

Outline

- I. We can't really look into the life of David without first understanding some things about Saul.
 - A. Saul was a very humble man who started off being little in his own eyes (1 Sam. 9:2 and 21), so the Lord chose him over the nation of Israel as king.
 - i. During those first two or three years of his kingship, Saul really did seek God.
 - ii. The Lord wrought some major deliverances through him and solidified the kingdom under him.
 - B. In 1 Samuel 13, Saul offered a sacrifice contrary to the instructions of God:

And he [Saul] tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. [9] And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

1 SAMUEL 13:8-10, BRACKETS MINE

- C. The Law prescribed that only priests could offer these sacrifices and petition the Lord like this (Lev. 10:1-2); therefore, as a secular government official, this was a major sin on Saul's part.
 - D. When Samuel reproved him for what he had done, Saul, ever a people pleaser, tried to justify himself (1 Sam. 13:11-12).
 - E. This is a common practice today—most people try to excuse themselves and shift the blame.
- II. In stark contrast to Saul, David didn't do that—he never blamed anyone else for his failures.
 - A. He always took responsibility, saying:

Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

2 SAMUEL 24:17

- B. This character trait made David a man after God's own heart (1 Sam. 13:14).
 - i. When the Bible talks about having a pure heart—a perfect heart—it doesn't mean you never sin.
- C. Are you someone who refuses to accept the truth that it's your fault that you're in the mess you're in?
 - i. A victim's attitude is a common attempt to dodge responsibility and blame others, like Saul did.

- ii. People with this attitude won't survive, be blessed, or reach their full potential.
- iii. However, if you will accept responsibility, then you can change you.

Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: It is important to understand the life of Saul before you look into the life of David.

2. Why did the Lord choose Saul to be king over the national of Israel?

3. What was God able to do through him when Saul was humble?

4. By Law, why could Saul *not* offer a sacrifice to the Lord?

- A. Saul was a government official
- B. Saul was a king
- C. The Law prescribed that only priests could
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. When Samuel reproved Saul, Saul tried to _____ himself.

6. *Discussion question:* How was Saul's response to Samuel's reproof typical of people today?

7. True or false: David and Saul behaved in the same way when they were confronted with their mistakes.

8. What character trait made David a man after God's own heart?

9. Having a pure heart doesn't mean you _____ sin.

10. What kind of attitude do you have if you dodge responsibility and blame others?

- A. A sinner's attitude
- B. A victim's attitude
- C. A Los Angeles Dodgers' attitude
- D. An excellent attitude
- E. A normal attitude

11. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people who dodge responsibility and blame others are never blessed and never reach their full potential?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 9:2

And he had a son, whose name was Saul, a choice young man, and a goodly: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people.

1 SAMUEL 9:21

And Saul answered and said, Am not I a Benjamite, of the smallest of the tribes of Israel? and my family the least of all the families of the tribe of Benjamin? wherefore then speakest thou so to me?

1 SAMUEL 13:8-12

And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. [9] And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering. [10] And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him [11] And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash; [12] Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

LEVITICUS 10:1-2

And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. [2] And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

2 SAMUEL 24:17

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

1 SAMUEL 13:14

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

Outline

III. Saul had a million excuses!

A. But Samuel told him,

Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

1 SAMUEL 13:13

B. You can try to make it look good, but if you disobey God, you're foolish!

C. There is no such thing as "situational ethics"; there is right and wrong.

D. Many folks think that since God knows the end from the beginning, He also controls everything that happens in between.

i. They believe that only what He wills comes to pass on the earth.

E. Applying these faulty assumptions to Saul, people would have to say then that the Lord planned for Saul to fail so He could then raise David up.

IV. David was not God's first choice!

A. God—through the prophet Samuel—clearly told Saul that if Saul would have trusted Him, God would have established Saul's kingdom upon Israel forever (1 Sam. 13:13).

B. The Lord didn't choose Saul as a mere interim king over Israel until the real person He wanted—David—could come of age and take over.

C. Now, that's just a little hard for people who really know the Bible to comprehend.

i. David is everywhere throughout God's Word!

ii. God made an oath and a covenant that He would never take away a person to rule on David's throne, which was ultimately fulfilled in Jesus Christ—"the Son of David."

D. If Saul would have obeyed the Lord, then we would be talking about the "sure mercies of Saul" today.

i. The Messiah would have come out of the tribe of Benjamin—Saul's tribe.

ii. We never would have heard of David, and there would never have been a Solomon.

E. One of the most important lessons we can learn from the life of David is that God chose David as a result of Saul's disobedience (1 Sam. 13:13c-14).

V. The Lord sought out David AFTER Saul had rejected Him.

A. David was born eight years after Saul's disobedience in 1 Samuel 13.

i. This instance of Saul's disobedience took place in the second year of Saul's reign (1 Sam. 13:1).

- ii. David became king when he was thirty (2 Sam. 5:4), which was at the end of Saul's forty-year reign (Acts 13:21).
- B. So, just because you can see His calling, anointing, and blessing on your life, it doesn't mean you can't thwart it, as evidenced here by Saul.
- C. God has an original, good plan for every individual to give them an "expected end" (Jer. 29:11)—a predicted future of success.
- D. He desires for every person to fulfill their individual destiny, but it doesn't automatically—"sovereignly"—come to pass.
- E. That's exactly what the Word says!

VI. This is a warning to all of us.

- A. The Lord has a plan for each of us that is by grace—it's not based on our performance—but we do have to cooperate with that plan.
- B. Paul understood and cooperated with this truth.

