

I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Life of David Study:** We will be studying the Life of David over the next year or two as we go through 1 Samuel 16 through 2 Samuel.
- B. Davidic**
- There is more about David than any other person in all the Bible except for Yeshua
 - David was the only person recorded in the Bible that declared that he loved God (Psalm 116:1)
 - God made a promise to David of his line enduring forever (2 Samuel 7)
 - David wrote at least half of the psalms (75)
 - Often we want David's victory but not David's pain
 - Keep David's life in context: he was in a different season so don't extrapolate all of our cultural trappings into that sphere.
 - God picked him to be king—it wasn't David's choice
- C. God Promises Future Shepherds after God's Own Heart** (Jeremiah 3:15)—Father, form me into a shepherd after Your own heart

II. OVERVIEW

A. Five Seasons in David's Life

1. Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16-17): up through age 17, this was the out-of-the-way hometown where David grew up and is the context of the beginning of his focus on God even in the midst of the rejection of his family and in the faithfulness to the mundane tasks.
2. Gibeah (1 Samuel 18-20): from age 18-22, this was where David was called to live in the capitol in serving Saul after David killed Goliath. This was where David arose to a national prominence and a temporary popularity.
3. Adullam (1 Samuel 21-31): from age 23-30, this was a cave in the wilderness (among other wilderness hideouts) where David fled from Saul who was chasing him with 3000 men intent on killing him. YHWH trained David in the seminary of Saul where he was chased by this demonized king.
 - a. About 10% of our life is determined by what happens to us and 90% by how we respond to it. We either *become bitter* by focusing on the wrong that was done to us or we *become better* by focusing on our pride that is exposed. The lesser enemy in David's life was Saul, whom God used to expose the greater enemy—the sin and pride in his own heart.
4. Hebron (2 Samuel 2-5): from age 30-37, this was the city that David went up to after the death of Saul where he ruled as king over Judah (only 1 of the 12 tribes David was initially called to rule over). In this place David was tested by receiving a *partial* fulfilment of God's prophecy that he would rule Israel.
5. Jerusalem (2 Samuel 6-24): from age 37-70, this was the capitol city where David ruled over all of Israel. David's biggest sins were in this context when he was most prominent.

III. A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

YHWH has sought for Himself a man after His own heart, and YHWH has commanded him to be commander over His people. 1 Samuel 13:14

And when He had removed him (Saul), He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' Acts 13:22

- A. David a Teenager:** Here David was perhaps as young as 12 or 13.
- B. David Messed up a lot:** He lied, he committed adultery with another man's wife and then had him killed to cover it up. How could he make so many mistakes and yet be called a man after God's own heart? These sins of David's were not godly attributes so according to this pattern, we too can be

guilty of many mistakes and sins—these things in and of themselves don't disqualify us from being a person after God's own heart.

- C. **What Made David a Man after God's Heart?** I hope that we can discover some of the reasons for this as we study the life of David.

IV. THE MAKING OF A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

- A. **David's Rejection:** David was rejected by his parents, his siblings, and friends/family. Following is a fascinating account (based on extrabiblical Jewish texts) of the story of David's rejection by his parents and siblings (https://www.chabad.org/theJewishWoman/article_cdo/aid/280331/jewish/Nitzevet-Mother-of-David.htm)

When my father and my mother forsake me, then YHWH will take care of me. Psalm 27:10

11 My loved ones and my friends stand aloof from my plague, and my relatives stand afar off. 12 Those also who seek my life lay snares for me; those who seek my hurt speak of destruction, and plan deception all the day long. 13 But I, like a deaf man, do not hear; and I am like a mute who does not open his mouth. 14 Thus I am like a man who does not hear, and in whose mouth is no response.

15 For in You, O YHWH, I hope; You will hear, O YHWH my God. Psalm 38:11-15

4 Those who hate me without a cause are more than the hairs of my head; they are mighty who would destroy me, being my enemies wrongfully; though I have stolen nothing, I still must restore it.....7 Because for Your sake I have borne reproach; shame has covered my face. 8 I have become a stranger to my brothers, and an alien to my mother's children; 9 because zeal for Your house has eaten me up, and the reproaches of those who reproach You have fallen on me. 10 When I wept and chastened my soul with fasting, that became my reproach. 11 I also made sackcloth my garment; I became a byword to them. 12 Those who sit in the gate speak against me, and I am the song of the drunkards.....19 You know my reproach, my shame, and my dishonor; my adversaries are all before You. 20 Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none. 21 They also gave me gall for my food, and for my thirst they gave me vinegar to drink. Psalm 69:4, 7-12, 19-21

