

What is David known as?

David: A Man After God's Own Heart. 1 Sam 13:14

What does that mean to you?

That David's heart yearns for and cherishes all the same things that God does. Also David's heart chases after the heart of God. David is intentional, deliberate in seeing, following and experiencing the things of God.

What is so important about the heart and God?

Samuel is looking at David's oldest brother and thinks Ah this is the one I will anoint to be the next king of Israel. 1 Sam 16:7 "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

It is what the Lord looks at. Ex: Two Christians can do the same act of service and the Lord will look upon one as righteous and the other not. Why? It is because of the heart. What was the motive? Our glory or God's Glory? think Cain and Abel

Proverbs 4:23. "Guard your heart for everything you do flows from it. (NIV)
"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life" NLT

Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus". ESV

What is the difference between hearts and minds?

In general the Bible treats the
Heart: as the seat of the emotions, desires and the will,
Mind: as intellect, reasoning, and understanding

The heart and mind influence each other. That is why in the Philippians passage the peace of God will guard both.

In Matthew 22:37. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This commandment emphasizes the need for a comprehensive devotion that engages both emotions and intellect.

How does the Heart and Mind work with and or against each other in your life?

The mind may know what is good and noble and honorable but at times the heart wants what the heart wants no matter what we know. Before we had the Spirit we were slaves to what our hearts wanted. In our culture now we elevate our heart's desire to the point that it is pre-eminent in our lives, it is the most important aspect of who we are and the world without Christ is a slave to those desires. - But in Christ we are a new creation with a new heart. With Christ working in us and can reject our heart's old voice as Christ transforms our new hearts. So that our will is aligned with Christ, and our actions reflect Christ.

Between the two (heart and mind) which is more prevalent in your devotion to God?

Which do you think is more important to God?

A man after God's own heart; loves the Lord with all his heart, soul, mind and strength.

Psalm 19: vs 1-4a: The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours out speech,
and night to night reveals knowledge.
There is no speech, nor are there words,
whose voice is not heard.
Their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

What word would you use to describe what David is experiencing right now as he writes this song?

The apostle Paul expands on this in Romans 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

A man after God's own heart; lives a life in praise and awe of the God of creation.

Psalm 19: vs 4b-6: In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them,
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The sun is another aspect of the glory of God. David is contrasting the sun as part of the creation to common pagan beliefs that the sun is a god himself.

As a part of God's creation the sun plays a crucial role. All life needs the sun for life giving energy. Plants, animals, and man can live because God has placed the sun at just the right size and distance for us to live. A 2% change in the distance from the sun would make life on earth impossible. We live in a fine tuned universe and the sun is just one example

A man after God's own heart; recognizes God's provision in everything around him. From the sun in day, to the food in your garden, to air we breathe, God placed it there and sustains it moment by moment.

Psalm 19:7-8: The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;

David praises God for the wisdom and knowledge in His word. The first 6 verses show God in what theologians call general revelation. In God's word we have special revelation. This is where God tells us of His love for us and His plan for mankind. Four aspects of God's word to dwell on:

It revives the soul. It lifts us up, We know why things are the way they are and what God's intention is. Suicides are up because people see life as futile. We, through the law see life as meaningful, purposeful.

It makes us wise. Wisdom is different than knowledge. Knowledge is the understanding of facts, wisdom is the skillful application of knowledge. The world sees knowledge exploding but wisdom is in short supply

It rejoices our hearts: People in the world are all looking for something that will satisfy their hearts. They try sex, money, power and some see the futility in living solely for those things and so turn to alcohol and drugs to deaden the ache in the heart. But in God's word we have life to the fullest and our hearts rejoice.

It enlightens our eyes: We see things as they really are. We live in the real world.

[A man after God's own heart: rejoices, loves, studies, cherishes God's word.](#)

Psalm 19:9-10: the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.
More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey
and drippings of the honeycomb.

God's laws are true and right and He rules in absolute justice and righteousness. In a world where up is down, men think they are women, and the object in life is to game the system, knowing that God rules and He will execute justice based on His character is sweeter than the honeycomb.

What injustice is there in this world?

Will God make it right?

Are you sure?

A man after God's own heart: seeks God's righteousness as delivered in His word, and rejoices when things are right.

Psalm 19:11. Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

When we, through the Grace of God by Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ walk according to His word, there is great reward. It for sure is an eternal reward. Life everlasting in the presence of the Triune God. But also in this life also there is reward in the fullness of joy.

Ps 1:

Blessed is the man
who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,
nor stands in the way of sinners,
nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
but his delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law he meditates day and night.
He is like a tree
planted by streams of water
that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
In all that he does, he prospers.

Is it right to seek reward for your actions?

Read 1 Sam 17:24-27

What seems to be the motive for David to take on Goliath?

Rewards are mentioned over 50 times in the New Testament. Mostly from Jesus

A man after God's own heart: Seeks God's rewards both now and in eternity.

Psalm 19:12-13:

Who can discern his errors?

Declare me innocent from hidden faults.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;

let them not have dominion over me!

Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

David praises God for His forgiveness. He recognizes that he doesn't even know when he is sinning. "Who can discern his errors?"

He also recognizes that he as we all do, sin while presuming that God will show mercy and grace. It is a willful disregard for God's commandments and "presumes" that God will forgive anyway. After all that is what God is in the business of doing - Right?

David, again as we all do, needs God's help as he battles sin. "Let them not have dominion over me!"

In the end David is confidently sure (as he looks to his redeemer) that in the end he will be blameless. Future tense (shall be blameless)

A man after God's own heart: recognizes his sinfulness and God's provision for redemption through Jesus Christ

Psalm 19:14

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

David is praying that his words, (James 3:6-12) which flow from his heart (Matthew 12:24, 15:18) be pleasing to the Lord. He knows that in his life and words that he can be duplicitous. Say one thing and do another. Secondly David is recognizing that God is the only rock to build a life on and that redemption is only through God. We can not attain it.

A man after God's own heart: sees himself as he really is and clings to God for redemption.

David and his genealogy

Who was David's great grandmother?

Who was Ruth? (Book of Ruth)

Who was David's great great grandmother? (1Chronicles 2:11-12, Ruth 4:20-21, Matthew 1:3-5, Luke 3:32)

Who was David's great (times 7) grandmother? Rahab. Read Gen 38. Judah, with Canaanite Shua, three sons, Er, Onan, Shelah.

Does David's genealogy seem like what you would expect of the greatest king in Israel?

A man after God's own heart is not trapped or defined by his ancestry. He sees himself as a sinner, saved by grace and made a new creation for God's service.

1 Samuel 16:1-11

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." And Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. 'And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.'" Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" And he said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice." And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before him." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here." And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the Lord said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Raman.

A man after God's own heart is not a function of age. (Youngest)

1. We need to be people who develop young men. If you are older, find someone you can pour your life, wisdom and knowledge into.
2. Paul and Timothy: 1Timothy 1:2 "To Timothy, my true child in the faith:". 4:12 "Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity." Paul in 1 and 2 Timothy sets the example on how to encourage one younger in the faith.
3. This is also true for older Christians. We are not out of the game. In fact, we are in the game up till we take our last breath.

Do you feel you are out of the game due to your age, young or old?

**Is there something you can do to or feel called to do to make an impact for the Kingdom of God?
What do you need to do to make that a reality?**

**A man after God's own heart does his job to the best of his ability no matter where God has placed him.
(Keeping the sheep)**

So often, especially when we are young, we think "well only when I get this job will I be able to contribute" Or "I need to get an education or master this skill before I can be used by God."

No! We need to bloom where ever God has planted us. In fact, unless we do the best we can in the most menial of jobs we won't be fit to move on to the more advanced or important. David made the most out of his time with the sheep, practicing with the sling so that he could protect the sheep from the bear and the lion. And in doing so He had seen God work through him and through an experienced faith he could face that first great challenge of Goliath.

Whether young or old we are to do our best in whatever situation God places us.

Have you ever felt frustrated that you weren't being used like you thought you should? Work place? Ministry?

A man after God's own heart uses the "slow" times to deepen his relationship with the Lord.
(Keeping the sheep)

Think David's Psalms. David made the most of his time. He did not squander that which is the most precious thing we have - time!

