

Introduction

From the time I was about seven years old, I knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I wanted to play professional golf. I wanted to play on the PGA Tour. While most young people were sleeping, I was out at the golf course at 4:30 in the morning practicing. In the winter, when most people were inside keeping warm, I was outside hitting balls in the snow and cold. When my hands were numb and I could not feel my hands any longer, I would come inside to warm up and then go back out to hit more balls. In college, if my girlfriend was going to get to spend any time with me, it was watching me hit golf balls in a field at Texas Christian University (TCU), or chipping and putting at Ridgelea Golf Club. I was focused on learning to be a great golfer and getting on the PGA Tour. Solomon, the wisest king that ever lived, said, “do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before obscure men.” I understood that if I became very skilled in golf, I would play at the highest level, the PGA Tour. It motivated me to work hard.

(Pr 22:29) “Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before obscure men.”

I was able to earn my PGA Tour card, and spent twenty years as a professional golfer. At that level, all of the golfers had natural abilities. You can't play on the PGA Tour without a lot of natural ability. The college ranks are full of aspiring golfers with a lot of natural talent, but very few will make it on the PGA Tour. Some of the more talented people that could have made it onto the PGA Tour did not make it. The ones that make it on the PGA Tour have more than just natural talent. They have worked hard and developed their skills. There is something in their heart that drives them on, and separates them from other golfers with natural skills.

One year, at the AT&T Tournament at Pebble Beach, my playing partner was Charlie Moritz. At that time, Charlie was the CEO of Dunn & Bradstreet. We had a wonderful time together that week, and a new friendship had formed. He invited my family and I to stay at his house for the Westchester Classic, which was in Rye, New York. I asked Charlie if he had room for my whole family. At that time, we only had eight children, and everyone traveled the tour with me. He was not kidding when he said there was plenty of room at his house. He gave us part of the upstairs to his main house on his four-acre estate on Long Island. He had a pool house, a guest house, and his main house. His walk-in closet in the master bedroom was bigger than my master bedroom. Our children loved it because there was a movie theater room upstairs, and the screen came down out of the ceiling. They could watch movies or play games on the giant screen.

One night, Charlie had a barbecue cook-out for our family. As we stood around the grill, I asked Charlie a question about hiring people. I said, “Charlie, when you are going to hire somebody, what are you looking for? What is the main thing, or what are the main qualities that you are looking for?” He smiled, and answered pretty quickly. It was pretty obvious that he knew exactly what he was looking for when he chose someone to join his firm. He said, “I don't care what they know. I can teach them what they need to know for the job. I want to find out what is in their heart. I want to find out what motivates this person. I want to find out what makes them tick. I want to find out what excites them. You cannot teach a person those things. They need to be passionate about what they do, and that is what I want to find out. That is the kind of person that I look for. Charlie understood the importance of looking at the heart. There are lots of people with knowledge, and natural abilities, but it is what is in the heart that makes a difference. That is what I want to talk about tonight.

Our text for this conference is in Psalms 78:70-72. In this Psalm, Asaph recounts the history of Israel. He had given His laws and statutes to Israel, and commanded them to obey them, and to teach them to their children. Israel had not prepared the hearts of the next generation, and they did not follow God. They rebelled time and time again. God would discipline them, and they would turn back to him for a brief moment, and then turn away again. Finally, at the end of the Psalm, Asaph tells of how God took David from the sheepfolds and chose him to shepherd His people. Let's read our passage together.

(Ps 78:70-72) "He also chose David His servant and took him from the sheepfolds; {71} from the care of the ewes with suckling lambs He brought him to shepherd Jacob His people, and Israel His inheritance. {72} So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

We have divided the passage into five parts. I have the privilege tonight to share about the man that God chooses. Tomorrow, Perry Floyd will share on Shepherding. Then, Bill Bice will be sharing on maintaining a heart of integrity. Mike Nasci will be sharing on guiding with vision. Finally, Bill Mooney will be sharing on leading skillfully.

