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Episode 217 - David

Why was he referred to as a man after God's heart?

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Jerry Green:

Welcome friends, as we continue our ninth season of Faith Made Simple with our pastor and teacher, Todd Smith. I'm Jerry Green, your host. If you've been with us on previous podcasts, then you know Pastor Todd has a passion for explaining God's Word. And as we've said all along, understanding and obeying God's Word is key in the Christian's life. We continue holding fast to James 1:25 that promises God's blessing when we are faithful and obedient. So let's listen now as Todd shares his thoughts for today.

Todd Smith:

Hey, everybody. Welcome to February. We are going to spend this month, each and every week, looking at a different man or woman of the Old Testament. Try to learn just from their lives what they did right, sometimes what they did wrong, but more often than not, what they did right.

Today we get to look at the shepherd boy whose heart was chasing after God. And that's David.

You know, if you're picking a king back in ancient Israel, David wouldn't have been your first choice. Frankly, your second or even your tenth choice. He was the youngest son, out in the fields tending sheep while his older brothers strutted around in Saul's army.

Picture this for just a moment. A ruddy teenager with a slingshot, smelling like wool and dirt, and he's suddenly summoned to stand before the prophet Samuel. He was out doing his teenage thing, gets the call to come in and meet the prophet Samuel, who is there at his house. And we know the story. Ultimately, God whispers to Samuel, "This is the one. This is the kid. This is the king. This is the man."

Even though he's a man-boy, God says, anoint him.

Let me tell you, he was not as tall as his other brothers. He was not as impressive. He was not a warrior-looking type. But he was the kid with the harp and the sheep.

And I love that about God, don't you? He doesn't measure by height or résumé or even Instagram followers. Man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart (1 Samuel 16:7).

You know David wasn't perfect. He was far from it. Later on, he commits adultery, arranges for a murder, and bungles his family life in a heartbreaking way. Yet God called him something. He called him a man after My own heart (Acts 13:22).

Why is that? I think it's because David's heart kept turning back to God, even when he blew it big time.

I think about those early days there with Goliath. He's taunting the army for 40 days and everybody's paralyzed with fear—except this shepherd boy who shows up as a cheese-and-bread delivery guy for his brothers. He hears Goliath yelling and taunting the Lord God of Israel and David says, "Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

David wasn't cocky. He was confident. Confident in the God who delivered him from the lions and the bears. David remembered God's faithfulness in the mundane moments of life, and that memory fueled his courage in the crisis.

Isn't that just like life? Most of us aren't facing nine-foot giants, but we have our own challenges: financial pressures, broken relationships, health scares, nagging insecurities. And the question comes: where is our confidence? In our skills? Our bank account? Our clever plans? Or in God?

David's life reminds us that God specializes in using unlikely people. The overlooked. The underqualified. Even those who've failed spectacularly. He shapes them for His purposes because they're available and willing to trust Him.

So today, wherever you are—in the car, at the gym, wherever—if you're feeling like the youngest, the least, and unnoticed, take heart. God sees your heart and He's not finished with you.

Like David, keep practicing faithfulness in the mundane moments. Keep playing the harp in the fields. And when the challenge appears, remember the battle belongs to the Lord. Let me leave you with this: Stop striving to impress and start surrendering your heart fully to the One who already chose you. That's where real strength begins.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. Friends, we want to pause for a moment before we ask Todd a couple of questions and remind you that Faith Made Simple is a free ministry. Our audience continues to grow, and we want to say thanks because faithful listeners like you subscribe to the podcast and share it on social media. So let's return now and see if we can stump Todd with a couple of questions.

Well, Todd, you're talking today about David, one of my favorite Old Testament characters. He was guilty of adultery and complicit in murder. So why was he referred to, twice in the Old Testament and once in the New Testament, as a man after God's own heart?

Todd Smith:

That's a question we all have because David was, in many ways, a dichotomy. A man after God's own heart who committed heinous sins.

I think the answer is simple. You see David's heart in Psalm 51 when he confessed his sin regarding Bathsheba. God loves a contrite and broken heart. There's something about God's heart that melts toward those who are crushed in repentance and turn to Him for forgiveness.

David could fall into sin, but his heart was very sensitive to it. His heart would break over it. I tend to think that's why he's called a man after God's own heart.

Jerry Green:

We look at his sin—murder and adultery—and we look at ours and think, "Well, I don't do that kind of stuff. Maybe I told a lie, cheated on my taxes, or gossiped." But in light of God's holiness, those are sins that have to be dealt with too.

Todd Smith:

Right. It's easy to excuse what we consider "smaller" sins compared to "greater" ones. But it doesn't matter the adjective in front of the word sin. It's all sin. What matters is whether we respond with real repentance and confession. And I believe David did that consistently throughout his life.

Jerry Green:

That word "consistent" is important. We need to be constantly repenting.

Todd Smith:

Yes. And I think that was David's practice.

Jerry Green:

Thanks, Todd. And that, my friends, brings us to the close of this episode. Lord willing, we will be back next week with another podcast.

Just a reminder before we sign off: we welcome you to join us at Crossroads Community Church in Valencia, California. Each week, God's Word is taught faithfully, verse by verse. If you'd like more information about the podcast or the church, visit FaithMadeSimple.net.

On behalf of Pastor Todd and the Faith Made Simple team, we look forward to our next visit. Until then, remain faithful by being a doer of God's Word.