Ephesians 5:15-16. "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil."

Do you find you waste time? How?
Is leisure a waste of time?

A man after God's own heart is filled with the Spirit for guidance and power.
(And the spirit of the Lord rushed upon David from that day forward)

Do you realize that you have the Spirit of the living God residing in you?

The tabernacle and then the Temple that followed is where God's Spirit, in a supernatural way, resided. That residence is now in you. 1 Cor 6:18-20. "Flee from sexual immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the sexually immoral person sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body."

From the get go God makes it abundantly clear that it is the Spirit of God that empowers David, that motivates him. We need to be sensitive to and reminded that the Spirit is working in us. We have God, (1 John 4:16), Jesus (Col 1:27) and the Spirit (2 Cor 1:22) working in us.

1 Samuel 16:14-18

Now the Spirit of the LORD departed from Saul, and a harmful spirit from the LORD tormented him. And Saul's servants said to him, "Behold now, a harmful spirit from God is tormenting you. Let our lord now command your servants who are before you to seek out a man who is skillful in playing the lyre, and when the harmful spirit from God is upon you, he will play it, and you will be well." So Saul said to his servants, "Provide for me a man who can play well and bring him to me." One of the young men answered, "Behold, I have seen

a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, who is skillful in playing, a man of valor, a man of war, prudent in speech, and a man of good presence, and the LORD is with him.”

A man after God’s own heart is known by a good reputation.

The reputation of David had reached to a member of Saul’s court. He is not famous or well known but what is known of him is of good report.

What are you known for?

What do you think will be on your tombstone?

Should we chase after a “good” reputation?

From this description of the young David what can we deduce?

A man after God’s own heart develops his skills

This harkens back to last week where we talked about David making the most of his time. Here David while tending the sheep practiced on the harp. How many hours does it take to master something? 10,000. That’s 8 hours a day for 5 years. We should be developing skills.

What skill could you be working on?

A man after God’s own heart is a man a valor. He has a true moral compass and acts decisively on it.

This is before Goliath, David’s reputation as a man of valor was apparent. There must of been instances where people witnessed his valor in small but tangible ways. We may not face Goliath’s everyday but we can act valiantly, standing up to racism, bigotry, bullying as we go about our day. Gary Cooper in High Noon

What injustice or wrong in the world, is there that you can stand up against?

What would that look like?

A man after God’s own heart Is not afraid to die for what he believes in

When a man goes to war he goes to die. He is willing to give his life for the cause. He is sold out, all in, no holds barred.

Is there anything in your life that you would go to war for, that you would die for?

A man after God’s own heart is prudent in speech.

What is prudent speech? It is speech characterized by wisdom, foresight, and careful consideration of consequences. The opposite would be someone who just lets the words flow without any consideration. We should follow James’ advice. 1:19. Be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger. To have prudent speech we need to chose our words wisely.

When do you find your speech is not so prudent?

How can we encourage one another to have prudent speech?

A man after God’s own heart has a “good presence”

So what does a man with good presence look like? What are we talking about here?

A man with good presence conveys an aura of respect, of confidence not in himself but in what is inside him. He knows who he is and whose he is. This is not boasting, it is a quiet confidence, a presence, that he knows who he is and what he is about and that in the end he will overcome.

A man after God's own heart has a reputation that God is with him.

Do we have a reputation that we are men of God? Is God the defining trait that people see in us?

Most people who know about us will see something that they associate with us. Maybe that we are a basketball fan or maybe we are known for our profession. Story of how I am known early in Kenya

Therefore Saul sent messengers to Jesse and said, "Send me David your son, who is with the sheep." And Jesse took a donkey laden with bread and a skin of wine and a young goat and sent them by David his son to Saul. And David came to Saul and entered his service. And Saul loved him greatly, and he became his armor-bearer. And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, "Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight." And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him.

Read 1 Samuel 17: 1-47

1 Samuel 17:4-7

A man after God's own heart will be in a battle and knows his enemy.

Do you know the strategy of Satan?

John 10:10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. What does Satan steal? What does he kill and destroy?

1 Peter 5:8. Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Matthew 4:1-3. Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him.

Are all your sinful tendencies the direct result of Satan?

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind..

1 Peter 2:11. Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh which wage war against your soul.

Sometimes our battle is not against Satan but against ourselves!! We are the enemy

1 Samuel 17:20. "David rose early in the morning and left the sheep with a keeper"

A man after God's own heart tends to his responsibilities

What is your number one responsibility?

How can you tend to that and still move forward to what you feel God calling you to do?

God will never call you to forsake your responsibility to your wife and family. You do to the best of your abilities that which God has given you to do.

1 Samuel 17:25-26a. And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his

daughter and make his father's house free in Israel. And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel?"

A man after God's own heart expects reward for extraordinary effort.

We touched on this before from Ps 19. Is it morally right to be motivated by reward for your effort?

Do we have a stigma associated with money? What about public servants like mayors, senators and congressmen who enrich themselves from their time in service?

Financial reward for services is absolutely morally reasonable but it can be fraught with danger 1Timothy 6:10. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs." Matthew 6:24 "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

Let us examine our lives and see where our hearts are concerning money. (Uncle Felix, no checking account, not credit cards, lives each day looking to the Lord.)

1Samuel 17:26b. "For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?"

A man after God's own heart declares his faith in God boldly.

In church and bible studies, men's group we declare what we believe.. When we are in public do we even say anything? Why? Should this be so? How should we speak in the world?

Colossians 4:6. "Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person." ESV. "Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone. NLT

Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits

Matthew 12:36. "I tell you, on the day of judgment people will give account for every careless word they speak, for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.

1Samuel 17:28 Now Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spoke to the men. And Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, "Why have you come down? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your presumption and the evil of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle.

A man after God's own heart will be misunderstood.

Who is it that seems to misunderstand you the most? Family? Strangers?

As a Christian we have a new heart which leads to a new reason and motivation for life. People who knew us before will not understand. Paul is a great example of someone who was misunderstood. The Christians were scared to death of him because of his reputation. The Jews couldn't understand his change of heart.

We need to realize we will be misunderstood and that is OK. Who is it that we are here to please? God, and He knows our hearts.

1Samuel 17:34-37. But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep sheep for his father. And when there came a lion, or a bear, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after him and struck him and delivered it out of his mouth. And if he arose against me, I caught him by his beard and struck him and killed him. Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God." And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and the LORD be with you!"

A man after God's own heart recognizes that God is preparing him through the trials of life to move forward at the right time.

When we encounter difficulties and trials what is the first thing that runs through our minds? (Why me?, or what did I do to deserve this?)

Can you look back at a time in your life when you experienced trials and now see that God used those trials to teach you and shape you?

Hind sight is 20/20. As we mature we, hopefully, will see that all our trials are preparing us for future service. God always has a plan.

James 1:2-5 count it all joy my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives generously to all without reproach and it will be given him.

1 Peter 1:6-7. In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith- more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire- may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Our difficult times are the crucible that refines us and makes us pure.

1 Samuel 17:38:39. Then Saul clothed David with his armor. He put a helmet of bronze on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail, and David strapped his sword over his armor. And he tried in vain to go, for he had not tested them. Then David said to Saul, "I cannot go with these, for I have not tested them." So David put them off.

A man after God's own heart trusts not in the things of this world (armor).

What things of the world are you trusting in?

What is the armor the world says to put on?

Yes we all trust in things other than the Lord. God may have blessed you but take care. Those blessings can turn into traps. You may end up worshipping the gift rather than the giver.

1 Samuel 17:40. Then he took his staff in his hand and chose five smooth stones from the brook and put them in his shepherd's pouch. His sling was in his hand, and he approached the Philistine.

A man after God's own heart prepares rationally with what he knows.

What in your life is tested and true that you have seen the Lord use before?

Is it time to use that skill, ability in new areas?

There are probably some skills that you recognize that God has placed in you and you have exercised them to some extent. Maybe just maybe He is looking to develop those skills in a greater way. If the opportunity comes take it.

Personal experience in dentistry.

1 Samuel 17:45-46. Then David said to the Philistine, “You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel,

A man after God’s own heart is confident, not from a head knowledge but from an experiential walk and communion with the LORD, the great I AM, ruler of the universe

Where does your confidence come from?
Your education? Your family name? Your status in society?

