that.

God sees something that is beautiful in you that He really wants to bring out. He wants you to shine before the others in this world. Are you fighting Him? Or are you allowing Him to turn you into all He sees in you?



DIGGING DEEPER

1) How can you relate to the life of David?

2) What is your biggest failure in your own eyes?

3) Have you confessed this, laying before God and asked for forgiveness? Are you still living in it”?

4) Do you know a brother or sister in Christ that needs to face their sin? Do you love them enough to go to them?

5) Where do you need help in “Walking,” “Standing,” and “Sitting” in your life?

6) How are you pursuing being a man or a woman after God’s own heart?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father,

Thank you that no matter how badly I mess things up in my life, you are there to forgive and redeem me. I praise you for your love and grace that is extended to me day after day. Please help me to be aware of what I walk, stand and sit in this world. Help me to keep my eye on you and off of the sinful distractions of this world. May I be watchful for where I am supposed to be and where I shouldn't be. I ask that when I fall that you bring someone to me right away to show me my sin and to gently restore me to your loving arms. I pray these things in Jesus Name, Amen