

After God's Own Heart: David's Legacy

11.20.2022

If we haven't had the chance to meet yet, my name is Rob, I'm the student minister here at WellSpring

and my name is Emily, I am the kid's minister, and we are so glad you are joining us here this morning.

If you have been with us that's great, if not, we have been taking the past 5 weeks to look at David, the King of Israel who was chosen by God.

This morning, we are going to lean into the ways that David lead those under him, specifically his children. The way David raised his children impacted his children, his grandchildren, his great-grandchildren, and ultimately the entire kingdom of Israel. His actions and his leadership heavily influenced the people that were watching him. Today, we are going to take a look at his influence and the influence that we hold ourselves.

We have titled the sermon this morning: David's Legacy.

Here at WellSpring we have 4 main values that shape our ministries and teachings. These 4 values represent our mission in action. We say we want to

1. Find Family
2. Know God
3. Discover Purpose
4. Make an Impact

We do these things, ultimately, to support our mission as a church: We want to help people follow Jesus.

The way we carry ourselves and our influence, like Emily just said, is going to affect so much more than our family dynamics and relationships. The potential of this conversation and learning is so much larger than those listening and here now, but for families and generations past us here today.

We have looked at David as many different titles and positions, but today we want to look at him as a father and leader. David was a leader who had an incredible mantle, king of Israel, that he wanted to be passed down to his children, and their children after that. David's role as a father made him responsible in many ways, but his leadership extended far past fatherhood.

Before we get much further into this, I want to pause and ask you to not tune this out if you feel that David's fatherhood is not something you are currently experiencing. Maybe your kids are fully grown and your parenting doesn't look the same as it used to. Or maybe, you're like Rob and I and you don't have children. Whether you are a parent or a middle schooler, we really believe God has something to teach us in this story of David's legacy, if we are willing to open ourselves up to it. The reality is we all have influence and we all have the opportunity to be investing in and leading those behind us. The way David lived heavily affected not only himself, but those who came after him. And everything we do and everything we don't do affects those who come after us.

There was something in my life that impacted me as a child and set the trajectory of my life from then on out. To this day, I remember it well, and I have actually seen your children doing this as well, and it is this simple folded up piece of paper I have in front of me. This folded piece of paper told 8-year-old me if I would have a happy rest of my life or if something terrible would happen to me the next day. Now, obviously, this paper holds no power and no control over my future, but don't try to tell me that you didn't listen to every word it said when you were a kid too. So, today, we are going to use it to decide how the next 2 minutes go. I need two volunteers.

Now _____, this is filled with good, fun things and not so fun things. But these are not for you, these impact _____. So, you will decide which part we read and what _____'s next 2 minutes look like.

Game

Everything we do and everything we don't do affects those who come after us.

This is true for us, and as we will see today its true for King David as well.

If you turn in your bibles to 1 Kings chapter 2, we see here David, the man after God's own heart, nearing death. Before he dies, he passes along a charge to his

son Solomon, his youngest child who would take his place as King of Israel after he dies. Here is what David says:

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

2 “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said. “So be strong, act like a man, 3 and observe what the LORD your God requires: Walk in obedience to him, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go 4 and that the LORD may keep his promise to me: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

Notice the promise from God that is fresh on David’s mind as he nears death: ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’

I believe that David’s final charge to Solomon, even the reminder of God’s promise, are all the correct words and wisdom to instill in your son who will take the throne, but even though David said all the right things here, there were plenty of times where David as a father was absent, short tempered, or distracted. Solomon was always watching his father David respond. Solomon, whether David was aware or not, was being influenced by David’s actions, parenting, and behavior. David said all the right things at the end, but saying the right things at the end doesn’t equate trying to do the right things always.

David was a man after God’s own heart, but he didn’t always teach his kids to be. He was chosen by God, not because of natural ability but because God looked at his heart and saw it was good. He has been remembered for centuries as a man after God’s own heart, and yet he missed an opportunity to lead his children to pursue that same heart of God.

I strongly believe that one of the most important things we can do with our lives is teach our kids how to seek the heart of God. Parents, your kids are looking to you to model for them what a life of following Jesus looks like. Your kids need you to help lead them closer to the Father. And yet, this is not just a call for parents. Every single person has the opportunity to show the next generation the heart of

God. The question has never been if you have the influence, the question has always been if you will use it. We all have the opportunity to lead the next generation closer to the Father, whether they are our own children or not, and we learn from this story that we need to **1. recognize our influence**. And everything we do and everything we don't do affects those who come after us. We have the ability to help those coming after us grow in a deeper relationship with God, and it forces us to ask ourselves: will we recognize that influence?