David reminds us that all our confidence should be based in the Lord. Who is it that David says will deliver Goliath into his hand? The Lord. David has that confidence in the Lord because he has experienced it in his life. It is not a blind faith. It is a faith built on experience. David is not “hoping”, as the world thinks of hoping, that God will deliver Goliath, he knows God will.

A man after God's own heart knows that God will do what brings Him glory.

Do we really take to heart and understand that our lives, everything we do, all that we are, is to glorify God?
According to the Westminster shorter catechism what is the chief end of man?

The Bible continually brings us back to the fact that it is all about God. This is all for His glory. Your job, your family, everything about you is for the Glory of God. Never let that thought pass far from your mind. Even in your sufferings, it is for God's ultimate glory, (Romans 8:28, Job, the whole book, the life of Joseph)

1 Samuel 17:47 and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD'S, and he will give you into our hand."

A man after God's own heart knows that the battle is the Lords. God is sovereign and we can therefore walk in confidence.

Do you take worry, fret, lose sleep over your battles?
What is behind the worry?
Are you convinced, in your life, that the battle is the Lords?

A firm grasp, understanding of this concept changes your outlook on life. Yes you have a part to play but the battle is God's. When I worry, it is because I have taken my problems and held on to them tightly. At times, I confess I have held my worries as a badge of some kind of perverse honor. Philippians 4:6-7. "Do not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

What can you lay before God in order to experience His peace?

Read 1 Samuel 17:48-58

Read 1 Samuel 18:1-5

1 Samuel 18:1. As soon as he had finished speaking to Saul, the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

A man after God's own heart has soul brothers.

Do you have a man friend in your life that you can share your soul with?
What is preventing you?

American men are not taught or encouraged to form bonds with other men. We are individualistic. We handle it ourselves. To reach out for help is considered weak.
Secondly we are ashamed of our sin and ashamed to confess it to our brothers.

But we need to because I can guarantee you that someone else has already gone through what you are experiencing and their wisdom is just what you need to help you put to death the sin in your life. Notice Jonathan as the king's son could have Lorded it over David. But he didn't. They shared a bond as equals.

1 Samuel 18:7-9. And the women sang to one another as they celebrated, "Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands."

And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David from that day on.

A man after God's own heart will be rejected.

Has anyone in your life rejected you because of your walk with Jesus?

In this case the rejection seems to be based on jealousy. Has jealousy played a part in your life? People being jealous or you or you being jealous of others?

Not everyone will live at peace with us if we are walking uprightly. Rightly ordered, our decisions should be to please God rather than man. Galatians 1:10 "For am I now seeking the approval of man, or of God? Or am I trying to please man? If I were still trying to please man, I would not be a servant of Christ."

If we seek to please God we will at times be rejected by men.

1 Samuel 18:25-27 Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to

make David fall by the hand of the Philistines. And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son-in-law.

Before the time had expired, David arose and went, along with his men, and killed two hundred of the Philistines. And David brought their foreskins, which were given in full number to the king, that he might become the king's son-in-law. And Saul gave him his daughter Michal for a wife.

A man after God's own heart goes above and beyond the call of duty and he does not procrastinate.

Do we do our best or do we just get by? In work, family, marriage?

Do we put off what can be done today solely because we could do it tomorrow? (Proverbs 6:6-10)

As a child of God, all that we do is a reflection on our Father. We should stand out (for good reasons) compared to the rest of our coworkers. Our attitude, our work ethic, our relationships in the office, all should be above the norm.

There is a time for rest and relaxation but between those times we were created to work (Gen 2:15)

18:8-9 And Saul was very angry, and this saying displeased him. He said, "They have ascribed to David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed thousands, and what more can he have but the kingdom?" And Saul eyed David from that day on.

18:10-11. Saul had his spear in his hand. And Saul hurled the spear, for he thought, "I will pin David to the wall." But David evaded him twice.

18:12-13. Saul was afraid of David because the LORD was with him but had departed from Saul. So Saul removed him from his presence and made him a commander of a thousand.

18:17. Then Saul said to David, "Here is my elder daughter Merab. I will give her to you for a wife. Only be valiant for me and fight the LORD'S battles." For Saul thought, "Let not my hand be against him, but let the hand of the Philistines be against him."

Saul reneges on his promise. 18:19. But at the time when Merab, Saul's daughter, should have been given to David, she was given to Adriel the Meholathite for a wife.

18:20-21. Now Saul's daughter Michal loved David. And they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. Saul thought, "Let me give her to him, that she may be a snare for him and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him."

18:25. Then Saul said, "Thus shall you say to David, 'The king desires no bride-price except a hundred foreskins of the Philistines, that he may be avenged of the king's enemies.'" Now Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.

18:28-29. But when Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal, Saul's daughter, loved him, Saul was even more afraid of David. So Saul was David's enemy continually.

CONTRAST

18:30. Then the commanders of the Philistines came out to battle, and as often as they came out David had more success than all the servants of Saul, so that his name was highly esteemed.

What is Saul's attitude to David? Is it justified?

How does David react to Saul's mistreatment? How do you think David thinks about himself? What do you think his identity is?

Read 19:1-7

A man after God's own heart has friends who will go to bat for them, to mediate for them

Who do you have that is on your team? How does you get people on your team?

The best way to have a good friend who will stick up for you is to be that person for them. This is true for David and Jonathan. Later in Samuel David will honor Jonathan due to his love for him.

Proverbs 18:24. "A man of many companies may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother"

1 Timothy 2:5. "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Read 19: 8-24

Read Chapter 20 and 21

19:9-10. Saul tries to impale David with a spear for the second time

19:11-17. David flees his home through the deception of his wife Michal

19: 18-24. David flees to Samuel at Ramah and then they both moved to Naioth. Saul sends messengers to take David but the Spirit of God came upon them and they prophesied. Saul sends a second group and they prophesied. And finally a third set and they too prophesied. Saul then goes himself and The Spirit of God came upon him also and Saul prophesied with his clothes off all day and night.

David sees God's miraculous hand in protecting him from Saul. David is at a cross roads

Chapter 20

David flees Natioth and goes to Jonathan. He asks What is my sin, what is my guilt, What have I done that your father seeks my life? Jonathan replies that no this isn't so. My father never does anything without telling me. But David counters with your father knows we are good friends so he is keeping this from you. Jonathan asks "What is your plan?" **What is missing from David's questions?**

So David concocts this plan: tomorrow at the new moon feast I am expected to be there. If your father sees that I am missing tell him that I had to go to a family sacrifice in Bethlehem (note the plan is predicated on a lie), If he replies good then all is well. If he is angry then know that he intends to harm me.

David asks Jonathan how will I know what his response is? Before Jonathan answers the question he reaffirms the covenant between the two that David will remember the house of Jonathan and they swore their love for one another. Jonathan's plan to tell David is for David to hide by the stone heap and Jonathan will come to shoot thee arrows. If he tells his boy who will retrieve the arrows that they are short of the mark then all is well. But I he says to the boy go beyond, then David is to go.

At he feast on the first day Saul said nothing but on the second day Saul asked Jonathan "where is the son of Jesse? Jonathan answered, "David earnestly asked leave of me to go to Bethlehem for his clan holds a sacrifice in the city and he is expected to be there.

Saul became angry at Jonathan and said, "You son of a perverse and rebellious woman" I know what is going on here. You have chosen the son of Jesse.

Saul then plays his ace card. "For as long as the son of Jesse lives on the earth, neither you nor your kingdom shall be established.

Jonathan knows now his father's heart so the next morning Jonathan goes out to the field and calls out that the arrows are further. He sends the boy back to the city with his weapons and then David and Johnathan met, wept (with David weeping the most) and they said their good byes.

Chapter 21

David flees to Nob where Ahimelech is the priest. David lies to Ahimelech and asks for bread but there is only holy bread which David takes. (Matthew 12:3-4). He also asks for weapons and takes Goliath's sword.

David ends up in Gath in front of King Achish and resorts to feigning madness to make his mistake. David is at his lowest point.

How did David get to this point? What should you do if you find yourself in such a place.

Even a man after God's own heart can lose sight of God in the midst of his problems and forget to trust in God

Have you ever went ahead in your own wisdom and strength and seen the disastrous effects of your folly?

