

After God's Own Heart: David the King
11.13.2022

Today we are in the 4th week of a 5-week series we have titled "After God's Own Heart".

This series focuses in on the person of David, and specifically his title of "A man after God's own heart".

So far, we have looked at David as a worshipper and how he formats his life around praising God,

We examined the story of David and Bathsheba and his moral failure which gives us hope and reminds us of grace,

Last week we looked at the story of a crippled boy named Miphiboseth who was granted a seat at the table simply because of who his father was, and we found hope in that truth being a reality for us as well

David was chosen by God to be the king of Israel because God examined him and deemed that his heart was after God's own heart.

David, with a heart that reflected the heart of God, spent all of his life also chasing after God's own heart, attempting in all areas to look more and more like God.

I've titled the message today "David the King"

While in nearly all of our stories and dives into the person of David, his being the king has been a steady reality and understanding, this subject is less about how he became King or stayed as King, but instead today we are looking at the way The king changes and effects the people around him.

Here is the question I want all of us to answer today or take with us to find an answer after today:

“How does the King change me?”

While we are going to look at King David today and see the way he effected and changed his surroundings, this question, which is meant for us, is not about David, but instead is about God. How does the king, THE King, change me?

This morning isn't only about how the King can change us but how the king *actually* changes us. What does the process look like?

I wish growth in faith and service to the King was all a snap of His fingers and we were prepped for whatever our King has for us, but the reality is that there is a long process between where we are and where God wants us to be, and we are all in different spots along different journeys. God has not called all of us to the same final place, but He has called all of us to obedience, so this morning no matter where you're at, this message is for you.

In the same way we are called to obedience, David also was called to be obedient not just to God's calling on his life, but to the process of God's calling on his life.

When David was in his father's house and the prophet Samuel came an anointed his head and chose him to be the King of God's people, it was not in that moment that David became King. In fact, there was 15 years between the calling on David's life and the beginning of David's life as King.

In those 15 years, God shaped David into the man who would be leading Israel. David learned how to battle, how to create strategy, and also how-to walk-in trust with God. All of those things came before the title.

Maybe you are heartbroken or feel without purpose but find hope in this short verse but long period of time. The work and the molding come before the title. You may not know exactly where your fir or how you fit or how you're GOING to fit, but that doesn't mean you're in an empty season it means you're in a season of shaping.

For about 7 of those 15 years between when David was called and when David was titled, David would continuously go into hiding because the current King, Saul, who was jealous of David's future, was trying to find and kill him.

Open up your bibles to [1 Samuel 22- we will start at verse 1](#)

[David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there.](#)

David is on the run from King Saul and escapes Gath and heads into this cave called the cave of Adullam. [Here is a photo for reference:](#)



While we don't know exactly what the cave looked like or which exact location in that system David was in, it's safe to say that he wasn't exactly living a life of royalty in this season of his life. We read also in verse one that his father and brothers learn of where he is and decide to go and join him in the cave. Keep reading with me in verse 2:

All those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him, and he became their commander. About four hundred men were with him.

I love that picture because it looks like the picture of us in our life with our Savior all those who were in distress or in debt or discontented gathered around him.

How I wish all of those people today would gather around the feet of Jesus, how different would our world look?

OK- back to the cave.

It says there were 400 men with him.

When I was in middle school, after my parent got a divorce, I went through what I believed to be this really rebellious bad boy stage of my life.

I know, looking at me many of you think I'm still in my bad boy stage. I get it, but it's not like it was for me when I was a young teenager. When I was a young teen, I ran the world. More specifically I ran the city of Prospect just outside Louisville KY.

My house was in a neighborhood that was along a long stretch of road with many different neighborhoods. And if you walked to the ends of the neighborhoods, you could sneak through small, wooded areas and "break into" the neighborhood that was on the other side. If you did this a few times, you would pop out right by the gas station in our town, the beloved Thorntons, which hot take, I believe to be the best of all gas stations.

