

# AUTHENTIC

*living real*

Pastor Ed Kemp

MESSAGE NOTES

Sunday, April 26

## **King David**

But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart." I Samuel 16:7

Heart: Leb,  
decisions: Pharaoh's hard heart, Ex. 7:14  
emotions: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, Dt. 6:5  
courage: the heart (Leb) of a lioness (Lebah), II Sam. 17:10

...He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' Acts 13:22

## **King Solomon**

So give thy servant understanding heart to judge thy people to discern between good and evil. I Kings 3:9

## **King Rehoboam**

And he did evil because he did not set his heart to seek the Lord. II Chron. 12:14

## **King Abijah**

...and his heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, like the heart of his father David. I Kings 15:2-3

## **King Asa**

### **First 10 years of his reign:**

And Asa did what was right in the sight of the Lord, like David his father. ...the heart of Asa was wholly devoted to the Lord all his days. I Kings 15:11 & 14b  
Reforms:

1. Eliminated Male Prostitutes, I Kings 15:12a
2. Removed and destroyed Idols, I Kings 15:12b
3. Removed his mother the Queen, I Kings 15:13
4. Restored Temple Vessels, I Kings 15:15
5. Dedicated the people with a whole-hearted vow, II Chron. 15:12 & 15
6. Rebuilt the Altar of God. II Chron. 15:8d

### **The first crisis of King Asa:**

Now Zerah the Ethiopian came out against them with an army of a million men and 300 chariots... So Asa went out to meet him, and they drew up in battle formation... II Chron. 14:9-10

### **King Asa's response:**

Then Asa called to the LORD his God and said, "LORD, there is no one besides You to help in the battle between the powerful and those who have no strength; so help us, O LORD our God, for we trust in You, and in Your name have come against this multitude. O LORD, You are our God; let not man prevail against You." II Chron. 14:11

### **God's response to King Asa:**

So the LORD routed the Ethiopians before Asa...and the Ethiopians fled. II Chron. 14:12-15

### **Next 25 years of King Asa's reign:**

They entered into the covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and soul...And there was no more war until the thirty-fifth year of Asa's reign. II Chron. 15:12-19

### **The final crisis of King Asa:**

In the thirty-sixth year of Asa's reign Baasha king of Israel came up against Judah... 2 Then Asa brought out silver and gold from the treasuries of the house of the LORD and the king's house, and sent them to Ben-hadad king of Aram...saying, 3 "Let there be a treaty between you and me... 4 So Ben-hadad listened to King Asa and sent the commanders of his armies against the cities of Israel...5 When Baasha heard of it, he ceased...

### **God's response to King Asa:**

7 At that time Hanani the seer came to Asa king of Judah and said to him..."Were not the Ethiopians... an immense army with very many chariots and horsemen? Yet because you relied on the LORD, He delivered them into your hand. 9 For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is completely His. You have acted foolishly in this. Indeed, from now on you will surely have wars."

12 In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa became diseased in his feet. His disease was severe, yet even in his disease he did not seek the LORD, but the physicians. 13 So Asa slept with his fathers, having died in the forty-first year of his reign. II Chron. 16

# So What?!

When your heart is in the right place you can:

- #1. Pray short prayers that have enormous implications.
- #2. Pray simple requests that have complex results.
- #3. Pray in urgent circumstances and have miraculous consequences.

*notes*

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## GROUP DISCUSSION

When you were in grade school what was the most difficult subject for you and WHO was the most helpful in assisting you in getting the homework done?

**Read:** II Chronicles 15 & 16 and if you'd like to read the complementary story read I Kings 15:1-24.

What do you think the difference is between intellectually believing in God, Jesus, the gospel and having your heart captured by the God, Jesus and the gospel?  
What does having your heart captured by God, Jesus and the gospel look like in your life?  
What spiritual activities reinforce that heart attitude of being captured?  
What's one thing that is detrimental to your heart being captured by God?  
How do you fight against that thing that is detrimental?  
Take some time right now to pray and ask God to renew His Spirit in each of you and help you to have your heart captured by Him in a fresh way.

What did you think of the story of King Asa? Why do you think a person would reject his father's pattern of life the way King Asa did? How difficult would it have been to remove your mother from the Queen position in Judah?

As you look at the first crisis of King Asa in his war against the Ethiopians, and the fact that the odds were strongly against him, and the fact that he had no choice because Zerah was invading, what would the stress level be like in Asa? Asa's short prayer communicates the quickness with which Zerah is invading, do you ever pray quick prayers? When and what were the circumstances? The short prayer also communicates the hopelessness of the situation, have you ever prayed in a hopeless situation? When and what were the circumstances of that?

After that kind of success against the Ethiopians why in the world would Asa have forgotten and dismissed God and taken God's utensils out of the His temple and purchased a treaty with Ben-hadad? Asa is now 26 years older, did that have anything to do with it? Being at peace could have made Asa soft and out of shape, had he allowed the military to fall into disarray? Do we get soft and out of shape spiritually as we age? How do we fight that?

**Family Time:** Tell your kids the story of Asa's cry for "HELP!" to God when he faced the Ethiopians. Ask them, "What's one thing we need to ask for God's help concerning?"