1. (Introduction) The Man That God Chooses (Pastor Bill Murchison)
2. Shepherding God's People (Pastor Perry Floyd)
3. Maintaining a Heart of Integrity (Pastor Bill Bice)
4. Guiding With Vision (Pastor Mike Nasci)
5. Leading Skillfully (Bill Moeny)

In our text, God chose David to shepherd His people. David shepherded according to the integrity of his heart. He guided them with skillful hands. There are some definite leadership skills that we need to lead our families, businesses, and churches. I don't believe that most leaders are born leaders. I believe that leaders are developed. Just as a professional golfer has to work hard and develop his skills, leaders must work hard and develop their leadership skills. There are some leaders who are more natural than others. But, even those with more natural tendencies, must learn and cultivate leadership skills. Our goal this weekend is to help develop our skills as leaders. But tonight, we are going to look at the man that God chooses. We are going to look at the heart. We are going to look at why the Lord chose David to lead his people. We will look at the heart of David.

I. Rejection of Saul as King

In 1 Samuel 13, God rejects Saul from being king. The Philistines had 30,000 chariots, 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand on the seashore. The men of Israel were outnumbered, and were in a strait. They began hiding wherever they could find. They hid in caves, thickets, cliffs, cellars, pits. They hid wherever they could.

(1 Sam 13:5-6) "Now the Philistines assembled to fight with Israel, 30,000 chariots and 6,000 horsemen, and people like the sand which is on the seashore in abundance; and they came up and camped in Michmash, east of Beth-aven. {6} When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait (for the people were hard-pressed), then the people hid themselves in caves, in thickets, in cliffs, in cellars, and in pits."

Samuel had set up an appointed time to meet Saul and to seek the Lord about the battle. Saul was to wait for Samuel at Gilgal. But, for some reason, Samuel was delayed in getting there. Saul noticed that the people began to scatter, and decided to present the burnt offerings and peace offerings himself. Only the priests were allowed to present these offerings, but Saul disregarded the commands of the Lord to try and keep the people from scattering.

(1 Sam 13:8-9) "Now he waited seven days, according to the appointed time set by Samuel, but Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattering from him. {9} So Saul said, "Bring to me the burnt offering and the peace offerings." And he offered the burnt offering."

This was a test of Saul's obedience. It was a test to reveal what was in Saul's heart. Saul was seeking the favor of people rather than the favor of God. **All of us are going to face tests in our lives.** No one is exempt from trials. Peter tells us not to be surprised when we are tested. These are not strange things; they are normal occurrences. We will be all be tested. People in leadership will also be tested. Often, they will be tested with the same trial that Saul faced. Are we going to try to win the favor of people or the favor of God?

(1 Pet 4:12) "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;"

Many politicians today act the same way. They say whatever they feel like the crowds want to hear. They are after the votes and favor of the crowds. They love polls. They can make their policies based on public opinion. Godly leaders will base their decisions on righteousness and justice, not the latest poll. Godly leaders have a heart to please God, not man.

Church leaders face the same trial. Many times they are afraid to talk about money, because it may drive some folks away. They don't want to take a stand on issues today, because it may cost them a congregant. Paul was not afraid to talk about tough issues. He sought the favor of God, not the favor of men. Notice what he said in Galatians 1:10. "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ." **The heart of a Godly leader is to please God.**

(Gal 1:10) "For am I now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ."

No sooner had Saul finished offering the burnt offerings, Samuel showed up. He asked Saul, "what have you done?" Saul was honest about what he had done. He said, "I saw that the people were scattering from me, and you did not come within the appointed days." However, our obedience does not depend on the actions of other people. Saul was not allowed to offer the sacrifices. Only the priests could offer those offerings. He justified his disobedience, and essentially blamed Samuel for forcing him to offer the burnt offerings. Godly leaders do not blame-shift; they accept responsibility for their sins. They acknowledge their sins and repent.