What can you do to prevent such a course of action?

Proverbs 3:5-6. "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Making it a discipline to spend time in the word, praying, meditating and listening. Also develop a cohort of wise Christian friends who can help you think clearly when you, yourself are a jumble of emotions.

How did David get to this point in his life where he has to flee to the cave of Adullam?
Whose fault is this? David's? Saul's? Nobody's?
God as Sovereign has a purpose for David. What is He trying to teach David?

1 Samuel 22:1. David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.

A man after God's own heart finds refuge in his distress.

Do you have a place that you can go for refuge where it is just you and the Lord?

Psalms 46, Psalm 91,

1 Sam 22:2. And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.

A man after God's own heart draws people to himself.

Do you find this to be true? What drew you to community with GCT?

What kind of people are coming to David? Family, those in distress, those in debt, everyone who was bitter in soul.

This is not the elite, the it crowd. David is not part of the elite anymore and he is drawing people like him who the powerful have cast aside. This is a precursor to Jesus reaching out to the tax collectors, sinners. Luke 15:1. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him

1Samuel 22:3-4. A man after God's own heart cares for his parents. And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

A man after God's own heart takes care of his parents, he honors them.

Why is David concerned for his parents?

Why Moab?

David is concerned because Saul could get to David by way of his family. His brothers have joined him so sending his parents to Moab ensures their safety.

Moab because of David's Great grandmother Ruth. There must have been on going connections with the distant Moabite clans in the intervening years.

1 Samuel 22:9-19. Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, and he inquired of the LORD for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king. And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the LORD. Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

A man after God's own heart recognizes that his decisions whether good or bad will effect others. He does not live in a vacuum

Do you see that your actions effect those around you?

Can you think recently of when your actions or inactions hurt someone close to you?

You may not be directly responsible for evil but all of us influence those around us. We do not live in a bubble. We are interconnected to those around us and our actions will be a cause with a resultant effect whether for good or evil.

1 Samuel 22:22. And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house.

A man after God's own heart accepts responsibility for his actions.

Do you own your actions? Or do you try and explain away and justify what you do?

This character trait is lacking in our world today. We will stand out and change the world if we just own our actions. This is especially true for the sinful actions. We own them, repent, and move on learning from our mistakes. Swahili verb tense.

1 Samuel 22:23. Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

A man after God's own heart rectifies, makes right, his mistakes when possible

Is there something you can do to right a wrong that you were wholly or partly responsible for?

This attribute of David goes hand in hand with the preceding attribute of taking responsibility for your actions. When you go the next step and try and make right the wrong then you have truly owned your culpability, your guilt in the matter. In our world it is easy to say I'm sorry and show remorse. Where the rubber meets the road is if you do something about it. That is the kind of man we are to be.

1 Samuel 23:1-2. Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." Therefore David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah."

A man after God's own heart seeks the Lord's guidance.

When you have a major decision to make is your first thought to take it to the Lord? If not, how can we train ourselves to do this?

It appears in the text that David could hear God in some way. What are your thoughts on this? Have you "heard" the Lord? What does that phrase mean to you.

When we are in Christ we have the Holy Spirit dwelling in our hearts and minds. How does this fact influence how we communicate with the Lord?

1 Samuel 23:3-5. But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" Then David inquired of the LORD again. And the LORD answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

A man after God's own heart listens to advice but ultimately trusts in the Lord.

Do we seek the Lord first, then wise counsel? If there is a discrepancy then do we follow our sanctified heart? Are you sure your heart is after the Lord or your own desires

Our hearts are desperately wicked but God is creating a new heart. You need wisdom to discern what is going on inside you.

A note about the men following David. Their concerns were valid yet they followed David anyway. Do you think that the fact that David trusts in the Lord plays a part in their faith in his leadership?

1 Samuel 23: 6-14 When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." **(Note on the ephod: It is a priestly garment like a vest that is sometimes used for ascertaining the will of God, Even though we might want access to an ephod since we have the Holy Spirit residing in us we do not need the ephod)** Then David said, "O LORD, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O LORD, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the LORD said, "He will come down." Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the LORD said, "They will surrender you." Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, **(Notice that David now has an army of 600 from the previous 400)** arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

1 Samuel 23: 15-18. David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this." And the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

A man after God's own heart has a Jonathan in his life and the corollary is we are to be Jonathans to others in our lives.

Do you have a Jonathan in your life? Are you a Jonathan to someone else?

We all need someone that knows us even better than we know ourselves. Johnathan came to David, he made the effort to seek David out, he knows what is going on in David's life, who or what is David's hardship,(Saul) how to encourage David (Do not fear), He points David to the future (you shall be king over Israel) and how he fits into David's life. (They are covenantal brothers) That person is worth their weight in gold.

1 Samuel 23: 19-26. Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon? Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the LORD, for you have had compassion on me. Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. See therefore and take note of all the lurking places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul.

Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them,

1 Samuel 23:27-28. a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape.

A man after God's own heart is protected by God

Do you have a story of God's protection in your life?

God may protect you by bringing a difficulty in your path so that you don't go down the path you had chosen, which in hindsight you now know would have been disastrous. Or maybe, like David, you are caught between a rock and a hard place and only God can bring about deliverance. God is in the business of protection.

1 Samuel 23:29. And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

David is on the move. He starts at the cave of Adullam, then on to the forest of Hereth, then he saves Keilah and lives there among those people. David, through inquiring of the Lord learns that the people will deliver him over to Saul so he departs to the wilderness of Ziph. The Ziphites seek Saul's favor so they plot to give David over to Saull. As Saul seeks David out, David went to the wilderness of Maon. Saul continues to pursue and God miraculously causes Saul to depart and David and his men went to the strongholds of Engedi.

A man after God's own heart will not know peace in human terms but will be at peace in his heart.

Can you relate to this conundrum? Can you say as the world is falling apart that you are at peace?

This is thought behind John 16:33. "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart: I have overcome the world"

1 Samuel 24:1-7. When Saul returned from following the Philistines, he was told, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi." Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats 'Rocks. And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. And the men of David said to him, "Here is the day of which the LORD said to you, 'Behold, I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.'" Then David arose and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. And afterward David's heart struck him, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. He said to his men, "The LORD forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the LORD'S anointed." So David persuaded his men with these words and did not permit them to attack Saul. And Saul rose up and left the cave and went on his way.

A man after God's own heart can discern between Godly and worldly judgements.

What is the advice of the men with David in the Cave?

"Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, Behold , I will give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you."

Did the Lord say that to David?

Where do you think that phrase came from? Is it Biblical?

Actually it is: Judges 16:24. And when the people saw him, they praised their god for they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand..

Who said this? Who are "the people" ? They are not the Israelites, it is the Philistines.

Who is "the enemy"? It is Samson.

What happens right after this when they follow this course of action?

The party where they are making fun of Samson turns into their tomb as Samson kills more in his death than in his life.

So taking this idea to today what advice is out there in the world that on the surface seems like good advice?

"You just be you"

"Live your truth"

"Women's healthcare"

"Self-Love above all"

"Love is love"

"Christianity is inclusive of all"

The key to being able to discern well is to have the Word of God deep in your understanding. If not you will be swayed by every wind of doctrine (Ephesians 4:12-14)

What is the principle that David affirms that stays his hand against Saul?

That Saul is the Lord's anointed

Why is this a big deal to David? He is also the Lord's anointed and he realizes that he is would be undermining his own legitimacy

What is the example given by Jesus as we deal with enemies?

Matthew 5:44. "But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."

Luke 6:27. "But I say to you who hear, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you."

This is in stark contrast to the advice we will hear in the world. Following Jesus is radical, transformational, and so different from what the world does.

1 Samuel 24:8-15. Afterward David also arose and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. And David said to Saul, "Why do you listen to the words of men who say, 'Behold, David seeks your harm'? Behold, this day your eyes have seen how the LORD gave you today into my hand in the cave. And some told me to kill you, but I spared you. I said, 'I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed. 'See, my father, see the corner of your robe in my hand. For by the fact that I cut off the corner of your robe and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. May the LORD judge between me and you, may the LORD avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you. As the proverb of the ancients says, 'Out of the wicked comes wickedness. 'But my hand shall not be against you. After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! May the LORD therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you, and see to it and plead my cause and deliver me from your hand."