For I am the least of the apostles...but by the grace of God I am what I am.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-10A

- C. Paul wasn't chosen because of any great virtue on his part; it was a grace decision.
- D. Yet Paul was saying that he could have made it vain and voided the grace of God, but he didn't because he responded by faith to God's grace and "labored more abundantly" (1 Cor. 15:10).

VII. It's a sobering thought that Saul certainly did not realize—manifest—his full potential (1 Sam. 13:13-14).

- A. Saul remained king until the day of his death.

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

ROMANS 11:29

- B. His reign, instead of being a blessing, turned into a burden for the nation of Israel.
- C. God's plan for your life is by grace, but you must cooperate with that grace by faith.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

This false teaching, popularly called "the sovereignty of God," is wrong because it makes the Lord responsible for all the evil in the world. I confront and refute this wrong doctrine head on in my teaching by the same name ("The Sovereignty of God").

Discipleship Questions

12. Samuel told Saul that he was _____ because he had disobeyed God (1 Sam. 13:13).

13. True or false: A person's ethics depend upon the situation they find themselves in.

14. Which statement is true of God?

- A. God doesn't know the end from the beginning
- B. He controls everything that happens on earth
- C. Only God's will always comes to pass on the earth
- D. Although He knew Saul would, God did not plan for Saul to fail
- E. God can be tempted with evil

15. True or false: If Saul would have trusted God, he would not have lost his kingdom.

16. The Lord did not choose Saul as an _____ king over Israel.

17. David was not God's _____ choice.

18. Why is it hard for people who know the Bible to comprehend that David was not God's first choice?

19. True or false: Because of Saul's disobedience, the Messiah did not come out of the tribe of Benjamin.

20. *Discussion question:* How did Saul's disobedience change the course of history for his life, his family, and his tribe?

21. Saul's disobedience took place _____ David was even born.

22. David became king when?
- A. At the beginning of Saul's forty-year reign
 - B. When Saul was thirty
 - C. When David was thirty
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

23. True or false: Saul's life is evidence that someone can thwart God's original plan.

24. *Discussion question:* God desires for every person to fulfill their individual destiny, but why doesn't it automatically come to pass?

25. True or false: The Lord's plan for you is based on both grace and performance.

26. True or false: The Lord's plan for you is based on grace, but you must cooperate with it.

27. Paul wasn't chosen because of any great _____ on his part.

28. How did Paul not make vain or void the grace of God?

29. *Discussion question:* Andrew says, "This is a warning to all of us." What do you think he means by this?

30. What reality about Saul's life does Andrew say is a sobering thought?

31. Read Romans 11:29. Why did Saul remain king until his death although God had already taken away his kingdom?

32. Saul's reign, instead of being a blessing, turned into what?

- A. A disaster for God
- B. A benefit for Israel
- C. A burden for Israel
- D. A Hebrew soap opera
- E. A spectacle for other nations

33. God's plan for your life is by _____, but you must _____ with that grace by _____.

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 13:13-14

And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever. [14] But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

1 SAMUEL 13:1

Saul reigned one year; and when he had reigned two years over Israel.

ACTS 13:21

And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

2 SAMUEL 5:4

David was thirty years old when he began to reign, and he reigned forty years.

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:9-10

For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. [10] But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

ACTS 9:5

And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.

ROMANS 11:29

For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.

Outline

- I. Saul's failure gave David a chance, and so he never would have even come to the surface if Saul hadn't botched it up.
 - A. David, then, was God's second choice.
 - B. This speaks volumes to me because even though the Lord has used me in a mighty way, I don't feel like I was His first choice.
 - i. I never felt like I was the best qualified or most suited person to do what I'm doing.
 - C. But one of the things I've learned from the life of David is that God doesn't necessarily choose the silver vessel; He chooses the surrendered one—the Lord is more interested in our *availability* than our *ability*.

- II. If I were God, I wouldn't have chosen me.
 - A. But then I read His list of qualifications over in 1 Corinthians:

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

- i. I thought, *Hey, I qualify!*
 - B. God doesn't choose the way man does.
 - C. Saul started out with a tender heart, so God chose him.
 - D. But when Saul's heart changed, God forsook him and turned away from him.
- III. God will not continue to promote us if we get an evil heart.
 - A. The Lord will still love us and accept us, but He won't open doors for us.
 - B. He won't leave or forsake us (Heb. 13:5) the way He did with Saul, but we can certainly hinder, stop, and thwart His blessing in our lives.
 - C. Therefore, we need to recognize that just like with David, the Lord is seeking people after His own heart.

- IV. It's all about a yielded heart!
- A. I've seen many people's lives changed by the power of God's Word and the Holy Spirit.
 - i. I've seen blind eyes and deaf ears opened.
 - ii. I've seen terminal diseases healed and people, including my son, raised from the dead!
 - B. I don't have the ability in my hands to heal or raise anyone from the dead.
 - C. But I can yield my heart to Him and He can use me.
 - D. God wants to use you too!
- V. Even though David wasn't God's first choice, we should look at what the Lord was able to do with him.
- A. Nearly 4,000 years later, we're still learning from and talking about what a great man David was.
 - B. Many people's lives were transformed.
 - C. God's "Plan B" is better than we can ever imagine.
 - D. We don't have to be perfect for the Lord to use us; we just have to be seeking Him with our whole heart.
 - E. If we hunger and thirst for God, we will be filled (Matt. 5:6)!

Discipleship Questions

1. What situation gave David the chance to be king?

2. True or false: David was God's second choice.

3. Andrew doesn't feel like he was God's first _____.

4. Why doesn't Andrew feel like he was God's first choice to do what he is doing?

5. *Discussion question:* What do you think it means when Andrew says, "The Lord is more interested in our availability than our ability"?