(1 Sam 13:10-11) "As soon as he finished offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him and to greet him. {11} But Samuel said, "What have you done?" And Saul said, "Because I saw that the people were scattering from me, and that you did not come within the appointed days, and that the Philistines were assembling at Michmash,

Because Saul had disobeyed, and not kept what the Lord commanded, Samuel tells him that his kingdom shall not endure. Then, Samuel tells him what the Lord is looking for when He chooses a man. "The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart." God is still looking for men today that are after his own heart. He is looking for men who seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. He is looking for men that will seek His favor, rather than the favor of men.

(1 Sam 13:14) "But now your kingdom shall not endure. The LORD has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has appointed him as ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

II. Selection of David as King

After God has rejected Saul, He tells Samuel to stop grieving over Saul. Then, He tells him to fill his horn with oil and go. When a king was anointed, the prophet would fill his horn with oil, and then anoint the king with oil. Samuel fully understands why he must fill his horn; it is to anoint the next king. Then, God tells Samuel to go to the Jesse's house, for He has selected a king for Himself from among his sons.

(1 Sam 16:1) "Now 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 selected a king for Myself among his sons."

Samuel is scared and shared his concern with the Lord. The Lord told him to take a heifer with him and make a sacrifice. He also told him to invite Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice. So, Samuel did what the Lord said to do, and went to Bethlehem, and invited Jesse and his sons to the sacrifice.

(1 Sam 16:2-5) "But Samuel said, "How can I go? When Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' {3} You shall invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for Me the one whom I designate to you." {4} So Samuel did what the LORD said, and came to Bethlehem. And the elders of the city came trembling to meet him and said, "Do you come in peace?" {5} He said, "In peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." He also consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice."

At the sacrifice he began to look at Jesse's sons to discern who the Lord had chosen. First, he looked at Eliab. But the Lord said to Samuel, do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." I believe our natural tendency is to look at the natural appearance and outward things. Just like Charlie Moritz wanted to find out what was in the heart of the people he interviewed, **God looks at the heart**. He wants to know what motivates the person. He wants to know what the passion of the man is. Is this man passionate about making money? Is this man passionate about recreation and the pleasures of the world? Is this man passionate about gaining position and status? Or, is this man after God's heart? Is this man after the things that are on God's heart? Does he love what God loves and hate what God hates? Is the man passionate about the kingdom of God? Does this man seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness? God chooses men whose heart is completely His.

(1 Sam 16:6-7) "When they entered, he looked at Eliab and thought, "Surely the LORD'S anointed is before Him." {7} But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or at the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Next, Jesse brings Abinadab, Shammah, and all of his first seven sons pass before Samuel. Each time the Lord tells Samuel that He has not chosen this one either. Samuel is running out of options. He knows that the Lord has said that He has chosen a son of Jesse, and yet the Lord has rejected all the sons that Jesse brought forth. The natural selection would have been the oldest. If not the oldest, then perhaps the strongest, or smartest. No one would have thought that it would be the youngest son. But God does not look as man looks. He looks at the heart. Finally, Samuel says to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen these. Are these all the children?" And Jesse responds that "there remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Samuel tells him to send for him, and that they would not sit down until he comes. I don't know how long they stood, but Samuel was going to wait until the youngest arrived before they sat down to eat the sacrifice.

(1 Sam 16:8-11) "Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." {9} Next Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "The LORD has not chosen this one either." {10} Thus Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. But Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen these." {11} And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are these all the children?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and behold, he is tending the sheep." Then Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here."

When David arrives, the Lord tells Samuel, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." We also find that he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes, and a handsome appearance. Those are secondary issues. If a person that God chooses is also the oldest, smartest, or most handsome, that is secondary. God had already told Samuel that He was not looking at the outward appearance; He was looking at the heart. David's beautiful eyes and handsome appearance had nothing to do with his heart.

(1 Sam 16:12-13) "So he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him; for this is he." {13} Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers; and the Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. And Samuel arose and went to Ramah."