Vs 8. A man after God's own heart honors those above him in position.

Do you honor those over you, even and especially when they don't deserve honor by their actions? This includes parents, bosses, commanders, politicians. Why are we to honor them?

We honor those above us because God is sovereign and we honor the God who placed them in this position. When we complain and grumble we are effectively saying that God doesn't know what he is doing.

Vs 9-11. A man after God's own heart, when living uprightly, can speak the truth with boldness and it carries the weight of truth.

What truth do we hold that we can share with friends and enemies alike that carries life changing power?

There are many strategies to sharing the Gospel. One of them is to honor those with whom you are talking, share from your heart what God has done in your life, and present Jesus as the way, the truth and the life.

Vs 12-15. A man after God's own heart leaves vengeance, revenge, and deliverance to the Lord.

Why is it that we want to see vengeance so intensely?

Why is it that we should let the Lord execute vengeance and not ourselves?

Everybody, whether Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, or atheist all have a gut reaction to perceived injustice. When we see a wrong we want to see it made right. This universality of seeking justice is because we are all made in the image of God. But what so easily forget is that we are not omniscient, we don't know

all the factors and our judgement is skewed to what we think we know. Our vengeance would be imperfect. But God knows all and His judgement, though often delayed in our estimation, is inerrant and perfectly righteous.

1 Samuel 24:16-22. As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And Saul lifted up his voice and wept. He said to David, "You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. (Romans 12:14-21) And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when the LORD put me into your hands. For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the LORD reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. And now, behold, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand. Swear to me therefore by the LORD that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house." And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

[The humble, truthful words of a man after God's own heart can bring a measure of reconciliation and clarity to his adversaries.](#)

Saul acknowledges that David will be the next king and he seeks reassurance that David will deal fairly with Saul's offspring. Saul has a momentary correct understanding of the situation. He is not consumed with his hatred of David. Our words can bring clarity and understanding but unless the heart and mind are renewed the clarity is just for a time.

1 Samuel 25:1. Now Samuel died. And all Israel assembled and mourned for him, and they buried him in his house at Ramah. Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

Thoughts on the death of Samuel:

1. Samuel was highly revered as all Israel assembled and mourned for him.
2. Samuel was the spiritual leader during the transition from Judges to the Kings.
3. Samuel was not a flashy charismatic leader

[There is no stereotype that all leaders fit into. \(Ezra and Nehemiah and their handling of those who married the local Cannanites.\) God uses a willing heart built to accomplish His purposes. There may be David's among us but most of us are simple men following God the best we know how.](#)

4. His death begs the question who wrote the book after Samuel died.
 1. See 1 Chronicles 29:29. "Now the acts of King David, from first to last, are written in the Chronicles of Samuel the seer, and in the Chronicles of Nathan the prophet, and in the Chronicles of Gad the seer."
 2. It appears that 1 and 2 Samuel is a compilation of those three authors.

1 Samuel 25: Then David rose and went down to the wilderness of Paran. And there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel. The man was very rich; he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats. He was shearing his sheep in Carmel. Now the name of the man was Nabal, and the name of his wife Abigail. The woman was discerning and beautiful, but the man was harsh and badly behaved; he was a Calebite. David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep. So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name. And thus you shall greet him: Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have. I hear that you have shearers. Now your shepherds have been with us, and we did them no harm, and they missed nothing all the time they were in Carmel. Ask your young men, and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we come on a feast day. Please give whatever you have at hand to your servants and to your son David."

A man after God's own heart seeks favor with those around him.

David is in a difficult position. He and his men are on the run and cannot plant and harvest. Neither can they keep livestock. They must rely on the generosity of neighbors.

How does David make his case?

He bestows peace upon Nabal and his house and possessions

He reminds Nabal that no harm came to his shepherds

He validates his claim by appealing to the word of the shepherds

He then asks humbly for whatever bounty is at hand

This is a well reasoned petition, graciously given.

Nabal's response: 1 Samuel 25:9-12. When David's young men came, they said all this to Nabal in the name of David, and then they waited. And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters. Shall I take my bread and my water and my meat that I have killed for my shearers and give it to men who come from I do not know where?" So David's young men turned away and came back and told him all this.

This is an honor shame culture. Everything is considered in that mindset. You seek to honor someone and never to shame them. How would you describe Nabal response?

David's response: 1 Samuel 25:13. And David said to his men, "Every man strap on his sword!" And every man of them strapped on his sword. David also strapped on his sword. And about four hundred men went up after David, while two hundred remained with the baggage.

We must always be on our guard as we respond to personal attacks for even a man after God's own heart can lose it.

What is David's response to Nabal's slight? Why is David's anger boiling? When David asked for a favor do you think he was prepared for this response ?

Anger can rear its ugly head in a heartbeat. We must always be alert to what can trigger our anger?

When, if ever, is it appropriate to be angry? Read Matthew 5:21-26

A Wise Woman. 1 Samuel 25:14-31. But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, "Behold, David sent messengers out of the wilderness to greet our master, and he railed at them. Yet the men were very good to us, and we suffered no harm, and we did not miss anything when we were in the fields, as long as we went with them. They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the while we were with them keeping the sheep. (The young man confirms that David and his men were a wall to Nabal's shepherds). Now therefore know this and consider what you should do, for harm is determined against our master and against all his house, and he is such a worthless man that one cannot speak to him."

Then Abigail made haste and took two hundred loaves and two skins of wine and five sheep already prepared and five seahs of parched grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and laid them on donkeys. And she said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I come after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal. And as she rode on the donkey and came down under cover of the mountain, behold, David and his men came down toward her, and she met them. Now David had said, "Surely in vain have I guarded all that this fellow has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him, and he has returned me evil for good. God do so to the enemies of David and more also, if by morning I leave so much as one male of all who belong to him."

When Abigail saw David, she hurried and got down from the donkey and fell before David on her face and bowed to the ground. She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the guilt. Please let your servant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your servant. Let not my lord regard this worthless fellow, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name, and folly is with him. But I your servant did not see the young men of my lord, whom you sent. Now then, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, because the LORD has restrained you from bloodguilt and from saving with your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek to do evil to my lord be as Nabal. And now let this present that your servant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who follow my lord. Please forgive the trespass of your servant. For the LORD will certainly make my lord a sure house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil shall not be found in you so long as you live. If men rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living in the care of the LORD your God. And the lives of your enemies he shall sling out as from the hollow of a sling. And when the LORD has done to my lord according to all the good that he has spoken concerning you and has appointed you prince over Israel, my lord shall have no cause of grief or pangs of conscience for having shed blood without cause or for my lord working salvation himself. And when the LORD has dealt well with my lord, then remember your servant."

Vs 18-19. **A good wife is more valuable than riches. They can often see the reality of a situation more clearly than you can.**

How does your wife compliment you? Do you acknowledge and praise her for her those attributes?

Vs 23- 28a **A good wife intercedes for her husband, she stands in the gap and makes things right.**

Can you think of a time that your wife interceded for you? In my life it is often with the kids where I spoke a harsh word and I was oblivious.

Vs 28-31. **A good woman seeks to restrain evil, she is concerned for Davids reputation.**

Do you see this at work in your marriage, where your wife acts to alert you to behavior that will be detrimental to you and harm your reputation?

Vs 32-36. **A man after God's own heart listens to Godly advice and is not so hard headed that he won't turn away from a course of action that will lead to destruction.**

What is the sin that David blesses Abigail for saving him from? Blood guilt and from working salvation with his own hand. Notice that David in his anger didn't see this sin. Abigail pointed it out to him.

What does he mean by blood guilt?. How in our culture are we culpable of blood guilt?

1 Samuel 25:36-38. Nabal dies

Vs 39-42. Davids marries Abigail.

A man after God's own heart chooses his wife wisely.

If you are a single man, there is no more important decision than who you are to marry. But even more important than who she is, is who you are. You need to be the man who walks up rightly, loves sacrificially (willing to die for her), cherishes her solely, and covenants for life..

For those who have made your decision what were the factors that you can share with the younger me?

