



THREE KINGS

CREW LEADER GUIDE: AFTER GOD'S HEART - THREE KINGS PART 3

Message Summary:

Drawing from the narrative of King David in 1 Samuel 16 and beyond, this sermon explores what it means to be "a man after God's own heart." David is presented not as a perfect king, but as a complex figure whose life was marked by a persistent pursuit of God through worship, immersion in God's word, and a lifestyle of repentance. The sermon emphasizes that God looks not at outward appearance but at the condition of the heart, and that David's ultimate significance in Scripture is to point toward the greater King, Jesus Christ. Just as David was a worshiper before he was a warrior, believers are called to let worship lead every aspect of their lives. The gospel message is woven throughout, culminating in the truth that where David's earthly kingdom falls short, Jesus establishes an eternal kingdom through David's lineage.

Key Points:

- God is never caught off guard by human failure; He remains sovereign and purposeful even when leaders fall short
- God looks at the heart, not outward appearance, meaning no one is overlooked or forgotten by God even when overlooked by people
- A heart after God is marked by three distinct qualities: a pursuit of God's presence, a commitment to the full word of God, and a lifestyle of daily repentance
- Worship is not merely a church activity but a posture of life that places full trust and confidence in God above all else
- David was a worshiper before he was a warrior, and that worship sustained him through years as a fugitive before ascending to the throne
- Repentance is a daily practice, not a one-time event, because believers are continually in need of God's grace and forgiveness
- The ultimate point of King David is to point forward to King Jesus, through whose lineage the Savior came
- God, like no earthly king, turns toward us in our failures rather than walking away

Key Scripture:

- **Acts 13:20-23**, which describes God's testimony concerning David as a man after His own heart and connects David's lineage to the coming of Jesus
- **1 Samuel 16:1-12**, which recounts Samuel's anointing of David and God's declaration that He looks at the heart rather than outward appearance
- **Psalms 27:4**, in which David expresses his singular desire to dwell in God's presence
- **Psalms 119:11 and 119:160**, reflecting David's commitment to hiding God's word in his heart
- **Psalms 51:1-2**, David's prayer of repentance reflecting his dependence on God's mercy
- **Psalms 139**, in which David reflects on the inescapable and sustaining presence of God
- **Colossians 3:23**, the call to do everything as unto the Lord



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Discussion and Reflection

1. The sermon describes David as 'a man after God's own heart' despite his significant failures and sins. What do you think it truly means to pursue God's heart, and how does that pursuit look different from simply trying to live a morally perfect life?
2. The sermon emphasizes that God looks at the heart rather than outward appearance. In what areas of your life might you be judging yourself or others based on external qualities rather than the condition of the heart?
3. Ps. Brian describes the Christian life not as a stairway constantly moving upward, but as a coil with highs and lows, yet with God present throughout. How does this picture change the way you interpret difficult or mundane seasons in your faith journey?
4. David is described as a worshiper before he was a warrior, and worship is defined as placing God above finances, health, and security. What does it look like practically to lead your daily life with worship rather than letting circumstances determine your trust in God?
5. The sermon presents repentance not as a one-time event but as a daily practice, comparing it to dust that continuously accumulates and must be regularly cleaned. How might treating repentance as a daily discipline rather than an occasional act change the rhythm of your spiritual life?
6. David spent approximately 13 to 15 years as a fugitive after being anointed king, and Ps. Brian highlights that God was preparing him during that waiting period. How do you personally wrestle with trusting God's timing when what He has promised seems delayed or invisible in your circumstances?
7. The sermon draws a parallel between David's repentant heart and the moment Jesus turned and looked at Peter after his three denials, suggesting that God consistently turns toward us in our failures. How does the image of God turning toward you in your worst moments shape the way you approach Him after you fall short?
8. David's life and kingship point toward Jesus, the King of Kings, who establishes an eternal kingdom where David's temporary one fell short. How does viewing Old Testament figures as signposts to Christ deepen our understanding of the Bible as one unified story rather than a collection of separate moral lessons?

Practical Challenge:

Here are a few ways to help activate key next steps this week:

- **Presence:** Identify one specific time each day this week to intentionally acknowledge God's presence. Practice turning your attention to Him in the mundane.
- **Worship:** Consider how worship extends beyond a Sunday service. This week, identify one area of your life (i.e. finances, relationships, health, work) and intentionally surrender it to God in worship. Declare with your words and actions that your trust is in Him, not in that thing.
- **Repentance:** Begin or renew a daily practice of repentance. At the end of each day this week, take a few minutes to honestly reflect, acknowledge where you missed the mark, receive God's forgiveness, and turn back toward him.