A. Heart of Integrity

What was in David's heart that prompted God to choose him? The Scriptures tell us a lot about David's heart, so we want to look at some of those heart characteristics. One of those characteristics is found in our text today. We find that David shepherded according to the integrity of his heart. We also find this in 1 Kings 9:4, when God tells Solomon that if he will walk before the Lord, as David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, then He will establish his throne over Israel forever.

(Ps 78:72) "So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them with his skillful hands.

(1 Kings 9:4-5) "As for you, if you will walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and uprightness, doing according to all that I have commanded you and will keep My statutes and My ordinances, {5} then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, just as I promised to your father David, saying, 'You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"

Bill Bice is going to be sharing on a heart of integrity, so I am going to cover this briefly. The Hebrew word for integrity is tom. **Integrity means completeness or wholeness.** When we speak of the integrity of security, it means that there are no security breaches. It is completely secured. When we speak of the integrity of a man, it means that he is not living a double life. There are not some parts of the man that upright, and some areas in the closet that people do not know about. His whole life is upright. He is serving God with his whole heart. David had a heart of integrity. That does not mean that David never sinned. We know that he sinned on many occasions. However, when he sinned, he repented and the integrity of his heart was restored. The next characteristic of David that I want to look at is a contrite heart.

B. Contrite Heart

In Psalm 51, David was confronted by Nathan about his sins with Bathsheba and Uriah the Hittite. He had an adulterous affair with Bathsheba. Then, to make things worse, he tried to cover it up by having Uriah go sleep with his wife. Uriah did not go sleep with his wife while his fellow soldiers were out in battle. So, David sent a message by Uriah's hand to his commander and had Uriah put on the front line of the fiercest battle. He also told the commander to withdraw from him, leaving him vulnerable and exposed, so that he would be struck down and die. David committed adulter, and he also had the innocent blood of Uriah on his hands.

(2 Sam 11:14-15) "Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent it by the hand of Uriah. {15} He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

Nothing escapes God. He sees and knows everything. God spoke to Nathan and sent him to confront David for his sin. After being confronted, David says, "I have sinned against the Lord." David confessed his sin, and the Lord forgave him for his sin.

(2 Sam 12:1) "Then the LORD sent Nathan to David. And he came to him and said, "There were two men in one city, the one rich and the other poor... {9} 'Why have you despised the word of the LORD by doing evil in His sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword, have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the sons of Ammon.... {13} Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the LORD." And Nathan said to David, "The LORD also has taken away your sin; you shall not die."

Psalm 51 is a song of repentance that David wrote after being confronted by Nathan. In it, David asks God to blot out his transgressions and wash him thoroughly from his sin. He asks God to cleanse him from his sin. He asks God to create in him a clean heart, and to renew a steadfast spirit within him. He finishes by saying that God does not desire a burnt offering. Instead, God desires a broken and contrite heart. **David had a broken and contrite heart.**

(Ps 51:1-17) "Be gracious to me, O God, according to Your lovingkindness; According to the greatness of Your compassion blot out my transgressions. {2} Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity And cleanse me from my sin.... {10} Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.... {16} For You do not delight in sacrifice, otherwise I would give it; You are not pleased with burnt offering. {17} The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise."

All of us are going to sin. Solomon said that there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and never sins. John said that if we say that we have no sin, we lie and do not practice the truth. All of us are going to sin.

(Eccl 7:20) "Indeed, there is not a righteous man on earth who continually does good and who never sins."

(1 John 1:8) "If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us."

But, **a man with a contrite heart will confess and repent of his sins.** God promises that when we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous, and will forgive us, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. That is what God did for David, and that is what He promises to do for you and I when we confess our sins. A truly contrite heart is not sorry that he got caught; that is worldly sorrow. A contrite heart is sorry that he sinned. A truly contrite heart will have a godly sorrow that leads to repentance.

(1 John 1:9) "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

(2 Cor 7:10) "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."

C. Humble Heart

We get another glimpse of David's heart in 2 Samuel 6:16. The ark of the covenant had been taken by the Philistines. They brought it to Ashdod and put it in their temple of Dagon. Dagon was decapitated, and they were smote with tumors.