6. True or false: According to 1 Corinthians 1:26, God chooses the wise, mighty, and noble to serve Him and do His work.

7. According to 1 Corinthians 1:27-28, which does He not choose?

- A. The foolish things of the world
- B. The weak things of the world
- C. The mighty things of the world
- D. The base things of the world
- E. The despised things of the world

8. When did God choose Saul?

9. When did He forsake Saul and turn from him?

10. *Discussion question:* Can you give another example (from contemporary life or from the Bible) of a person whom God used but who seemed unqualified by man's standards?

11. When will the Lord stop promoting you?

12. True or false: The Lord can love you but not open doors for you.

13. Although the Lord will never leave or forsake you, you can stop His _____ in your life.

14. From studying the life of David, you learn that the Lord is seeking what kind of people?

15. What two things can change people's lives?

16. The main key to being used by God is what?

- A. Having a yielded heart
- B. Being obedient to the Ten Commandments
- C. Knowing the Bible better than others
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

17. True or false: David was a great man because he wasn't God's first choice.

18. You are still learning and talking about David because through him, many people's lives were _____.

19. God's _____ is better than you can ever imagine.

20. What do you have to do to be used by God?

Scriptures

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence.

HEBREWS 13:5

Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

1 SAMUEL 16:12

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

MATTHEW 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Outline

I. God gave Saul a commission through Samuel.

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. [3] Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

1 SAMUEL 15:2-3

- A. Since Israel had become a kingdom and had a king, God wanted vengeance on the Amalekites.
- B. This may seem harsh to us today because, truthfully speaking, this isn't acceptable New Covenant behavior.
- C. In the Old Testament, groups of people who had given themselves over to idolatry and immorality were like cancers in the body of humankind.
- D. Sometimes the diseased part just has to be cut out in order to save the rest of the body.
- E. God, in His love and mercy toward the rest of humanity, told the Israelites to utterly destroy these men, women, children, and animals.
- F. There is much archaeological evidence that before Jesus came, there were entire societies that were so given over to the devil, they were demon possessed.
- G. They were participating on a wide scale in bestiality, sodomy, child sacrifice, and all these kinds of things—and they couldn't be cured of it.
- H. There was no cure before Jesus came.
- I. So, although this was an act of judgment against specific individuals, it was also an act of mercy upon the world as a whole to literally cut this cancer out and destroy it.

II. Saul claimed that he had done the will of the Lord, but in 1 Samuel 15:14, Samuel essentially asked, "If you have truly done the Lord's will, why am I hearing these animals—I told you to destroy everything!"

- A. Saul again placed the blame on others, saying, "The people made me do this!"
- B. But Samuel exposed the root of Saul's sin in 1 Samuel 15:17 by basically saying, "When you were little in your own eyes, God anointed and promoted you. But when you were lifted up, that was when you became arrogant and God rejected you."

III. Humility is necessary to walk with God (Prov. 16:18 and 1 Pet. 5:5)—this is a lesson we can learn from David.

He [God] hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to...walk humbly with thy God?

MICAH 6:8, BRACKETS MINE

- A. At times, David messed up royally and did terrible sins, but he didn't try to shift the blame onto anyone else when he was reproved.
 - B. Humility doesn't mean you do everything perfectly; it doesn't mean you don't sin.
 - C. Humility does mean you have a heart that is sensitive toward the Lord.
- IV. Humility is different than arrogance.
- A. Pride isn't only thinking that you are better than everyone else.
 - B. Pride is essentially being self-reliant instead of God-reliant.
 - C. It's this attitude of independence that is one of Satan's biggest inroads into your life.
 - D. If you want to shut the devil out of your life, begin to prosper, and see the blessings of God work, then you need to walk humbly with God!
 - E. You won't find God until you come to the end of yourself.
- V. When Saul was humble was when God promoted him.
- A. From the life of David, we learn that we must walk humbly with God.
 - B. Saul—David's predecessor—was the Lord's first choice.
 - C. But Saul didn't continue walking with God because he became lifted up in pride, did his own thing, and disobeyed.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Now that Jesus has come, He's made a huge difference. In my teaching, *The True Nature of God*, I contrast and harmonize the difference between how God acted in the Old Testament as compared to the New. It really shines light on how the Lord can be "*the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever,*" yet appear so different (Heb. 13:8). It'll really set you free!

Also, my teachings entitled "Selfishness, the Beachhead of Satan" (Part 3 of *How to Deal with Temptation*), "The End of Self Is the Beginning of God" (Part 4 of *Faith Builders*), and "Ungodly Anger's Source" (Part 2 of *Anger Management*) will all explain this in more detail. I also have a booklet entitled *Self-Centeredness: The Source of All Grief* that brings all these teachings together into one message.

Discipleship Questions

1. What was the commission God gave Saul?
 - A. To cause the Amalekites to remember the Lord God of Israel and to serve Him only
 - B. To anoint David as king of Israel
 - C. To utterly destroy and avenge the Amalekites for what they did to Israel as they were leaving Egypt
 - D. To take the Amalekites' land back and make them Israel's slaves
 - E. To rule his people with an iron fist

2. God was waiting until Israel was a _____ and had a _____ before He ordered vengeance on the Amalekites.

3. Why does this "commission" that God gave Saul seem harsh today?

4. What were some of the types of immorality and idolatry that were being practiced by groups of people in the Old Testament that made them "like cancers in the body of humankind"?
 - A. Sodomy
 - B. Child sacrifice
 - C. Bestiality
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

5. *Discussion question:* Can an act of judgment against specific individuals also be an act of mercy upon the world? Why or why not?