1. David didn't succumb to bitterness or unforgiveness. David's dream was about God. Because of this David wasn't touched by others being against him.
- B. **David's Reach Towards God:** David persistently pressed through and connected with God in his pain, difficulty, and brokenness. He came boldly to God in his weakness (and even sin) to receive mercy and find grace to help in his time of need. He didn't have anyone else to run to. He didn't allow bitterness or resentment rise in his heart. He allowed the pain of his rejection drive him into God. As a young boy he took care of the sheep and cried out to God. This will work for us too.
- C. **David Wanted Others to Have Intimacy with God:** In obedience to God's directives, David implemented full-time intercessory worship teams in Israel made up of 4000 musicians, 288 singers and 4000 gatekeepers. These 10,000 people were on his "full-time staff" to facilitate worship and offerings to God. There were full-time prayer and worship leaders serving in shifts around the clock worshipping God. God wanted all of His people to experience what David had experienced and to have on earth that which was happening around the clock in heaven. A corporate expression was intended. (1 Chronicles 15 & 16) (adapted from Mike Bickle's Session 21 – David's Tabernacle: Extravagant Worship).
- ⁷*So the number of them, with their brethren who were instructed in the songs of the LORD, all who were skillful, was two hundred and eighty-eight [288]. (1 Chr. 25:7)*
- ⁵*...four thousand [4,000] were gatekeepers, and four thousand [4,000] praised the LORD with musical instruments, "which I made," said David, "for giving praise." (1 Chr. 23:5)*
1. Amazingly, in the seven times of renewal/revival in Israel's history in the Tanakh from David to Yeshua, all had as the common denominator the restoration of this "tabernacle of David" (prayer worship movement) within their framework. David commanded God's people to honor the heavenly order of worship that he received by revelation because it was God's command (2 Chr. 29:25; 35:4, 15; Ezra 3:10; Neh. 12:45).

- ²⁵*Hezekiah...stationed Levites in the house of the Lord with stringed instruments... according to the commandment of David...for thus was the commandment of the Lord. (2 Chr. 29:25)*
- a. Solomon established singers (about 970 BC) according to the command that God gave David. ¹⁴*According to the order of David his father, he [Solomon] appointed...Levites for their duties to praise...as the duty of each day required...for so David...commanded. (2 Chr. 8:14)*
 - b. Jehoshaphat's reform (about 870 BC) included establishing singers and musicians. ¹⁹The Levites...stood up to praise the Lord...²¹He appointed those who should sing to the Lord...²⁸They came...with stringed instruments...to the house of the Lord. (2 Chr. 20:19-28)
 - c. Jehoiada the high priest restored temple worship with singers and musicians in the order of David (about 835 BC) and enthroned King Jehoash (Joash) when he was only seven years old. ¹⁸*Jehoiada appointed...the Levites...with singing, as it was established by David. (2 Chr. 23:18)*
 - d. Hezekiah's revival (about 725 BC) included restoring singers and musicians as David commanded. ²⁵*He stationed the Levites in the house of the Lord with...stringed instruments...according to the commandment of David...²⁷The song of the LORD began... (2 Chr. 29:25-27)*
 - e. Josiah's revival (about 625 BC) restored full-time singers and musicians as David commanded. ³*He said to the Levites...⁴"Prepare yourselves...following the instruction of David..."¹⁵The singers...were in their places, according to the command of David... (2 Chr. 35:3-15)*
 - f. Zerubbabel (about 536 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as commanded by David. ¹⁰*The Levites...to praise the LORD, according to the ordinance of David. (Ezra 3:10-11)*
 - g. Ezra and Nehemiah (445 BC) established full-time singers and musicians as David commanded. ²⁴*The Levites...give thanks...according to the command of David...⁴⁵The singers and the gatekeepers kept the charge of God...according to the command of David... (Neh. 12:24, 45)*
2. God describes "His house" primarily one way—as a house of prayer for all nations (Isaiah 56:7)

V. DAVIDIC PRINCIPLES OF INTIMACY WITH GOD

(many of these concepts taken directly from Mike Bickle's teachings on the Life of David especially *How David Overcame Fear* <https://www.mikebickle.org/videos/?category=MB%2FBiblical%20Studies%2FLife%20of%20David>)