(1 Sam 5:6-7) "Now the hand of the LORD was heavy on the Ashdodites, and He ravaged them and smote them with tumors, both Ashdod and its territories. {7} When the men of Ashdod saw that it was so, they said, "The ark of the God of Israel must not remain with us, for His hand is severe on us and on Dagon our god."

After they had enough, they sent the ark back to Israel on a cart pulled by two milch cows. The cows took it to Beth-Shemesh. From there it was sent to Kiriath-jearim, where it remained for twenty years.

(1 Sam 7:2) "From the day that the ark remained at Kiriath-jearim, the time was long, for it was twenty years; and all the house of Israel lamented after the LORD."

After David replaced Saul as king, he made a decision to bring the ark back to Jerusalem. His first attempt was not successful. He researched God's word and found that they should have carried the ark on the shoulders of the Levites, not on a cart. On his second attempt, David sacrificed oxen, danced before the Lord with all his might, and brought the ark back with shouting and the sound of the trumpet.

(2 Sam 6:13-15) "And so it was, that when the bearers of the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed an ox and a fatling. {14} And David was dancing before the LORD with all his might, and David was wearing a linen ephod. {15} So David and all the house of Israel were bringing up the ark of the LORD with shouting and the sound of the trumpet."

When he approached Jerusalem, Michal looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, and she despised him in her heart. When he returned to bless his household, Michal came out to meet him and said, "How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself in the eyes of his servants' maids as foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!"

(2 Sam 6:16) "Then it happened as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David that Michal the daughter of Saul looked out of the window and saw King David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.... {20} But when David returned to bless his household, Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David and said, "How the king of Israel distinguished himself today! He uncovered himself today in the eyes of his servants' maids as one of the foolish ones shamelessly uncovers himself!"

Notice David's response. "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished." **David was humble and unashamed in his praise unto the Lord.** He was only concerned about pleasing the Lord, not looking good before men. His pride did not keep him from dancing before others.

(2 Sam 6:21-22) "So David said to Michal, "It was before the LORD, who chose me above your father and above all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel; therefore I will celebrate before the LORD. {22} "I will be more lightly esteemed than this and will be humble in my own eyes, but with the maids of whom you have spoken, with them I will be distinguished."

David was a worshiper. He had a heart for worship. He was not worshiping before the maidens and others to be seen by others. David was worshiping before the Lord. He told Michal, "It was before the Lord...therefore I will celebrate before the Lord." David was the same man in private as he was in public. In private, he was a worshiper. David wrote seventy four of the Psalms. I believe that these new songs came out of his private worship of the Lord. David was free in his worship before the Lord. Pride keeps us bound up, and does not allow us to worship freely. David had a humble heart and was free to worship God humbly and unashamed.

God exalts the humble. That is a spiritual principle. James wrote, "humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord and He will exalt you." It may not happen immediately, but God exalts the humble. Peter exhorts us to humble ourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you

at the proper time.” David was the youngest son, and humbly tending their flocks. God took notice of David's humble heart, and He exalted him. Even though Samuel came and anointed him, David would go through much testing before being raised up as king.

(James 4:10) “Humble yourselves in the presence of the Lord, and He will exalt you.”

(1 Pet 5:6) “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time,”

In the book of Isaiah, the Lord said, “but to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.” David was a man with a humble and contrite heart. God looked upon David and chose him to lead His people. **God is still looking for those who are humble and contrite in heart.**

(Is 66:2b) “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.”

There are many ways to humble ourselves before the Lord. Jesus humbled Himself by submitting to His parents and those in authority. Submission to authorities is a way of humbling ourselves. I try to drive the speed limit. I normally use my cruise control and set it on the speed limit. If I don't use the cruise control, I find myself speeding. To me, submitting to the laws of the land is just one of many ways that I can humble myself before the Lord.

(Luke 2:51) “And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.”