I was the friend that typically went to all my friends' houses more than my friends came to mine, we were just never really the host house. But when we did stay at my house and I would have a couple buddies over, it meant we could sneak out in the middle of the night, cut through the neighborhoods, and get to Thorntons for soda and donuts right when they replaced them in the middle of the night.

So, we were very strategic, we would wait until my mom would go to bed and, well I grew up with big dogs, so we had a large dog door that went to the

backyard, we would crawl through it, then sneak out the gated yard and make our trip to the gas station.

We did this maybe 2 or 3 times ever, and we never got caught and I wore that like a badge of honor. We would be able to get to Thorntons and back without being caught. Then the 4th time we did it, we had just reached Thorntons and grabbed our junk food, when my phone buzzed.

I look down and I see “mom” on the screen

My heart sinks.

I open the text and it speaks

“Bring me back some Doritos please”.

Turns out that I was thinking we were so sneaky, I talked to my mom, and she started laughing at me

“Son you are the least sneaky person alive, I hear you breathing heavily and giggling each time you leave the house. Just use the door from now on, ok? You look ridiculous crawling out of grandma’s dog door”

I was under the impression I was so sneaky and good at it, turns out my mom always knew where I was. I never snuck out of the house, I just left my house, its far less cool sounding.

Back to the story I can’t imagine how David is hiding successfully from Saul with 400+ people in and around the cave he is hiding in, if it were me Saul would have found me right away, but apparently, they had better systems in place.

I don’t know how David and his family, and 400 men hid in the cave, but not only that, but David became their commander.

Plus, what a crew David had to work with! What potential! David struck God right he had in his new army all the distressed, in debt, and discontented.

How did David turn 400 of his motley crew into, what would later become, David's Mighty Men?

It is believed that while David was hiding in the cave that he authored many of the Psalms, including Psalm 34.

I believe there are three things David instilled in his men to build them up to become a powerful army for the king.

I believe that these three things are outlined in David's writing in Psalm 34, and I believe these three things are not meant only for the men in service to King David, but also for you and I in service to OUR king.

David takes this group and later, from David's leadership [, we see a group known as David's mighty warriors, maybe you've heard the children's song about them. David started with misfits in a cave and developed them into the strongest warriors in the nation.

Here is how he did it, based off his words in **Psalm 34. Start with me in verse 1-3:**

**I will extol the Lord at all times;
his praise will always be on my lips.**

**²I will glory in the Lord;
let the afflicted hear and rejoice.**

**³Glorify the Lord with me;
let us exalt his name together.**

1. Stop what we're doing and praise God.

We become so discontented in where we are as believers. We beat ourselves up because of how we feel we fail to serve our king.

We wish we were:

- Praying more
- Reading the bible more
- Listening to more Christian music
- Volunteering more
- Tithing more

- Counseling more
- Participating more

And we get so angry at ourselves for the things we don't do right that we allow ourselves to do nothing at all.

Those are all things we need to be doing, and maybe you do need to step up for yourself in some of those areas, but you can be doing all of those things and not praising God. You can check off every box and not exalt him and his goodness. You can write a check or spend an hour at an event, and while those are great things, you can do those things without praising at all.

Stop being angry
Stop being fake
Stop being lazy
Stop overworking
Stop complaining

Praise.

Give him glory today.

You may be in debt, defeated, distressed, or discontented, but that doesn't change the praise our God deserves.

David knows this and so can we

We need to

1. Stop what we're doing and praise God.

The second thing we need to do is

2. Trust God in all circumstances

We do a great job of looking like everything we have and do belongs to God, but do you really trust him with it all?

Look back at Psalm 34 starting in verse 4:

I sought the Lord, and he answered me;
he delivered me from all my fears.
Those who look to him are radiant;
their faces are never covered with shame.
This poor man called, and the Lord heard him;
he saved him out of all his troubles.

If this morning you can look back at your life and name a time where God came through, if you can look at all your past and see that God was good or faithful, if you can look back and remember when God was deserving of your trust, would you simply say the word “yes”

If He has been good to you say yes

If He has been faithful to you say yes

If you think He'll do it again say yes

David knows the importance of trusting God in all circumstances because he knows the danger of looking at it the other way around.