Vs 43-44. David displays his weakness

Even a man after God's own heart has weaknesses that can lead to his downfall.

David's wife Michal had been given to another so marrying Abigail is reasonable and shows wisdom. But soon after he marries Ahinoam of Jezreel. (Jezreel is in Samaria and it is the town that many years later, Ahab and Jezebel ruled.). David's weakness is women and this is just the beginning.

What are your weaknesses? What are you doing about it? Do you even have a strategy?

1 Samuel 26:1-9. Then the Ziphites came to Saul at Gibeah, saying, "Is not David hiding himself on the hill of Hachilah, which is on the east of Jeshimon?" So Saul arose and went down to the wilderness of Ziph with three thousand chosen men of Israel to seek David in the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul encamped on the hill of Hachilah, which is beside the road on the east of Jeshimon. But David remained in the wilderness. When he saw that Saul came after him into the wilderness, David sent out spies and learned that Saul had indeed come. Then David rose and came to the place where Saul had encamped. And David saw the place where Saul lay, with Abner the son of Ner, the commander of his army. Saul was lying within the encampment, while the army was encamped around him.

Then David said to Ahimelech the Hittite, and to Joab's brother Abishai the son of Zeruah, "Who will go down with me into the camp to Saul?" And Abishai said, "I will go down with you." So David and Abishai went to the army by night. And there lay Saul sleeping within the encampment, with his spear stuck in the ground at his head, and Abner and the army lay around him. Then Abishai said to David, "God has given your enemy into your hand this day. Now please let me pin him to the earth with one stroke of the spear, and I will not strike him twice." But David said to Abishai, "Do not destroy him, for who can put out his hand against the LORD'S anointed and be guiltless?"

David experiences Deja vu. This is the second time he has the opportunity to take Saul's life.

God may require that a man after God's own heart learn a lesson multiple times.

Has God taken you through a situation and you came out of it only to have to face the same problem again? God knows what you need to experience to transform you into the man he wants you to be.

1 Samuel 26:10. And David said, "As the Lord lives, the Lord will strike him, or his day will come to die, or he will go down into battle and perish."

1 the Lord will strike him

This may be the thought that God wanted to impress upon David. What happened in the last chapter with Nabal? David sought revenge yet in vs 25:38 we see that "the Lord struck Nabal and he died."

2. His day will come to die.

He may die a natural death as Samuel in chapter 25

3. Or he will go down into battle and perish.

Spoiler alert: 1Sam 31:6. Thus Saul died and his three sons, and his armor-bearer and all his men on the same day together.

A man after God's own heart knows that God will take care of his enemies.

Do you plot to take care of your enemies? Do you know know the Lord's sovereignty in executing justice?

Romans 12:19. Beloved, never avenge yourselves but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay says the Lord. (Hebrews 10:30-31, Deut 32:3. Ps 94:1)

1Samuel 11-12. The LORD forbid that I should put out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. But take now the spear that is at his head and the jar of water, and let us go." So David took the spear and the jar of water from Saul's head, and they went away. No man saw it or knew it, nor did any awake, for they were all asleep, because a deep sleep from the LORD had fallen upon them.

What is David thinking as he and Abishai sneak into Saul's camp? What is David trying to prove, if anything? On a scale of 1 to 10 where is David's trust in the Lord?

David has complete trust and faith in God at this stage of his life. He is still on the run, he is not where he wants to be but he is content with where he is and that God will work everything out in His timing.

Do you think Ps 23 "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me..." is on David's mind?

A man after God's own heart knows he right where God wants him to be, and knows intimately that God is with him.

1 Sam 26:13-16. Then David went over to the other side and stood far off on the top of the hill, with a great space between them. And David called to the army, and to Abner the son of Ner, saying, "Will you not answer, Abner?" Then Abner answered, "Who are you who calls to the king?" And David said to Abner, "Are you not a man? Who is like you in Israel? Why then have you not kept watch over your lord the king? For one of the people came in to destroy the king your lord. This thing that you have done is not good. As the LORD lives, you deserve to die, because you have not kept watch over your lord, the LORD'S anointed. And now see where the king's spear is and the jar of water that was at his head."

What is David doing here, calling out to Abner?

David is using his actions as object lesson. He calls out to Abner who should have been protecting his king. Instead, it is David who is actually protecting his king. David's escapade is a lesson to all who will hear that David is looking out for the the best for the king.

A man after God's own heart uses his actions to prove his point. He does not spew empty words.

1Sam 17-20. Saul recognized David's voice and said, "Is this your voice, my son David?" And David said, "It is my voice, my lord, O king." And he said, "Why does my lord pursue after his servant? For what have I done? What evil is on my hands? Now therefore let my lord the king hear the words of his servant. If it is the LORD who has stirred you up against me, may he accept an offering, but if it is men, may they be cursed before the LORD, for they have driven me out this day that I should have no share in the heritage of the LORD, saying, 'Go, serve other gods. 'Now therefore, let not my blood fall to the earth away from the presence of the LORD, for the king of Israel has come out to seek a single flea like one who hunts a partridge in the mountains."

David makes his case to Saul directly. He asks what is it that he has done. He seeks reconciliation. He likens himself to a flea

A man after God's own heart seeks reconciliation with his enemies.

1 Samuel 26:21-25. Then Saul said, "I have sinned. Return, my son David, for I will no more do you harm, because my life was precious in your eyes this day. Behold, I have acted foolishly, and have made a great mistake." And David answered and said, "Here is the spear, O king! Let one of the young men come over and take it. The LORD rewards every man for his righteousness and his faithfulness, for the LORD gave you into my hand today, and I would not put out my hand against the LORD'S anointed. Behold, as your life was precious this day in my sight, so may my life be precious in the sight of the LORD, and may he deliver me out of all tribulation." Then Saul said to David, "Blessed be you, my son David! You will do many things and will succeed in them." So David went his way, and Saul returned to his place.

Saul is contrite, David and Saul come to an understanding. David offers back the spear and Saul blesses David. But consider that last phrase. They did not come into full harmony. They came to an understanding. And then both went their own way.

We seek to live in unity with one another but is there times when we can't? Is it OK to get as far as an understanding and no more?

A man after God's own heart seeks reconciliation but knows through wisdom, history and past experience that the relationship may not be all that it could be. And is OK with that. (Romans 12:18. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.)

1 Sam 27 1 Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand."

Do you see any potential problem with consulting with your heart to make a decision? What do we know about our heart?

Jeremiah 17:9. The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked: who can understand it?

Do you notice whom David did not consult? The Lord, friends, God's word.

David made a previous decision when he fled Saul in chapter 21 and the consequences were severe with the eventual death of the priestly family in Nob.

A man after God's own heart should always understand that his heart can lead him astray in the proverbial heartbeat.

A man after God's own heart should always seek the Lord in prayer and through His word before making major decisions.

1 Sam 27:2-4. So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow. And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.

Who has been affected by David's decision? 600 men and their households, David's two wives
From verse 4, was the decision successful? In the short term David saw a favorable result. Unfortunately we will never know what God had in store if David had consulted him first.

A man after God's own heart needs to understand that his decisions will affect others,

A man after God's own heart should make decisions for the long run. He is not looking for a quick fix.

1 Sam 27:5-12. Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be given me in one of the country towns, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months. Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish. When Achish asked, "Where have you

made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or, "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Kenites." And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'" Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."

Who is this King Achish what is David's previous experience with him?

What is David's solution to living in the capital Gath with his cultural enemy.

How does David appease King Achish without fighting against his own people?

David sees a remedy to an awkward situation in requesting a transfer to another town. David has to feign allegiance to King Achish while being true to his God and his people. The situation lasts for 1 year and 4 months

David lies to Achish. David says that he is fighting and taking spoils from the towns of Judah but in reality he is fighting the non Jewish tribes to the south.

One poorly conceived decision leads to more and more layers of deceit.

1 Sam 28:1-2. In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army." David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

Look at the mess that David has gotten himself into. He is now committed to fight for King Achish for life as his personal bodyguard. This is not a result that David anticipated when he decided to seek relief from Saul. David is between a rock and a hard place.