Jesus humbled Himself by serving. He did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many. Men, as leaders of our homes, we should be serving our wives. We should be serving our children. Sometimes, I think we expect our wives to serve us, and they do. But, Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. Serving will not only bless others, but it is a great way to humble ourselves before God.

(Mark 10:45) “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.”

Paul writes in Philippians that even though Jesus existed in the form of God, He emptied Himself and took the form of a bond-servant. He also humbled Himself by being obedient to the point of death on the cross. Jesus humbled Himself by praying and fasting. Those are just some of the ways in Scripture that we can humble ourselves.

(Phil 2:5-9) “Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, {6} who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, {7} but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. {8} Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. {9} For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name,”

If we want to be a man that God chooses, do we humble ourselves? Do we humbly serve others, or do we expect others to serve us? Do we submit to those in authority? Do we humble ourselves by spending time in prayer? Do we humble ourselves with fasting? David had a humble heart, and God chose him to lead His people.

D. Respectful Heart

One of the things that stands out to me is how David respected those in authority. Even though the Lord had anointed David to be king, Saul was still the king. David had several opportunities to lift his hand against Saul, but he would not touch the Lord's anointed. **David refused to touch God's anointed.** In 1 Samuel, we have two examples. The first example is when David is hiding from Saul in the cave. Saul had been pursuing David with three thousand men in order to kill him. While in pursuit, Saul needed to relieve himself, and went into the cave. While in there, David and his men could have easily put him to death. Instead, he cut off the edge of Saul's robe. When Saul got up and left the cave, David called after him saying, "My Lord the king!" David also bowed his face to the ground and prostrated himself. David had a respectful heart for those in authority.

(1 Sam 24:6-10) "So he said to his men, "Far be it from me because of the LORD that I should do this thing to my lord, the LORD'S anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD'S anointed." {7} David persuaded his men with these words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on his way. {8} Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, "My lord the king!" And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself... {10} Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.'"

Then, he said, "Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, but my eye had pity on you; and I said, 'I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD'S anointed.' Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it."

(1 Sam 24:11-12) "Now, my father, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it. {12} May the LORD judge between you and me, and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my hand shall not be against you."

A couple of chapters later, Saul is pursuing David again with three thousand men. While Saul was sleeping, David and Abishai went over to Saul's camp. David took Saul's spear and his jug from beside him. After David had gone to the top of the mountain, he called to Saul. "Behold the spear of the king! Now let one of the young men come over and take it. {23} "The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed." Twice David refused to touch God's anointed. He had a respectful heart.

(1 Sam 26:22-23) "David replied, "Behold the spear of the king! Now let one of the young men come over and take it. {23} "The LORD will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness; for the LORD delivered you into my hand today, but I refused to stretch out my hand against the LORD'S anointed."

Do we have a respectful heart? In our American culture, we have a difficult time with this. We do not mind tearing down those in authority. We may not agree with the President, but we must be careful about what we say about those in authority. Instead, **we are commanded to honor the king**. Peter tells us to submit to those in authority, and to honor the king.

(1 Peter 2:13-17 {13} Submit yourselves for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether to a king as the one in authority, {14} or to governors....{17} Honor all people, love the brotherhood, fear God, honor the king."

Paul taught that **we should pray for those in authority**. It is one of the first things that we should pray about. Praying for those in authority is important to God. It is also important to us, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity. God chose David because of his heart. He had a humble and contrite heart. He had a heart of integrity. And he had a respectful heart.

(1 Tim 2:1-2) "First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men, {2} for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity."

E. Heart of Courage

David had a heart of courage. We see a glimpse of this in 1 Samuel 17. Israel was at war with the Philistines. David's three older brothers were at the battle, and his father sent David to give them some roasted grain and bread, and to give their commander some cheese. While there, David sees that the army was being taunted by Goliath. He says that he will fight Goliath. Saul hears this and has David brought before him. Notice what David says. "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine." David had a heart of courage, and he did not want any of the other soldiers to lose heart over Goliath.

(1 Sam 17:31-32) "When the words which David spoke were heard, they told them to Saul, and he sent for him. {32} David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail on account of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."

