

After God's heart (2)

2 Samuel 12:1-10

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What does it mean to be “after God’s heart?” If David is indeed a man after God’s heart, what can we learn from him? What can we take? We learned last week that David’s rise to power came with great cost. After defeating Goliath of Gath, he rose to great popularity; then, at the hands of King Saul, he lost everything of value to him ... except God.

But after being on the run for a decade, living in caves at Adullam and En Gedi, David became King of Israel and was following so hard after God that God made a commitment to him in 2 Sam. 7, that the lineage of the Messiah would come through none other than David himself.

Two short chapters later, David would seek and find the only living descendant of King Saul and would restore his wealth and adopt him back into the royal family. This demonstration of grace is bold and unexpected. You might say it’s after the heart of God.

And, oh if only the life of David had ended on this high. But, no, it was at this high point that he would make his most regrettable mistake. He took another man’s wife and murdered the man. This man, Uriah the Hittite, was one of David’s “mighty men,” one of his most loyal. Elite.

Uriah’s wife Bathsheba was in the words of Scripture “very beautiful.” And when David saw her bathing, he admired, he longed, he lusted, and ... he sent for her. The sin that was conceived in his heart led to the conception of a life in the womb of Bathsheba. When David learned that his lover was pregnant, he sent for his warrior urging him to go home to his wife in an effort to cover the sin. Even drunk the loyal Uriah proved a better man than David on this occasion. He refused and he refused. And as a reward for his loyalty to David, he carried his death warrant into battle. He delivered it to Joab, and in the heat of battle the army withdrew and left Uriah surrounded. Dead.

For maybe a year the sin was hidden. Bathsheba married David. She bore the child. And the Lord sent Nathan the prophet to rebuke the king. His rebuke is amazing. It’s like a well-crafted work of art, spoken with precision and boldness and love. Surely the goal was to restore David to God. Nathan’s “you are the man” hit the target. And David’s heart was moved to contrition and repentance. In humility he turned back to God and begged for forgiveness and for God’s Holy Spirit to be with him.

Psalm 51 shows his heart. Take a minute to read it. This Psalm opens up David's heart for all to see and examine, perhaps like none other. If the Bible is shown to be true by what it records historically, archaeologically, medically, and scientifically, it's also shown to be true by its absolute transparency. Oh, the apologetic of the uncovered lives of the men and women God used throughout history. Nothing was candy-coated. All was and is on public display.

Like at the Judgment when all will be laid bare, David's life is on full display for generations. This predecessor to the King of kings and Lord of lords is shown to be flawed and in need of God's grace. The same grace David showed Mephibosheth. The same grace you need. The same grace I need. The same grace that Jesus embodied in all humility (Philippians 2) is the same grace we all need to humbly receive from the heart of our loving God.