We have been talking for the last few weeks about all David did, but this week we are forced to recognize what David did not do. And this had an effect on his son Solomon.

Solomon knew God. While David did not always teach his children to seek God in their leadership and actions, David did teach Solomon about God and about how to make sacrifices to God. In 1 Kings 3, God appeared to Solomon in a dream and offered to give him whatever he asked. In humility, Solomon confessed that he did not know how to govern a kingdom of people and asked God for wisdom. The Lord was pleased that he did not ask for wealth or power, yet asked for a discerning heart, and granted it to him. Up until the time of Jesus, Solomon was the wisest man to walk the earth. People came from all nations to listen to his wisdom. He built a temple, a palace, a strong nation. He grew in power and status. He became the richest man on earth. And soon, he began to seek this power over the heart of God. He had 700 wives, he began to worship other gods. He sought a life filled with women and wealth and power over God.

1 Kings 11:6 says "So Solomon did evil in the eyes of the LORD; he did not follow the LORD completely, as David his father had done."

In humility, Solomon asked God for wisdom, and in arrogance, Solomon turned away from God. He began to lean on his own power, his own strength, his own knowledge. He turned away from God.

Solomon wrote the book of Ecclesiastes, and in it we get to read what Solomon discovered about the life he sought.

In Ecclesiastes 1:16-18 Solomon writes: ¹⁶ I said to myself, "Look, I have increased in wisdom more than anyone who has ruled over Jerusalem before me; I have experienced much of wisdom and knowledge." ¹⁷ Then I applied myself to the

understanding of wisdom, and also of madness and folly, but I learned that this, too, is a chasing after the wind.

*¹⁸ For with much wisdom comes much sorrow;
the more knowledge, the more grief.*

Being wise is not as valuable as what we do with the wisdom we have.

Solomon was the wisest man on earth until Jesus entered the picture, and yet even he couldn't find fulfillment or purpose within his great wisdom. Without God and leaning into God's plans instead of his own, Solomon found that his wisdom and gifting was meaningless. "a chasing after the wind".

Solomon realizes this in his life. Even though his life didn't always reflect the wisdom God instilled in him. Which is why I believe its ironic and a testimony to how much Solomon learned as he sought fulfillment in all the wrong places that he wrote the proverb that now hangs on quite a few walls at home: **Proverbs 3:5-7**, Solomon writes:

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart
and lean not on your own understanding;
6 in all your ways submit to him,
and he will make your paths straight. [a]**

**7 Do not be wise in your own eyes;
fear the LORD and shun evil.**

Verse 5 there is the second piece of wisdom we learn from David's legacy, a lesson that will impact much more than just us here today:

2) Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding.

Solomon learned this later in life, but he didn't live it out in his life as he sought fulfillment.

Remember the promise that God made to David about his descendants and the throne? God made a similar promise to Solomon in 1 Kings 9: 6-7

6"But if you[a] or your descendants turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you[b] and go off to serve other gods and worship them, 7 then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will

reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and an object of ridicule among all peoples.

God instilled in David the importance of their family's legacy, and now he has instilled that same importance in Solomon, so what do we see in Solomon's son?

Rehoboam had a difficult example to follow in his Father Solomon. This grandson of King David was handed the keys to the kingdom.

When Rehoboam became the King of Israel after his father Solomon died

- Israel came to Rehoboam and said "your father was harsh on us, lighten the load and we will follow you, but don't and we won't follow you."
- Rehoboam seeks wisdom to make a decision on how to respond.
 - o Solomon's counsel (funny the wisest man alive had a counsel still)
 - Be kind and be nicer
 - o His friends and peers
 - Heavy the burden.
- Rehoboam liked the second answer far more, and he increased the burden on the people of Israel. Here is what is says happened as a result of his decision:
 - o 1 Kings 12:16-17- When all Israel saw that the king refused to listen to them, they answered the king:

"What share do we have in David,
what part in Jesse's son?

To your tents, Israel!

Look after your own house, David!" So the Israelites went home. **17** But as for the Israelites who were living in the towns of Judah, Rehoboam still ruled over them.