6. True or false: There was no cure for man's immorality or idolatry before Jesus came.

7. True or false: Saul had done the will of the Lord.

8. Why did Samuel disagree with Saul's claim that he had done the will of the Lord?

9. What did Samuel pinpoint as the root of Saul's sin?

- A. God had anointed and promoted Saul
- B. Saul was little in his own eyes
- C. Bitterness
- D. Saul became arrogant
- E. Saul became too greedy

10. Although David messed up royally and did terrible sins, what did he never do when he was reproved?

11. True or false: Humility is when you do things perfectly and avoid sin.

12. What kind of heart do you have if you have humility?

13. Pride is essentially being _____ instead of _____.

14. True or false: An attitude of independence is one of Satan's biggest inroads into your life.

15. Which of the following are benefits of walking humbly with God?

- A. Prosperity
- B. Shutting the devil out of your life
- C. Seeing the blessing of God work
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

16. What lesson can be learned from David's life?

17. True or false: Saul was the Lord's first choice.

18. List three things Saul did that showed he didn't continue walking with God after he became king.

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 15:2-3

Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt. [3] Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

EXODUS 17:8-14

Then came Amalek, and fought with Israel in Rephidim. [9] And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: to morrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand. [10] So Joshua did as Moses had said to him, and fought with Amalek: and Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill. [11] And it came to pass, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed: and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed. [12] But Moses' hands were heavy; and they took a stone, and put it under him, and he sat thereon; and Aaron and Hur stayed up his hands, the one on the one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun. [13] And Joshua discomfited Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword. [14] And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua: for I will utterly put out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.

1 SAMUEL 15:13-17

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. [14] And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? [15] And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. [16] Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. [17] And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?

PROVERBS 16:18

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

1 PETER 5:5

Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

MICAH 6:8

He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

PROVERBS 13:10

Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

HEBREWS 13:8

Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Outline

VI. Saul kept on saying “It’s not my fault! You don’t understand. I did obey God!” but he didn’t.

And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. [21] But the people took of the spoil.

1 SAMUEL 15:20-21A

- A. The Lord wouldn’t have held him guilty if the people had truly done all of this.
- B. So, Saul attempted to justify himself by saying that the people took them “*to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal*” (1 Sam. 15:21).

VII. When God tells you to do something, it’s not open to negotiation.

- A. You don’t need to “interpret” it—just do what God has told you to do!
 - i. I’ve had people say to me, “God has told me to come to Charis Bible College. I know I’m supposed to come, and I believe I’m supposed to come now. But it’s only a couple more years before I can take an early retirement.”
 - ii. I answer, “Well, you aren’t obeying God.”
 - iii. They try to explain it away, but it’s not what God has told them to do.
- B. The Lord told Saul to kill all of these people and animals there when he fought against them.
- C. Instead, he decided to bring them and offer them as sacrifices before God.
- D. That’s not what the Lord told him to do!
- E. You can’t make deals with God.
- F. He wants you to obey Him and do what He told you to do when He told you to do it (1 Sam. 15:22)!

VIII. Not doing what God has told you to do is *rebellion*; and stubbornness is as *iniquity* and *idolatry*.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry.

1 SAMUEL 15:23A

- A. Most just haven't placed that kind of stigma on rebellion and stubbornness!
 - B. But I'm sure you wouldn't tolerate witchcraft in your home.
 - i. If your children came home with a Ouija board, started putting séances together, or tried casting spells, you'd be all over them like a coat of wet paint, declaring, "Not in this house!"
 - ii. You wouldn't let them make some little graven image and begin to worship it.
 - C. But there are many parents who just allow their kids to go through rebellion, be stubborn, talk back to them, disrespect authority, etc., and not even think anything of it.
 - D. They argue, "But rebellion is normal!"
 - E. No, it's not—you're allowing witchcraft into your home (1 Sam. 15:23)!
- IX. We know we aren't doing things exactly the way God has told us to.
- A. We're aware of the fact that we are often slow to obey.
 - B. God has to badger us and drive us into a corner in order to get us to do something.
 - C. "But that's the way that I am. I'm just not quick to obey!"
 - D. Then we're rebellious and stubborn.
 - E. This was why Saul was rejected and David was chosen.
 - F. If we want to be a David instead of a Saul, we need to quit disobeying God!
 - G. Let's listen to the Lord and obey Him from our hearts quickly and fully!

Discipleship Questions

19. True or false: Saul obeyed the voice of the Lord.

20. Whom did Saul blame for his partial obedience?

21. When Saul gave his excuse, he was attempting to _____ himself.

22. True or false: You can negotiate with God when He tells you to do something you are unsure of.

23. You don't need to _____ it—just do what God has told you to do!

24. Instead of killing all of the people and animals that Israel had fought against, Saul decided to do what?

25. *Discussion question:* Why do you think that people sometimes try to negotiate, interpret, or make deals with God instead of just obeying Him? (You can use Saul's example or think of a time in your own life, you found it hard to obey God completely.)

26. Not doing what God has told you to do is?

- A. Idolatry
- B. Rebellion
- C. Wise
- D. Dependent on the circumstances
- E. Negotiable

27. Stubbornness is compared to what?

- A. Iniquity and idolatry
- B. Being like a mule
- C. Rebellion and witchcraft
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

28. What do parents argue is the reason that they tolerate their teenagers' rebellion and stubbornness?

29. When you allow children to disrespect authority, you are allowing _____ into your home!

30. *Discussion question:* What situations or influences do you think make parents tolerate rebellion and stubbornness from their children?

31. Saying "But that's the way that I am. I'm just not quick to obey" makes you what?

- A. Normal and human
- B. Wicked and evil
- C. Rebellious and stubborn
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

32. To obey the Lord, you must obey Him from your heart _____ and _____.

Scripture

1 SAMUEL 15:17-23

And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? [18] And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. [19] Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? [20] And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. [21] But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God in Gilgal. [22] And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. [23] For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

Outline

- I. Saul finally admitted “All right, I’m wrong,” but he still didn’t take direct responsibility.