- A. Beholding God:** David's principle pursuit all the days of his life was to be in God's presence, enjoying the pleasure of being with Him and seeing Him and His beauty.
- ⁴*One thing I have asked from YHWH, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of YHWH and to meditate in His temple. Psalm 27:4*
1. God gives us images in the Bible that describe God's beauty that we can meditate on. Isaiah 6:1-6; Revelation 1, 4, 5
 2. We are changed into the One we're meditating on by "dim glimpses" of Him. This involves scheduling and time on our part. (2 Corinthians 3:18)
 3. In that context David focused on God and thought about God and asked Him questions. We can do the same.
- B. God Responds to Our Cry** (not based on our merit but His goodness): David was one of the first persons to bring out this point, and it's a concept that's clear throughout the Scriptures.
- In my desperation I prayed, and YHWH listened; He saved me from all my troubles... YHWH is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed. Psalm 34:6, 18*
- ¹⁴*Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. ¹⁶Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. Hebrews 4:14-16*
1. God rushes towards sinful, broken people who have their hearts towards Him. The only time God is ever depicted as in a hurry is when He's running to the broken who say yes to Him. Every other time, God is shown to have perfect patience. (Bickle, *How David Overcame Fear* Transcript pg. 8).
 - a. It is usually not immediate, but God does respond.

2. Our Short-circuiting Negative Tendencies

YHWH is close to the brokenhearted; He rescues those whose spirits are crushed. Psalm 34:18

- a. *Responding to God in pride.* We generally relate to God on the basis of how we are presently doing. When we do well, we feel confidence. When we do poorly, we feel condemned. Both perspectives are prideful and based on the idea that we bring something to motivate God. God is motivated without our help—we come to the table by His grace and because of His goodness. My life is not defined by the last few months of what I have attained or not attained. I come confidently before Him because of who He is, what He has said about me, and the cry that He has put in my heart for Him—that is what defines me. When you stumble and see the weakness of your flesh, then you can run to Him instead of from Him if you believe the Scriptures. He will bring into intimacy the person with a heart broken over their sin. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 7)
- b. *We aren't persistent:* we often too easily give up and don't consistently have our schedule reflecting that He's our priority.

3. Our Responsibility

- a. *Our response to His initiative moves His heart:* When the invisible God does things and we say things, it's called *prayer*. We speak, He's invisible, and all of a sudden things are different.
- b. *Three-step process:*
 - i. God moves on us, though we never thought of anything about Him. He moves on us and our hearts are "strangely warmed," John Wesley said.
 - ii. We move to God after that response, and then
 - iii. God moves in response to our response. David understood. David states, "If I don't move to Him after He has touched me, then He doesn't move closer to me." Our life doesn't work without moving into the heart of God." (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 10)

C. **Moving Towards God**

1. *David Moved Towards God.* According to Psalm 34, David did four things: he sought; he looked; he cried; he feared the Lord. God releases radiance in the lives of the people in time; not immediately, but in time He illuminates. We look and He illuminates. We cry and He saves. We fear the Lord and God surrounds us with angelic help, supernatural help. A lot of the supernatural help that He surrounds us with, we can't see. The right hand is the things that we observe and discern, and the left hand is the activity of God that's indiscernible to the human heart but it's all there. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 11)
2. *Testing God:* "Taste and see" (Ps. 34:8). David says, "You can try and test the Lord in this. Go after Him and see if He won't unfold Himself to you in time." In Psalm 34:8-10 David's telling people to experience it to the degree that they want it; "taste and see." He's saying, "Experiential knowledge is within your reach." God wants you to taste the pleasure of Him. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 12)

8Taste and see that YHWH is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him! 9Fear YHWH, you his godly people, for those who fear him will have all they need. 10Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those who trust in YHWH will lack no good thing. Psalm 34:8-10

- a. The other place Scripturally we are to test YHWH is with our money. If you give money to God, He says, "I will give you power encounters in finances. I will surprise you. I'll do things you wouldn't imagine that I would do in monetary areas." (Malachi 3:6-12)

D. The Ache in Our Heart: The ache and agony in your heart is the first stage of lovesickness. Let this ache move you to action and don't let this ache dissipate. Make changes to your schedule. Use the Bible as vocabulary in communicating with YHWH. Don't despise unanointed, uninspired times; God sees you and values these times with you. Be accountable to another person - make these changes accountable to someone else.

The very fact that you would have anguish in your heart is the very work of God in lovesickness in you already. If you are saying, "This is killing me; I feel so distant. My heart is so cold; I don't love the Word; there's no movement of God in my soul. I can't bear it;" the very fact that you can't bear it is the beginning of lovesickness in you. The unbeliever thinks this stuff is just foolish and totally boring.

Before you met the Lord, this would have been folly to you and totally boring. Pain is the mark of God's thumbprint on your heart already. This pain is not from the devil and it's certainly not from your sinful flesh. That pain is a longing that has hold of you that won't let go. You need to recognize that as grace. God is moving on you. Don't let that pain just dissipate. Let it drive you into the fire of God. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 11)

E. The Place of Pain: our normally negative responses include depression, anger, bitterness, venting (to others), just mentally enduring. God wants us to bring these emotions to Him.