He left a nation divided.

*Rehoboam had incredible influence and an opportunity to care for his people, yet he did not accept good help. He was given the chance to lead well but he did not listen to the wiser influence. When I think through the story of Rehoboam, I am reminded that we must **3. seek wisdom in the right places**. Where we seek wisdom and influence impacts us. In the world, we are surrounded by people and things fighting for influence over us. Students, every time you step into your school and*

into your neighborhood, you are given a thousand sources of influence. Adults, every time you step into your workplace and into your social circles, you are given a thousand sources of influence. Every time we open our phones, scroll through social media, watch the news, talk to a peer, we are given a thousand sources of influence. Whether you are directly asking for advice, like Rehoboam was, or not: you are impacted and influenced by so many people and things around you. The question is: what are we going to listen to? What are we going to allow to influence us? Where are we getting our wisdom? Where we get our wisdom matters.

So, what do we learn as we look at David's fatherhood and leadership to Solomon, Solomon's lack of example to his son Rehoboam, and Rehoboam's inability to seek wisdom?

Notice that none of these failures, shortcomings, or examples of poor leadership didn't cost David's family line the throne immediately, but that doesn't mean that the trend of drifting farther and farther from God didn't eventually lead to a broken legacy.

God promised David and Solomon that if their descendants remained obedient, their family would have a spot on the throne of Israel, but read what happens generations later after David, Solomon, and Rehoboam in the book of **Jeremiah chapter 52: starting in verse 1:**

Zedekiah was twenty-one years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem eleven years..... He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, just as Jehoiakim had done. 3 It was because of the LORD's anger that all this happened to Jerusalem and Judah, and in the end, he thrust them from his presence.

When we

1. Recognize our influence
2. Trust in God
3. Seek wisdom in the right places

We see on the other side of that obedience a faith that is developed for generations and a legacy that stands the test of time.

When we do these things, we see a lasting and powerful legacy for ourselves, our families, and our church.

As a church, this is what we're trying to do. We have devoted our lives to helping people, families, students, kids follow Jesus. As a church, we're devoted to that. As a staff, we're devoted to that. As a NextGen team, we're devoted to that. Our hope is to help kids, students, and families know and follow Jesus. We hope to be a resource in your parenting journey, recognizing how taxing and difficult it is. It is so easy to say parenting is important and the way you influence your kids has a lasting impact, but the reality is it is all so much more difficult than that. Yes, we want to minister to your children, but we also recognize that for every one hour we spend with them, you spend forty or fifty. You have a huge impact on your kids, and if we want your family to be able to seek the heart of God, it is important to us to be ministering to parents as well. You all have a really difficult, important job. Leading children closer to the heart of God is not a solo job. Studies have consistently shown that the consistent presence of outside, nonfamily adults in a kids life help the kid have a better chance of success in every area. The church is designed to be a community of people that takes care of one another, committing to helping one another seek the heart of God. That goes beyond a parent. That's every single one of us.

This is not Emily and I asking for more people to come volunteer for kids and students (although if you want to we have a lot of fun and want anyone with a passion for these ministries to jump in), instead, we should all live our lives with the assumption that someone is learning from us. David lived his life as a man who was after God's own heart. We have heard plenty about his ups and downs, successes and failures, and in his story, we find so many different aspects of our lives. Even with the good things we do and the bad, we can be men and women who are chasing after the heart of God. Isn't that what we all want to be? When we practice and teach those around us in word and action to

1. Recognize our influence
2. Trust in God
3. Seek wisdom in the right places

After God's own heart.

That's who we want to be

That's who we want our kids to be

That's who we want our church to be

That's who we want our world to be.

Q- what changes when the world is after God's own heart?

Baby Dedication

*At WellSpring, we believe baptism is an active, personal decision made between a person and God, declaring Him as their Lord and Savior. We believe that is something a person does when they are old enough to make that decision for themselves. But we also believe that, as a church, it is important to support and care for those in our community, committing to helping all people know and follow Jesus, helping guide them until they get to the place of making that decision. So about once a year we get the chance to do something together known as a baby dedication. This is a special chance for us to welcome new little ones into the community, pray over them and their families, and commit, as a church family, to partnering with these new parents in showing their children the heart of God as they continue to grow and develop. It is a beautiful privilege to love those in our community and I do not want us to miss it. **Introduce families, pray***