Saul tells him that he is not able to go against this Philistine because he is still a youth. David tells Saul about his shepherding experiences. While tending the sheep, he had killed both a lion and a bear. He told Saul of how he grabbed the beard of the lion and struck it and killed it. It takes courage to face a lion or a bear. David had a heart of courage. David tells Saul that this uncircumcised Philistine will be just like the lion and bear. He had faith that the Lord would deliver Goliath into his hand, just as he had done the lion and the bear. **David's courage came from his faith in God**.

(1 Sam 17:33-37) "Then Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth." {34} But David said to Saul, "Your servant was tending his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and

took a lamb from the flock, {35} I went out after him and attacked him, and rescued it from his mouth; and when he rose up against me, I seized him by his beard and struck him and killed him. {36} "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, since he has taunted the armies of the living God. {37} "And David said, "The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." And Saul said to David, "Go, and may the LORD be with you."

F. Wholly Devoted Heart

The last characteristic of David's heart that I want to look at is a wholly devoted heart. In 1 Kings 11, we find that Solomon's heart had been turned away from the Lord to go after other Gods. "His heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been." David had a heart that was wholly devoted to the Lord. The ESV says "wholly true" to the Lord. The KJV uses the term perfect, rather than wholly devoted. David's heart was perfect in the sense that it was wholly devoted to God. **David sought after God with his whole heart.**

(1 Kings 11:4) "For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his heart was not wholly devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been."

Three chapters later, the Lord deals with Jeroboam. When Solomon died, his son Rehoboam became king. He was foolish and did not listen to the counsel of his elders. As a result, the kingdom was divided up. Rehoboam ruled over Judah, but Jeroboam ruled over the ten tribes of Israel. In chapter 14, Abijah, the son of Jeroboam was sick, and he sent his wife to the prophet, Ahijah. The Lord spoke to Ahijah and told him that the child would die when her feet entered the city. But, he also rebuked Jeroboam saying, "you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight."

(1 Kings 14:8) "and tore the kingdom away from the house of David and gave it to you—yet you have not been like My servant David, who kept My commandments and who followed Me with all his heart, to do only that which was right in My sight;"

What does it mean to have a heart that is wholly devoted to the Lord? What does it mean to follow God with all our heart. We find several applications from this rebuke to Jeroboam. First, **a heart that is wholly devoted to the Lord keeps God's commandments**. We keep His commandments because we love God. We don't earn salvation by keeping His commandments. We don't earn His favor because we keep His commandments. We aren't righteous because we keep His commandments. Our righteousness, favor, and salvation were given to us by faith in what Christ did for us. Jesus took our sins and gave us His righteousness. But, we keep His commandments because we love God. Jesus said in John 14, "he who has My commandments and keeps them, he it is that loves Me." When our heart is wholly devoted to God, we will keep His commandments.

(John 14:21) "He who has My commandments and keeps them is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him."

Second, **a heart that is wholly devoted to the Lord will follow the Lord with all his heart. Do**

we follow Jesus with all our heart? Jesus said, “follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” Are we disciples of Christ? Are we becoming like our teacher? Are our words like Jesus' words? Are our thoughts like Jesus' thoughts? Does our prayer life look like Jesus' prayer life? Do we minister like Jesus ministered? Is our life fully submitted to the Father like Jesus' life was? Are we following God with all our heart?

Third, **a heart that is wholly devoted will only do that which is right in God's sight.** We do not do what is socially or legally acceptable in our culture, but is wrong in God's eyes. We do what is right in God's eyes, not matter what the culture or laws allow.

George Barna came out with a new study about cohabitation at the end of June. Two thirds of Americans now believe that cohabitation before marriage is a good thing. Moreover, he found that 41% of those professing to be Christians believe that cohabitation is a good thing to do before marriage. Brethren, God says that sex outside of marriage is wrong. It does not matter that two thirds of Americans believe people should cohabitate before marriage. If we are going to be men whose hearts are wholly devoted to God, we will do what is right in God's eyes, not mens eyes.

