

The Life of David, part 8

A Heart of Ziklag or Brook Besor (1 Sam. 30)

What About Us Does the Lord Value the Most?

The condition of our hearts is the Lord's #1 concern!

Lebab (Hebrew for heart) - describes the interconnectedness between your emotions, thoughts, your desires, motives and values & also includes your imagination and memories. The term is used figuratively to refer to the "control center" of our being. (2Chr. 15:12)

Our hearts control our actions and our actions determine our habits, which in turn determine our character. When God measures the "worth" of a man or woman's life, He puts the measuring tape around their hearts, and nowhere else.

David's heart is referenced in Saul's 1st act of rebellion:

““You have done a foolish thing,” Samuel said. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him ruler of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command (because your heart wasn’t right, God had to get someone else).” ~ 1 Samuel 13:13-14

“Sought Out A Man After His Own Heart” = someone who is compatible with Me & of the same mind. Someone I can relate to, who shares My same interest & values...whose heart sees what I see.

God doesn't call us to something because we are good, he looks for what kind of work we will allow Him to do in our hearts. God knew he could trust David to follow Him faithfully through difficult times and through David's own failures.

David's heart is referenced in Saul's 2nd act of rebellion:

“As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors—to one better than you.” ~ 1 Sam 15:27-28

God withdrew His spirit from Saul for disobedience & disregard to instructions of Samuel. David had qualities that Saul lacked. Not because Saul was incapable of those qualities, but because Saul didn't value them. David was more compatible with God. He had a better heart. The Lord knew David was not perfect & knew that when David failed, He could still grab him by the heart & bring him back on the path.

Catastrophe and suffering are great revealers of the heart and can either bring out the best or worst in us.... it can reveal a heart of Ziklag or a heart of Brook Besor.

1 Sam 27 - David was tired. He had been on the run for months stretching into years. Empty promises of Saul not pursuing him were always broken. Although God had delivered him every single time from Saul's madness, David's discouragement weighed on him, and he says to himself, “...now I will perish one day by the hand of Saul...”.

Discouragement led David into the land of the Philistines where he lived with his 600 men for 16 months. His move stopped Saul from pursuing him, and he was given relief as they settled there temporarily, but David's decision will soon lead to calamity as he submits to a Philistine ruler. In time, this ruler will expect David and his men to fight against his own people, Israel. He lies to cover up his actions, as he raids cities and destroys the enemies of Israel.

David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons

and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God. Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, and David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. ¹⁰Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit. ~1 Sam 30:1-10

They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat - part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. David asked him, "Who do you belong to? Where do you come from?" He said, "I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. We raided the Negev of the Kerethites, some territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag." David asked him, "Can you lead me down to this raiding party?" He answered, "Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them." ~ 1 Samuel 30:11-15

The generosity that David experienced from God replicates the generosity that the Egyptian experienced from David.

David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder." ~ 1 Sam 30:18-20

But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go." David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came

against us. Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.” David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this. ~ 1 Sam. 30:22-25

Can God Safely Trust You to Be Generous?

Generosity is a movement of the soul that erupts when you are pierced by the recognition of your direct connection to another soul.

When your heart is generous, you will always find a way to respond to the needs of others & ultimately, the reward we reap for generosity is that the presence of God dwells among us.

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common (they shared everything). And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ~ Acts 4:32-33 (ESV)

Sometimes we end up with *timtum ha-lev* (Hebrew), a stopped-up heart, because we willingly blockade our own hearts. We build barriers to separate ourselves from others. Think of Pharaoh. Instead of being open, flowing, and generous, we are sluggish, constipated, and unwilling at our core. – Dr. Alan Morinis, “Path of the Soul #6”

“Do not store up for yourselves wealth here on earth, where moths and rust destroy, and burglars break in and steal. Instead, store up for yourselves wealth in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and burglars do not break in or steal. For where your wealth is, there your heart will be also. ‘The eye is the lamp of the body.’ So, if you have a ‘good eye’ [that is, if you are generous] your whole body will be full of light; but if you have an ‘evil eye’ [if you are stingy] your whole body will be full of darkness. If, then, the light in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can be slave to two masters; for he will either hate the first and love the second, or scorn the second and be loyal to the first. You can’t be a slave to both God and money.” ~ Matthew 6:19-24 (CJB)

“And though my house is not so great before God, yet he has made with me an everlasting covenant, steadfast and strong in all things; for all my salvation *is from him*, and all my desire *is for him*, and there is nothing of it, that doesn't make fruit.) ~ 2 Sam. 23:5 (WYC) - Oracle of David

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