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. [24] And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

1 SAMUEL 15:23-24

- A. If you want to be a Saul, then dodge responsibility.
- B. Saul’s mentality was a victim’s mentality, and it leads to destruction.
- C. If you want to be a David—someone after God’s own heart—then start accepting responsibility for your own wrongs and quit blaming everybody else.
- D. In addition, quit fearing the people!
- E. Saul was the king, God’s appointed leader, who had the authority.
- F. Instead of doing the right thing, Saul “*feared the people, and obeyed their voice*” (1 Sam. 15:24).

- II. Saul went on to say,

Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. [26] And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. [27] And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. [28] And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. [29] And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. [30] Then he [Saul] said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

1 SAMUEL 15:26-30, BRACKETS MINE

- A. Samuel told Saul that the Lord had rejected him and that Saul would ultimately lose the kingdom.
 - i. His children and family would no longer be royalty.
 - ii. Saul had lost everything.
- B. Yet he wanted Samuel to offer a sacrifice to the Lord with him so the people would stay with him.

- C. He wasn't as concerned about losing the Lord's approval as he was about what the people thought.
- D. Pride and insecurity were distinguishing flaws of Saul's character—the fear of man is a snare (Prov. 29:25).

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

1 SAMUEL 15:35

- E. Saul's character didn't just affect him but Samuel also.

III. It repented God that He had made Saul king and then had to reject him.

- A. But once that was done—once Saul made his choice—God moved on.

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

1 SAMUEL 16:1

- B. God is more concerned about getting His plan done than He is about mourning what could have and should have been.
- C. This can also be a major problem if people see a “move of God” and they just want to build three tabernacles and camp there (Matt. 17:4), yet it's time to move on.
- D. In the wilderness, there was a cloud that hovered over the tabernacle.
 - i. When the cloud moved, the people had to get up and move (Ex. 40:36-38).
 - ii. They had to move on and follow God because He had a place for them to go.
- E. Likewise, God has a purpose for your life.
 - i. Along the way, you'll encounter individuals who fail and fall away from Him.
 - ii. You need to move on and continue with your life in Christ—don't let their failure stop you!

IV. Samuel was beginning to fall into this trap until God spoke to him.

- A. “How long are you going to mourn? I've rejected Saul. Now you reject him too!”
- B. That may sound harsh—and in the New Testament, God will never totally forsake you—but He can move on to Plan B.
 - i. In other words, God can say “All right, I'll use you to the degree that you're usable—that you allow Me—but I'm not going to let My kingdom suffer, so I'll raise up somebody else to get the job done” and He'll move on.
- C. If God moves on, then He takes that anointing and puts it on another person or on another church.

D. Don't just sit there if the glory cloud has lifted—move on and do what God has told you to do!

V. So, God told Samuel,

Fill thine horn with oil, and go.

1 SAMUEL 16:1

- A. In the Old Testament, when they anointed priests and kings with oil, which symbolized the Holy Spirit, power came upon them and energized them to be used of God.
- B. The Lord was telling Samuel to quit mourning over Saul.
- C. There have been times in my life when I was just devastated, but the Lord has told me, “Get up, fill your horn with oil, and go. Move forward with the vision and mission I’ve given you!”
- D. On other occasions, something has been so wonderful that I’ve just wanted to stay there.
- E. So, it’s not always something negative that’s holding you back; sometimes it could be a wonderful experience that you’re afraid to leave.
- F. Either way, when the cloud of God starts moving, fill your horn with oil and go!

VI. I had some friends, a married couple, who started out in the Presbyterian church.

- A. When it was time to transition from being part of the Presbyterian church to pastoring a new church, it was challenging.
- B. The wife was really struggling with leaving the old church and the people there they had grown to love so much.
- C. As they were praying about it with friends, the Lord gave the wife a word, saying, “Sometimes you have to let go of the hands you’re holding onto so that there will be more hands around My table in heaven.”
- D. When God is leading you to move on, you need to fill your horn with oil and go!

Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: Saul finally took responsibility and admitted his mistakes.

2. If you want to be like Saul, you can do what?

- A. Accept responsibility
- B. Repent
- C. Dodge responsibility
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

3. If you want to be like David, you can do what?

- A. Accept responsibility
- B. Repent
- C. Quit blaming others
- D. A and C
- E. B and C

4. *Discussion question:* What prevented Saul from obeying God?

5. According to 1 Samuel 15:26, the Lord rejected Saul from being king over Israel because he did what?

6. The ripping of Samuel's "skirt of his mantle" was a sign that what?

- A. Saul's sin was serious to God
- B. God had ripped the kingdom of Israel away from Saul
- C. God was giving the kingdom of Israel away to a foreign king
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. Which character flaws caused Saul to lose his position of king of Israel?

8. Once Saul made his choice, what did God do?

9. Why did God tell Samuel to fill his horn with oil?

- A. So that he could go and anoint a new king over Israel
- B. Because Samuel needed a new anointing
- C. So that he could heal Saul of his wounds of rejection
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

10. God is more concerned about getting His _____ done than He is about mourning what could have and should have been.

11. *Discussion question:* Why do you think seeing someone you love or respect fail might cause you to stop or not go on with God's plan for your life?

12. What trap was Samuel beginning to fall into?

13. True or false: In the New Testament, God will never totally forsake you.

14. What might God do if you refuse to obey Him?

15. God will use you to the degree you are _____.

16. *Discussion question:* How does God not allow His kingdom to suffer while at the same time He permits you to disobey Him?

