

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART THE STORY: CHAPTER 11

In today's lesson, we want to look at what it means to be a man/woman "after God's own heart." David gives us a powerful example of what it takes to live an extraordinary life. Like so many others we've studied, it was nothing on the outside that made him seem especially qualified. He was the equivalent of a "farm hand", a shepherd boy, yet he became Israel's greatest king. As we see in our key verse I Samuel 16:7, the key to everything is in our heart's response to God.

"The Lord doesn't look at things people look at. People look at the outward appearance but the Lord looks at the heart."

The goal of this lesson is to really ask God to help us make a heart adjustment in some areas that would make us extraordinarily more "useable" to God.

QUESTIONS

1. It's often hard for people we grow up with to see the "God potential" in us. David's father definitely didn't consider him "king material." David somehow overcame the low view others had of him. What are some of the weaknesses people, who grew up with you might think of about you, that might lead them to think you are disqualified to be great for God? How is it that you can set those aside and accept that God sees a different kind of potential in you?
2. David was someone who was "all in" for God. How did his passion for God's glory reveal his commitment? When you are "all in", your commitment to Christ is greater than your concern for your own interests or comfort. Where is a place God might want you to put your concern for God's glory and reputation ahead of your own comfort and reputation?
3. We see that David was "all in" not just when he had the title of a king, but even in the way he watched his sheep. Dale said, "a king is not someone who just does royal things but who does ordinary things in a royal way." What is a mundane responsibility that you may presently have that God might challenge you to do more for His glory?
4. We see that being a man after God's own heart meant that David didn't "put God in a box." He dared to trust and believe in God's ability to work through him in impossible ways, and was willing to demonstrate his faith by taking a "faith risk." Can you think of an area where you might have limited God in what you have expected, believed, or asked that He would do for, in, or through your life? Is there some area where you believe that God wants you to dare to believe He's going to do something through your life that you've never seen before?
5. Dale mentioned that we all have "giants" in our lives. Some fall quickly and miraculously like Goliath did. But for David, the giant of Saul's hatred and persecution continued to plague him for years. David was tested for seven years in the wilderness. His biggest test came when he had the chance to take matters in his own hands and kill Saul. What does it mean to be a person after God's heart, when you are in situations that seem to not change and you are tested in your faith and tempted to give up and just do things your own way? What does it mean to seek God's heart, to respond out of what God wants you to do rather than what you feel like doing? Is there an example of a "giant" in your life that the group could be praying with you about, that you would respond after God's heart and see God's deliverance His way?