How can you be fully in the service of someone you don't trust?

How can you be fully in the service of someone you don't trust?

David is in a CAVE, hiding from a king he is supposed to replace. He is a boy IN training at this point, not the king he is meant to be, he is still learning,

Yet he trusts that God is going to come through again and again and again.

How hopeless would that cave feel if they didn't believe they would be out of the cave someday?

Some of you are in the cave right now, training, being molded, facing hardships, fearing the world around you, but how much does it change your current situation if you believe fully that God has something more for you.

Not in your timing, not how you envision it, maybe not even how you want everything in your life to go

But that cave you're in changes when you know that God will deliver you time and time again.

2. Trust God in all circumstances

Because eventually from the place where God is leading you and calling you, you're going to look back on this time in the cave, and THIS difficult season will be the memory you're saying YES to as you ask the question "has he always been good?" When you trust in God you can say declare YES, HE IS GOOD NOW and not just on the other side of the training or hurt. Because church He is good.

So, we need to

1. Stop what we're doing and praise
2. Trust God in all circumstances

And finally

3. Answer his call for you

Church its time that we answer the call

Read the final two verses of

Psalm 34 with me, verses 21 and 22

Evil will slay the wicked;

the foes of the righteous will be condemned.

²²The Lord will rescue his servants;

no one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

The Lord will rescue his servants- servants do as the King says, when the King calls, the servant answers. Servants do the work of the King when called upon, and church we have all been called upon to serve the king in some way.

Maybe for you your first step is turning your life over to Jesus and turning for your sin and accepting the Kings invitation to His table, if that you and you need/want to talk through a first-time decision, we want to have that conversation please find me or someone else and start that conversation.

I think however that most of us are being called to serve in ways we have said no to for far too long.

Maybe you have seen and experienced god's call, but you think it's way too daunting and life changing, so you have denied it and run from it.

Maybe God is calling you to something simpler like greeting on a Sunday morning or helping with coffee team or joining the worship team or helping with the children or student ministries, (plug). Whatever it is he could be calling you to that and we think it's too small or miniscule a task to accept or we just. Don't. wanna.

We need to humble ourselves church.

He is God we are not. He is the King we are not.

The King may call us to a great battle or He may call us to clean the shields when the battle is done.

Our job isn't to choose to task, its to walk in obedience of the King

1. Stop what you're doing and praise
2. Trust God in all circumstances
3. Answer His call for you

It may mean making a small change to serve in a way you feel you can and should, it may mean you need to do the work to prepare yourself for a bigger change in your life, but following God never means – don't do anything.

Walk in your call or walk towards your call. Those are our options.

God never calls us to do nothing.

We serve the King which means we do the work.

The men who were with David in the cave, the distressed, in debt, and discontented, this is what they became in David's service:

Read 1 Chronicles 12 with me:
they were armed with bows and were able to shoot arrows or to sling stones right-handed or left-handed; they were relatives of Saul from the tribe of Benjamin):

close with bow and arrow story and prop

Those skills had to be learned and worked for.

these men trained for insane periods of time, worked, practiced, demanded excellence from themselves not because they wanted to be the best but because they trusted God and his plan for David and decided that if it were in service to their King it would be there best.

God may not be calling you to master archery or become a warrior, He is calling all of us to many different things.

Maybe you need to start serving more with the church. Not because you'll be a better person or because the church desperately needs you, maybe you need to step up and volunteer more because in service to the King, he deserves your best and your best is more than you're doing.

If you feel that this morning, write down where you want to serve or what area you want to learn more about, let us help, nobody was in the cave alone.

Maybe for you today you have already been doing to work and answering the call, but it's been empty without praise because you feel disconnected from the father. If you need prayer this morning, we want that to be available for you as well. It's a very challenging spot and you're not alone. If you need to make any kind of decision, to get plugged in and serve, to follow Jesus and find out what that looks like, or if you just need to talk, find me in the lobby after service and we can get there together.

1. Stop what you're doing and praise
2. Trust God in all circumstances
3. Answer His call for you

In service of our King there is nothing we shouldn't be willing to do.