17. What did oil symbolize in the Old Testament?

18. After times when he was _____, God has told Andrew to “Get up, fill your horn with oil, and go.”

19. True or false: God tells you to get up and go only after something negative has happened that could hold you back.

20. Why would God have to tell you to get up and go after something wonderful has happened?

21. *Discussion question:* Have you ever had something that you had trouble letting go of, like the wife in this story? How does letting go of someone’s hand represent moving on?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 15:23-30

For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king. [24] And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. [25] Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. [26] And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. [27] And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. [28] And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou. [29] And also the Strength of Israel will not lie nor repent: for he is not a man, that he should repent. [30] Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

PROVERBS 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

1 SAMUEL 15:35

And Samuel came no more to see Saul until the day of his death: nevertheless Samuel mourned for Saul: and the LORD repented that he had made Saul king over Israel.

1 SAMUEL 16:1

And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons.

MATTHEW 17:4

Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias.

EXODUS 40:36-38

And when the cloud was taken up from over the tabernacle, the children of Israel went onward in all their journeys: [37] But if the cloud were not taken up, then they journeyed not till the day that it was taken up. [38] For the cloud of the LORD was upon the tabernacle by day, and fire was on it by night, in the sight of all the house of Israel, throughout all their journeys.

Outline

- I. God sent Samuel to anoint a king from among Jesse's sons.

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

1 SAMUEL 16:6

- A. Because Eliab, David's oldest brother, was the biggest, the strongest, and probably the meanest and toughest, Samuel was looking at him and supposing he would be king.
- B. Jesse had eight sons, but he only brought the eldest seven as candidates.
- C. David was the youngest and didn't look like king material, but God doesn't see the way man does!

- II. When you are evaluating people or physical things, you can't just evaluate them by the way they look on the outside.

But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

1 SAMUEL 16:7

- A. God looks on the inside, so you need to keep this in mind when you're evaluating other people.
- B. You don't need to buy into people's evaluation about you either, because they may be merely looking on your outward appearance.
- C. If you're born again, then you are a brand-new person on the inside.
 - i. You are a king, priest, and son on the inside!
 - ii. You're anointed and powerful because one-third of you is wall-to-wall Holy Ghost!
- D. Don't let other people's opinions and evaluations of who you are in the natural realm—your education, looks, talents, voice, abilities, etc.—limit you!
- E. If you have a relationship with God, just start seeing yourself the way God sees you!

- III. All seven of the sons present had passed before the prophet, yet Samuel was sensitive enough to God to know that none of them were the right one:

Are here all thy children?

1 SAMUEL 16:11

- A. Then Jesse said, “*There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep*” (1 Sam. 16:11).
- B. Jesse didn’t think enough of David to even put his name in the hat!
- C. Samuel said, “He must be the one, so none of us are going to sit down until David comes!”
- D. By this time, Samuel had recognized that David was the chosen one regardless of what he looked like, so he was going by the word of the Lord and honoring David!

IV. The Lord passed over everyone else to find David!

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9A

- A. “*Perfect*” doesn’t mean sinless or problem free; rather, it means someone whose heart is fully committed—belonging completely—to the Lord.
- B. God is looking for someone who will make Him first in their life.
- C. If you will genuinely do that, you’ll be promoted, and you’ll see God’s blessing come to pass in your life.

V. God chose David despite the fact that in the natural, he didn’t have the height, build, or looks—God chose him because of his heart.

- A. When David arrived, the Bible describes his appearance as “*ruddy*” (1 Sam. 16:12), which literally means “reddish” (Strong’s Concordance).
 - i. Scholars aren’t sure whether this means he was redheaded or had a red complexion, but either way would certainly be unusual for a Jew.
 - ii. This word also has the connotation that he was pampered; it’s what we would call a “mama’s boy” today.
- B. Whatever your limitations are in the natural, God looks at your heart.
 - i. Even if your body is handicapped, God isn’t looking at that.
 - ii. Your heart isn’t handicapped unless you choose to let it be that way.
- C. And if you seek Him with a perfect heart, He’ll raise you up and do miracles in your life just as surely as He did for David!

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 SAMUEL 16:13

- VI. Later in that chapter, the Word goes on to say one of Saul's servants suggested David play his harp before Saul to alleviate the torment of the evil spirit that was plaguing Saul.
- A. It is no coincidence that David's name just happened to be brought up.
 - B. I believe Samuel did this in secret because he was afraid of what Saul might do.
 - C. This principle is true: Once you've begun to seek the Lord and He releases His anointing on your life, you're like a cork—they could put you on the bottom of a lake, but you'll rise again.
- VII. Don't be like Saul—a man pleaser, motivated by pride and arrogance.
- A. Be like David and prepare your heart to seek the Lord.
 - i. If you are born again, God gave you a perfect heart, so quit walking in the vanity of your own wisdom and embrace the wisdom of God.
 - ii. Renew your mind to His Word so you can understand the riches He placed within your born-again spirit and how you can experience them day by day.
 - iii. I'm not the most qualified person to do what I do, but God saw my heart, not my education (or lack thereof).
 - iv. The Lord has a plan—a destiny—for you too, and as you seek Him with your whole heart, you'll find yourself walking in that plan more and more.
 - v. Let the Holy Spirit burn these truths into your heart so that you will be a man (or woman) after God's heart too!

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

My teachings "Who You Are in the Spirit" and *Spirit, Soul & Body* will help you understand this in a greater way.

Discipleship Questions

1. Which brother did Samuel suppose would be king?

2. Why did Samuel think that Eliab would be the next king?

- A. He was the oldest son
- B. He was tall
- C. God told him
- D. A and B
- E. B and C

3. Why did Jesse only present seven out of his eight sons?

4. *Discussion question:* What does Andrew's statement "God doesn't see the way man does" mean?