1 Sam 28:3-7. Now Samuel had died, and all Israel had mourned for him and buried him in Ramah, his own city. And Saul had put the mediums and the necromancers out of the land. The Philistines assembled and came and encamped at Shunem. And Saul gathered all Israel, and they encamped at Gilboa. When Saul saw the army of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart trembled greatly. And when Saul inquired of the LORD, the LORD did not answer him, either by dreams, or by Urim, or by prophets. Then Saul said to his servants, "Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, that I may go to her and inquire of her." And his servants said to him, "Behold, there is a medium at En-dor."

Both David and Saul have having to lay in the bed they have made

Saul sees the assembled Philistine army and is afraid but everywhere he turns he gets no answer. Neither the Lord nor the prophets. And the only other place that he sees to seek counsel is a medium but he had put out all of the mediums.

Saul is acting out of fear. How does fear influence your decisions?

Saul got rid of the mediums and now he is seeking one out. What does this say about Saul's heart?

Does our heart ever justify our sin like this?

Have you ever found yourself unsure of what to do and everywhere you look for answers there is silence?

Can God use silence to bring you into a deeper relationship with Him?

A man after God's own heart will do the right thing and if there is silence or uncertainty he will wait on the Lord.

1 Sam 28:8-14. So Saul disguised himself and put on other garments and went, he and two men with him. And they came to the woman by night. And he said, "Divine for me by a spirit and bring up for me whomever I shall name to you." The woman said to him, "Surely you know what Saul has done, how he has cut off the mediums and the necromancers from the land. Why then are you laying a trap for my life to bring about my death?" But Saul swore to her by the LORD, "As the LORD lives, no punishment shall come upon you for this thing." Then the woman said, "Whom shall I bring up for you?" He said, "Bring up Samuel for me." When the woman saw Samuel, she cried out with a loud voice. And the woman said to Saul, "Why have you deceived me? You are Saul." The king said to her, "Do not be afraid. What do you see?" And the woman said to Saul, "I see a god coming up out of the earth." He said to her, "What is his appearance?" And she said, "An old man is coming up, and he is wrapped in a robe." And Saul knew that it was Samuel, and he bowed with his face to the ground and paid homage.

Then Samuel said to Saul, "Why have you disturbed me by bringing me up?" Saul answered, "I am in great distress, for the Philistines are warring against me, and God has turned away from me and answers me no more, either by prophets or by dreams. Therefore I have summoned you to tell me what I shall do." And Samuel said, "Why then do you ask me, since the LORD has turned from you and become your enemy? The LORD has done to you as he spoke by me, for the LORD has torn the kingdom out of your hand and given it to your neighbor, David. Because you did not obey the voice of the LORD and did not carry out his fierce wrath against Amalek, therefore the LORD has done this thing to you this day. Moreover, the LORD will give Israel also with you into the hand of the Philistines, and tomorrow you and your sons shall be with me. The LORD will give the army of Israel also into the hand of the Philistines."

Did Samuel really speak with Saul?

Saul makes an oath by the Lord against the Lord, Desperation can lead to inconsistency.

Desperation leads to poor decisions when following the your own wisdom
God's judgment is set. You are always better off to be on the Lord's side.

1 Sam 28:20-25. Then Saul fell at once full length on the ground, filled with fear because of the words of Samuel. And there was no strength in him, for he had eaten nothing all day and all night. And the woman came to Saul, and when she saw that he was terrified, she said to him, "Behold, your servant has obeyed you. I have taken my life in my hand and have listened to what you have said to me. Now therefore, you also obey your servant. Let me set a morsel of bread before you; and eat, that you may have strength when you go on your way." He refused and said, "I will not eat." But his servants, together with the woman, urged him, and he listened to their words. So he arose from the earth and sat on the bed. Now the woman had a fattened calf in the house, and she quickly killed it, and she took flour and kneaded it and baked unleavened bread of it, and she put it before Saul and his servants, and they ate. Then they rose and went away that night.

Why was Saul filled with fear at the words of Samuel?

How did the medium's actions show her character?

What do we learn about human nature when we see a non believer act in kindness and mercy?

Saul has come to the realization that in going his own way he has come face to face with the wrath of God.
This is true of all unbelievers eventually

Even a non believer can exhibit love and compassion toward others

All of us need each other. Even the most powerful needs others in their lives.

1 Sam 29 1-7. Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is in Jezreel. As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish, the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul, king of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years, and since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day." But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him. And the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here? Is not this David, of whom they sing to one another in dances, Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the LORD lives, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign. For I have found nothing wrong in you from

the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not approve of you. So go back now; and go peaceably, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines.”

David, through his own devices finds himself between a rock and a hard place. He has no one to blame but himself. But God... has provided a way of escape, a way out

What do you think David would have done if the lords of the Philistines had not pushed back on King Achish?
Would he have attacked the Philistines from the rear and betrayed Achish?
How does the fact that Israel is at war with the Philistines change things?
Could David from the beginning have been planning to fight the Philistines from the inside?

We all can experience the grace of God when we don't deserve it.

1 Sam 29 8-11. And David said to Achish, “But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?” And Achish answered David and said, “I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God. Nevertheless, the commanders of the Philistines have said, ‘He shall not go up with us to the battle. ‘Now then rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came with you, and start early in the morning, and depart as soon as you have light.” So David set out with his men early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

David continues his ruse with King Achish. He is playing the double agent.

How does David's ability to lie so effortlessly feel to you?
Is David learning the craft of being a King? Or think he is learning the craft?
Can a Christian be a politician?

Matthew 10:16. “Behold , I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

1 Sam 30:1-2. Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way.

So David is off feigning allegiance to Achish and while gone his village is raided and all taken prisoner.

Do you think that God is teaching David something through this? If so what?
Notice the Amalekites “killed no one” while David in chapter 27:8-9 ‘would leave neither man nor woman alive,..”

God in his immeasurable grace doesn't give us what we deserve.

1 Sam 30: 2-6a. And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters

David is broken, His men are at the point of mutiny. All of his cunning and planning has led to this

A man after God's own heart, when it all falls apart, has a decision to make - follow your own course or turn to the Lord.

1 Sam 30: 6b-8. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." So Abiathar brought the ephod to David. And David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I pursue after this band? Shall I overtake them?" He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake and shall surely rescue."

This is the first time since before David made the decision to follow his heart and seek refuge with his enemy, that David is seen seeking the Lord.

Do you ever get complacent and it takes a minor or major catastrophe to wake you up from you stupor and see things as they really are and turn back to the Lord?

A man after God's own heart is open to the Lord's discipline and returns whole heartedly to the Lord.

1 Sam 30: 8-15. So David set out, and the six hundred men who were with him, and they came to the brook Besor, where those who were left behind stayed. But David pursued, he and four hundred men. Two hundred stayed behind, who were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor.

They found an Egyptian in the open country and brought him to David. And they gave him bread and he ate. They gave him water to drink, and they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. And when he had eaten, his spirit revived, for he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights. And David said to him, "To whom do you belong? And where are you from?" He said, "I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me behind because I fell sick three days ago. We had made a raid against the Negeb of the Cherethites and against that which belongs to Judah and against the Negeb of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire." And David said to him, "Will you take me down to this band?" And he said, "Swear to me by God that you will not kill me or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this band."

David leaves 200 of his men at the brook because they are too weak to continue

David finds an Egyptian, shows mercy on him and gains information

When we are in distress are we quick to show mercy? If you have experienced the mercy of God you should extend that mercy to others.

A man after God's own heart shows mercy to strangers

1 Sam 30: 16-25. And when he had taken him down, behold, they were spread abroad over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. And David struck them down from twilight until the evening of the next day, and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men, who mounted camels and fled. David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."

Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow David, and who had been left at the brook Besor. And they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near to the people he greeted them. Then all the wicked and worthless fellows among the men who had gone with David said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except that each man may lead away his wife and children, and depart." But David said, "You shall not do so, my brothers, with what the LORD has given us. He has preserved us and given into our hand the band that came against us. Who would listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down into the battle, so shall his share be who stays by the baggage. They shall share alike." And he made it a statute and a rule for Israel from that day forward to this day.

David secures a great victory. Everything is recovered and there was additional spoil. God was gracious. But there is division among the 400 who fought and the 200 who stayed behind.

What do you think about the 400 men's concerns? From a human perspective there is a reasonableness to the idea.