1. Venting to God Works

a. the best motivation for not venting to others is not for integrity's sake: integrity alone doesn't normally hold people. David is appealing to something else. He says, "Your life will work if you interface with God. You will be surprised what you'll find and walk in." When you don't vent, you boil inside and you have to get comfort. It is designed to drive you into God, and when you drive into God, you find out new information about God and life in you. Then your need to vent is changed. David said, "Don't let the pressure off; don't go vent to other people. Interface, interact with God. You will come out with a totally different philosophy, because the pain of not venting will make you vent to God." I tell you, when you vent to God, not only will He change the circumstances, He will change the way you view life, because the pain of it will be like power pushing you into God. We go for those little cheap band-aids. I've done it plenty of times, and plenty of times I've done it to the Lord. I know a little about this. I want to know more about it. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 12-13)

2. Let Your Pain Drive You Into God: One of the greatest powers we have in us is the urge to relieve the pain of our life. God says, "Use that urge to relieve your pain to drive you into God. Don't vent it. I'm telling you, you will see good days." In other words, the anointing and the spirit of intimacy will begin to touch you. It is one of the most powerful urges that we have. God designed it so that it would help us with Him. He says, "You just waste it. You cause to be dissipated all the things that were driving you to My heart." Isn't that interesting? The very first thing David touches is the issue of speech. Again, he's not talking about integrity; he's talking about that power and that urge in our heart to look good and get things right. He's saying, "Use it to drive you into God." But what we all do, and I've done it many times, is tell the story to someone else. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 13)

3. God Will Help You: That is David's great life message: "God will help you. He will be near you if you will just say yes to Him. Don't let condemnation shut you down, run to Him." He said the same thing after he killed Uriah. After he murdered Uriah, he wrote in Psalm 51:17 that the sacrifice God wants is a broken and contrite heart. He wants a yes in your spirit. He doesn't want you to try to go to more prayer meetings to even the score, or to give to missions to even the score, or witness to a few people to even the score. He wants you falling down saying, "I have nothing to bring except that I just want You. Will You have me?" (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 13)

a. Then in Psalm 34:19-20 he talks about the power of pressure. He says, "God will use pressure to make you better." That was one of David's many themes. He says, "Pressure will make you better. It drives you into God if you don't waste the energy that pressure produces in your heart. Don't look for false props. Be driven into God." David is talking about that right there. It's one of his great doctrines. He talks about the futility of sin. (Bickle, How David Overcame Fear Transcript pg. 14)

VI. PERSONAL APPLICATION

What is important is faith expressing itself in love. Galatians 5:6

A. Upside Down Kingdom: God's kingdom doesn't make sense to the world or the natural mind

B. Short Term Application: Intentionally and Consistently Draw Near to God

1. Beholding: Are you scheduling time just to be with Him and to behold Him?

2. Inquiring: What is on your heart and are you asking YHWH for his help with these things?

3. Pain to God: Let your present pain drive you into Him.

What is your present pain? _____

- a. have you consistently declared to God your emotion related to this pain?
 - i. often for men, the only acceptable negative emotion to express to others is anger. We end up blocking those other negative emotions (embarrassment, hurt, pain, rejection, etc.) and so we have an inordinate amount of expression that comes through our anger vent. God is asking us as men (and women) to bring to Him our pain and to ask Him to help us to be more discerning, honest, and expressive with Him related to that pain.
 - b. have you asked for His help and perspective related to this pain
 4. Scheduling: Do you have your regular times with God scheduled? You will rarely be with God more than you schedule. It is important to have the big rock of personal devotion integrated in your schedule.
 5. Use David's Vocabulary as Yours: Read through the Psalms and use David's words as your own.
 6. Read through David's Story (1 Samuel 16 – 2 Samuel): It will take 8-10 hours; why not set up a chunk of time to skip the latest movie and spend time reading through the Life of David. I remember the benefit I felt during Sukkot when I read an hour's worth of Scripture out loud. It was invigorating.
 7. Study David's Life: Mike Bickle has multiple excellent teaching on the Life of David. I recommend them highly. <https://www.mikebickle.org/videos/?category=MB%2FBiblical%20Studies%2FLife%20of%20David>
- C. Long Term Application:**
1. Follow Through: Consistently follow-through with giving God chunks of your time – it is not about growing in strictly Bible knowledge but a softer heart of love towards God.
 2. Personal Change Hard to Assess: Understand the crock-pot process with this and don't even attempt to assess your progress for a few years. If you spent an hour today and every future day in devotional time with God, what would your life be like in 5 years?
 3. Tabernacle of David in Denver: Let's pray that God would raise up a 24/7 worship & prayer movement in Denver in the spirit of the tabernacle of David that he set up.