5. What do you need to keep in mind when you are evaluating people?

6. If you are born again, what are you?

- A. A brand-new creature
- B. A king and priest
- C. One-third wall-to-wall Holy Ghost
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. Which of the following is not part of the natural realm?
- A. Your spirit
 - B. Your looks
 - C. Your education
 - D. Your voice
 - E. Your car

8. How should you see and evaluate yourself and others?

9. True or false: Samuel refused to look at the first seven sons of Jesse.

10. How did Samuel know that none of the first seven sons of Jesse were going to be king?

11. What did Jesse finally admit to the prophet?
- A. He didn't want any of his sons to be king
 - B. He had a youngest son who was not there
 - C. Jesse himself secretly wanted to be king
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

12. What had Samuel realized by that time?

13. True or false: The Lord passed over everyone else to find David.

14. Perfect to God means what?
- A. Sinless
 - B. Healthy
 - C. Fully committed
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

15. What will happen if you genuinely put God first in your life?

16. Which quality or qualities did David lack to be king in the natural?

- A. Height
- B. Build
- C. Looks
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

17. True or false: It was common for a Jew to be ruddy.

18. Even if your body is limited, God is looking at your _____.

19. According to 1 Samuel 16:13, what happened to David from the time that Samuel anointed him with oil?

20. Why did David play the harp for Saul?

21. True or false: It is just a coincidence that David ended up in the palace after he had been anointed as king.

22. *Discussion question:* Explain this principle that Andrew says is true: Once you've begun to seek the Lord and He releases His anointing on your life, you're like a cork.

23. True or false: Pride and arrogance caused Saul to please man instead of God.

24. To walk in the wisdom of God, what do you have to quit walking in?

25. *Discussion question:* Did God choose Andrew because he lacked the qualifications or in spite of the fact that he wasn't qualified? Explain.

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 16:6-9

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him. [7] But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. [8] Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this. [9] Then Jesse made Shammah to pass by. And he said, Neither hath the LORD chosen this.

1 CORINTHIANS 1:26-29

For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: [27] But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; [28] And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: [29] That no flesh should glory in his presence.

1 SAMUEL 16:11-13

And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither. [12] And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. 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 brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

2 CHRONICLES 16:9

For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

1 SAMUEL 16:18

Then answered one of the servants, and said, Behold, I have seen a son of Jesse the Bethlehemite, that is cunning in playing, and a mighty valiant man, and a man of war, and prudent in matters, and a comely person, and the LORD is with him.

MATTHEW 5:5

Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Outline

- I. David was anointed to be king in secret.
 - A. If the present king—Saul—had heard this news, he would have killed them all (1 Sam. 16:2).
 - B. David had actually been playing the harp in Saul's court; however, Saul didn't know yet who he was.
 - C. Then the Philistines came down to fight, so Saul went off to battle and sent David home again.
 - D. While there, David went back to keeping his father's sheep.
 - E. A proud person wouldn't have been able to do this.
 - F. Another characteristic of humility is patience.
 - G. Impatience is a sure sign of our own arrogance and self-reliance.

- II. Jesse's three oldest sons were in the army, so they went with Saul to battle.
 - A. But as they went out to battle, a champion of the Philistines—a giant named Goliath—came out and challenged the armies of Israel.

And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span.

1 SAMUEL 17:4

- B. Most scholars believe he stood at least nine feet nine inches high (some say he may have been as tall as thirteen feet!).

And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass.

1 SAMUEL 17:5

- C. The giant's armor—not even counting Goliath himself—probably weighed more than David did.

*And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. [7]
And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him.*

1 SAMUEL 17:6-7

- D. They estimate that his spearhead weighed fifteen pounds, so if the head was fifteen pounds and the shaft was another fifteen pounds to balance it out, can you imagine trying to throw a thirty-pound spear?
- E. This is an indication of how big and strong Goliath was; he was a well-proportioned, muscular giant of a man.
- F. In the natural realm, nobody could compete with him.

III. Among the entire nation of Israel, there wasn't a single person willing to go up against this giant!

And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. [9] If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. [10] And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. [11] When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

1 SAMUEL 17:8-11

- A. David's father called him in from keeping the sheep; he gave him some bread and cheese, and said, "Take this to your brothers and to the captain over them in the army. Find out how they're doing and bring me back word" (1 Sam. 17:17-18).
- B. As David arrived to see his brothers, the armies had lined up and this Philistine champion issued his challenge once again (1 Sam. 17:23-24).
- C. After David saw and heard these things, he asked, "What will be done for the man who kills this giant and takes away our reproach?"
- D. Instead of running away and being afraid like everybody else, David was saying, "This guy needs to be stopped! What are they promising the fellow who will go out and defeat this giant?"

IV. Remember, David was still a youth at this time.

- A. All those seasoned men of war who were bigger, stronger, and more experienced than he was and were standing all around him, full of fear.
- B. What made David able to fight this giant, kill him, and bring this great deliverance?
- C. He wasn't bigger or stronger than anyone else, and it wasn't that he'd been trained in a military school and had natural combat knowledge—it wasn't anything in the natural at all.
- D. What was different about David was his heart—specifically the attitude of his heart.
- E. His heart was sensitive to God, and because of that, he was fearless.
- F. David not only looked at himself the way God saw him, but he also viewed other things—including giants—the way God saw them.

- G. Most people—considering outward appearances—would have said, “David doesn’t stand a chance. It’s an unfair fight!”
- H. But when you look at it from the inside, it was absolutely lopsided.
 - i. David was the one who had the right heart, was anointed, and had the covenant relationship with God.
 - ii. Goliath had nothing—he was powerless.
- I. What I’m saying here is different than the way most people think.
- J. But this is how the Bible will teach you to think, and it’s the right way to think!