But what has David been learning during this whole chapter in his life? Grace and Mercy.

A man after God's own heart shows Grace and Mercy because God has shown it to him. Twice earlier God showed him grace by providing a way out and God through the Amalakites by not killing everyone

1 Sam 30: 26-31 When David came to Ziklag, he sent part of the spoil to his friends, the elders of Judah, saying, "Here is a present for you from the spoil of the enemies of the LORD." It was for those in Bethel, in Ramoth of the Negeb, in Jattir, in Aroer, in Siphmoth, in Eshtemoa, in Racal, in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, in the cities of the Kenites, in Hormah, in Bor-ashan, in Athach, in Hebron, for all the places where David and his men had roamed.

David shares his spoil with the towns of southern Judah. The places where he had roamed during his time running from Saul.

David didn't have to share with these towns, Why did he?

When we are given a blessing are we quick to share the blessing with others?

A man after God's own heart gives to others and at the same time uses wealth to plan for the future

1 Sam 31:1-7 Now the Philistines were fighting against Israel, and the men of Israel fled before the Philistines and fell slain on Mount Gilboa. And the Philistines overtook Saul and his sons, and the Philistines struck down Jonathan and Abinadab and Malchi-shua, the sons of Saul. The battle pressed hard against Saul, and the archers found him, and he was badly wounded by the archers. Then Saul said to his armor-bearer, "Draw your sword, and thrust me through with it, lest these uncircumcised come and thrust me through, and mistreat me." But his armor-bearer would not, for he feared greatly. Therefore Saul took his own sword and fell upon it. And when his armor-bearer saw that Saul was dead, he also fell upon his sword and died with him. Thus Saul died, and his three sons, and his armor-bearer, and all his men, on the same day together. And when the men of Israel who were on the other side of the valley and those beyond the Jordan saw that the men of Israel had fled and that Saul and his sons were dead, they abandoned their cities and fled. And the Philistines came and lived in them.

What do you think of Saul falling on his sword? Could you envision yourself doing that?
The horrors of war as just that, horrors. The stuff of bad dreams and PTSD

In our popular culture we have sanitized it. We play video games about it. We euphemize war with adjectives like "surgical" and "tactical", as if when we kill people surgically then it lessens the horror.

As Christians can we go to war? If so what are the parameters? What is "just war theory". Where did it come from? What are its basic tenets?

History: Just War Theory (aka Just War Doctrine) was introduced by Augustine. His initial observation was that war is evil but is not morally unavoidable in a world marked by sin and injustice. He broke his doctrine into two parts, the cause and the manner of the war. He identified the primary cause of the just war as self defense. And then the manner of prosecuting the war as limiting cruelty, and the deliberate harming of innocents. (Non-combatants)

Unfortunately this is easier said than done. Ex. Hamas hiding in schools and hospitals. The Dresden firing bombing by the Allies near the end of WWII. Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

8 centuries later Thomas Aquinas built upon Augustines work. His basic tenants of just war are still those that we hold to today.

Legitimate Authority: Only the political community may declare war.

Just Cause: fundamentally, self - defense against unjust aggression

Right Intention: war must not be pursued for revenge, hatred, or domination

Double effect: a grave harm may be morally tolerable if it is not intended as an end but occurs as an unavoidable collateral effect of defense

Others have added that cultural superiority and evangelization are not justification for a just war.

Synopsis: Just War Theory is an expressly Christian doctrine. (The Islamic world has nothing even approaching Just War Theory). The purpose is not to legitimize war, it questions it, restrains it, and subjects it to rigorous moral scrutiny. Its relevance today is greater than ever.

1 Sam 31: 8-13. The next day, when the Philistines came to strip the slain, they found Saul and his three sons fallen on Mount Gilboa. So they cut off his head and stripped off his armor and sent messengers throughout the land of the Philistines, to carry the good news to the house of their idols and to the people. They put his armor in the temple of Ashteroth, and they fastened his body to the wall of Beth-shan. But when the inhabitants of Jabesh-gilead heard what the Philistines had done to Saul, all the valiant men arose and went all night and took the body of Saul and the bodies of his sons from the wall of Beth-shan, and they came to Jabesh and burned them there. And they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh and fasted seven days.

Notice the contrast of the desecration and honoring of the body. Christians throughout history have honored the body? What is the Biblical basis for that honor?

Genesis 1: 26-27, 1 Corinthians 3:16, 1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 6:16

We honor the body in life and in death. How do we honor the body in life?

2 Sam 1:1-10. After the death of Saul, when David had returned from striking down the Amalekites, David remained two days in Ziklag. And on the third day, behold, a man came from Saul's camp, with his clothes torn and dirt on his head. And when he came to David, he fell to the ground and paid homage. David said to him, "Where do you come from?" And he said to him, "I have escaped from the camp of Israel." And David said to him, "How did it go? Tell me." And he answered, "The people fled from the battle, and also many of the people have fallen and are dead, and Saul and his son Jonathan are also dead." Then David said to the young man who told him, "How do you know that Saul and his son Jonathan are dead?" And the young man who told him said, "By chance I happened to be on Mount Gilboa, and there was Saul leaning on his spear, and behold, the chariots and the horsemen were close upon him. And when he looked behind him, he saw me, and called to me. And I answered, 'Here I am.' And he said to me, 'Who are you?' I answered him, 'I am an Amalekite.' And he said to me, Stand beside me and kill me, for anguish has seized me, and yet my life still lingers. 'So I stood beside him and killed him, because I was sure that he could not live after he had fallen. And I took the crown that was on his head and the armlet that was on his arm, and I have brought them here to my lord."

How does the Amalekite's story differ from what is recounted in the last chapter? Yet this man had the crown and armlet of Saul so he was there during the battle.

Why would this Amalekite bring this news and crown to David?

2 Sam 1:8-10. Then David took hold of his clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son and for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword.

David and his men weep for Saul, Jonathan, the people who died in battle and for the reputation and honor of Israel. It is entirely appropriate to rejoice in our country's victories and lament in their losses.

2 Sam 1: 11-16. And David said to the young man who told him, "Where do you come from?" And he answered, "I am the son of a sojourner, an Amalekite." David said to him, "How is it you were not afraid to put out your hand to destroy the LORD'S anointed?" Then David called one of the young men and said, "Go, execute him." And he struck him down so that he died. And David said to him, "Your blood be on your head, for your own mouth has testified against you, saying, 'I have killed the LORD'S anointed.'"

David twice stayed his hand against Saul because he was the Lord's anointed. Now he condemns to execution a man who admitted to killing Saul.

Do you think the Amalekite was trying to gain favor with David by saying that he had killed Saul?

Always tell the truth, and know to whom it is that you are seeking favor.

2 Sam 1:17-27. And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and Jonathan his son, and he said it should be taught to the people of Judah; behold, it is written in the Book of Jashar. He said:

“Your glory, O Israel, is slain on your high places!

How the mighty have fallen! **Three times David laments that the mighty have fallen**

Tell it not in Gath,

publish it not in the streets of Ashkelon,

lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, **David laments that this news will bring joy to the Philistines**

lest the daughters of the uncircumcised exult.

“You mountains of Gilboa,

let there be no dew or rain upon you,

nor fields of offerings! **David curses the place where they died**

For there the shield of the mighty was defiled,

the shield of Saul, not anointed with oil.

“From the blood of the slain,

from the fat of the mighty,

the bow of Jonathan turned not back,

and the sword of Saul returned not empty.

“Saul and Jonathan, beloved and lovely!

In life and in death they were not divided;

they were swifter than eagles; **David remembers the Saul and Jonathan**

they were stronger than lions.

“You daughters of Israel, weep over Saul,

who clothed you luxuriously in scarlet **David reminds the women of what Saul and Jonathan had done for them**

who put ornaments of gold on your apparel.

“How the mighty have fallen

in the midst of the battle!

“Jonathan lies slain on your high places.

I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan;

very pleasant have you been to me; **David ends with a special tribute to Jonathan with whom he had a special covenant.**

your love to me was extraordinary,

surpassing the love of women.

“How the mighty have fallen,

and the weapons of war perished!”

There is a time to weep and lament. A man after God’s own heart can show emotion, weep, cry and lay your heart before God and man.