Did you know that 70% of the abortions done in America are done to women professing to be Christians? It does not matter that our culture and laws allow abortion. God is looking for men to lead His people who will do what is right in His eyes, not the eyes of the world. He is looking for leaders who will not use public opinion polls to determine policy. He is looking for leaders who will search the Scriptures to see what God says about issues, and who will stand up for what is right in God's eyes. He is looking for men whose hearts are wholly devoted to Him.

In this conference, we hope to impart some skills that will help us become stronger leaders. All of us need to develop or improve our leadership skills. But tonight, we wanted to start with our hearts. As Charlie Moritz told me that night beside his barbecue grill, “Before I hire someone, I want to find out what is in his heart.” As God told Samuel, do not look at the outward appearance, because I am looking at the heart. Tonight, God is looking at hearts.

Is your heart right before the Lord? Have you given your heart to the Lord? Has there been a time in your life when you gave your heart to the Lord? Have you said to the Lord, “come into my life. Forgive me of my sins. Cleanse my heart and renew my mind. Give me the joy of Your salvation. I confess You as Lord. I surrender my life to You. I commit my life to You. I am going to follow You with all my heart. Have you given your heart to the Lord? If not, I encourage you not to go home tonight without receiving Christ as your Lord.

Some of you may have surrendered your heart to the Lord at one time, but you realize tonight that there are areas of your life that are not completely surrendered. You have not been following God with your whole heart. There are some things that the Lord may have been dealing with you about tonight. You have not acted with integrity of heart. There are some breaches of integrity. God already knows about them. Confess those things, like David did, and ask God to cleanse your hearts and renew your minds. Ask Him to restore the joy of your salvation tonight. Don't allow pride or other things to keep you from serving God with your whole heart. Have a humble and contrite heart. Confess those things to the Lord tonight. Surrender those things to the Lord tonight. Make a commitment to follow the Lord with your whole heart.

If you would like prayer for any of these things, the altar is open. We have pastors and leaders from various churches here tonight. They will be glad to pray with you tonight. Let's get our hearts right tonight.

Introduction (Pr 22:29, Ps 78:70-72)

I. Rejection of Saul as King (1 Sam 13:5-14)

- All of us are going to face _____ in our lives. (1 Pet 4:12)
- The heart of a Godly leader is to _____ God. (Gal 1:10)

II. Selection of David as King (1 Sam 16:1-13)

- God looks at the _____. (1 Sam 16:7)

A. Heart of Integrity (Ps 78:72, 1 King 9:4-5)

- Integrity means completeness, or _____.

B. Contrite Heart (2 Sam 11:14-15, 2 Sam 12:1)

- David had a broken and _____ heart. (Ps 51:1-17)
- All of us are going to _____. (Eccl 7:20, 1 John 1:8)
- A man with a contrite heart will _____ and _____ of his sins. (1 John 1:9, 2 Cor 7:10)

C. Humble Heart (1 Sam 5:6-7, 1 Sam 7:2, 2 Sam 6:13-22)

- David was _____ and unashamed in his praise unto the Lord.
- David was a _____.
- God exalts the _____. (James 4:10, 1 Peter 5:6)
- God is still _____ for those who are humble and contrite in heart. (Is 66:2b)

D. Respectful Heart (1 Sam 24:6-12, 1 Sam 26:22-23)

- David refused to _____ God's anointed.
- We are commanded to _____ the king. (1 Peter 2:13-17)
- We should _____ for those in authority. (1 Tim 2:1-2)

E. Heart of Courage (1 Sam 17:31-37)

- David had a heart of _____.
- David's courage came from his _____ in God.

F. Wholly Devoted Heart (1 Kings 11:4, 14:8)

- David sought after God with his _____ heart.
- A heart that is wholly devoted to the Lord keeps God's _____. (John 14:21)
- A heart that is wholly devoted to the Lord will _____ the Lord with all his heart.
- A heart is wholly devoted to the Lord will only do that which is right in _____ sight.