Discipleship Questions

1. Why was David anointed to be king in secret?

2. What happened to David when the Philistines came down to fight?

3. *Discussion question:* In your opinion, why would pride and a lack of humility prevent someone from doing like David did?

4. *Discussion question:* Meditate on what Goliath must've looked like in the natural. Share your thoughts.

5. Until David came along, was anyone willing to go up against this giant?

6. True or false: David ran away like everyone else did.

7. What made David able to fight this giant, kill him, and bring this great deliverance?

- A. He was bigger and stronger than everyone else
- B. His heart was sensitive to God
- C. He had been trained in military school and had natural combat knowledge
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

8. *Discussion question:* Why did David's attitude and perspective make a difference in how he dealt with Goliath?

9. *Discussion question:* Do you agree with the statement "This is how the Bible will teach you to think, and it's the right way to think!"? Why or why not?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 16:2

And Samuel said, How can I go? if Saul hear it, he will kill me. And the LORD said, Take an heifer with thee, and say, I am come to sacrifice to the LORD.

1 SAMUEL 17:4-11

And there went out a champion out of the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. [5] And he had an helmet of brass upon his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail; and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of brass. [6] And he had greaves of brass upon his legs, and a target of brass between his shoulders. [7] And the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam; and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron: and one bearing a shield went before him. [8] And he stood and cried unto the armies of Israel, and said unto them, Why are ye come out to set your battle in array? am not I a Philistine, and ye servants to Saul? choose you a man for you, and let him come down to me. [9] If he be able to fight with me, and to kill me, then will we be your servants: but if I prevail against him, and kill him, then shall ye be our servants, and serve us. [10] And the Philistine said, I defy the armies of Israel this day; give me a man, that we may fight together. [11] When Saul and all Israel heard those words of the Philistine, they were dismayed, and greatly afraid.

1 SAMUEL 17:17-18

And Jesse said unto David his son, Take now for thy brethren an ephah of this parched corn, and these ten loaves, and run to the camp to thy brethren; [18] And carry these ten cheeses unto the captain of their thousand, and look how thy brethren fare, and take their pledge.

1 SAMUEL 17:23-24

And as he talked with them, behold, there came up the champion, the Philistine of Gath, Goliath by name, out of the armies of the Philistines, and spake according to the same words: and David heard them. [24] And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him, and were sore afraid.

Outline

- V. David had an entirely different attitude.

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

1 SAMUEL 17:26

- A. When David used this term “*uncircumcised Philistine*,” he was saying that Goliath didn’t have a covenant with God.

Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

1 SAMUEL 17:26B

- B. Circumcision was a sign of the covenant God had made with the nation of Israel.
 C. David’s attitude came from the covenant, the Word, and the promises of God!
 D. If you want to do exploits like David did, you’re going to have to have a different attitude.
 E. You’re going to have to look at God’s Word and evaluate your Enemy, circumstances, and problems based on what the Word says about them.

- VI. Living in this physical world is like gravity—unbelief, doubt, and negativity pull on us constantly.
- A. We need to be so dominated by His Word that we don’t let other people’s opinions and what things look like in the physical realm dominate us.
 B. It doesn’t matter how big our problems are.
 C. If we evaluated things this way, we’d recognize that we’re the ones with the promises.
 D. We’re the ones who have an edge on any enemy we could face—financial problems, physical issues, etc.
 E. Really, the bigger the problem confronting you, the greater the opportunity there is to do an exploit for God, to see Him come through, and to have a better testimony.
 F. We never would have heard of David had he killed a dwarf.
 G. David had a tremendous opportunity for the Lord to come through with an awesome victory!
 H. Likewise, instead of seeing how big our problems are, we should think of how great a testimony it will be when the Lord gives us victory over them.

- VII. David wasn't intimidated; he knew he had a covenant with God.
- A. Due to this, David had a completely different attitude than most people.
 - B. This was what God used to propel David into the public eye.
 - C. After he killed Goliath, the women came out dancing and singing, "*Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands*" (1 Sam. 18:7).
 - D. Beating Goliath propelled David to a place that actually paved the way for him to take over the kingdom of Israel.
 - E. However, all these other men were there too; they had the same opportunity.
 - F. They were Israelites—covenant people—and they could have been used.
 - G. But they weren't looking at this situation with Goliath through the covenant.

- VIII. David saw this opportunity through the covenant:

Who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

1 SAMUEL 17:26B

- A. He declared, "I have the Lord's promises, and this guy doesn't. He's separated from God. I have him licked, no problem!"

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

1 SAMUEL 17:31

- B. David had to start speaking forth his faith.
- C. If he had just stood there and not spoken his vision, it wouldn't have come to pass.
- D. It wasn't enough just to boldly stand there while everyone else was running and hiding behind rocks, in caves, and such.
- E. After he spoke those words of faith, then the Lord promoted him—God took those words and passed them through the army all the way up to the king.
- F. You have to speak forth what the Lord has put in your heart.
- G. Words are powerful!
- H. God will use your words to open up doors and stop the devil in his tracks.

Discipleship Questions

10. *Discussion question:* Using 1 Samuel 17:26, describe David's attitude toward this situation.

11. If you want to do _____ like David did, you're going to have to have a _____ attitude.

12. You're going to have to what?

- A. Look at God's Word and evaluate your Enemy, circumstances, and problems based on what the Word says about them
- B. Pray long and hard and evaluate your Enemy, circumstances, and problems based on your feelings and past experiences
- C. Look at God's Word and evaluate your Enemy, circumstances, and problems based on what you think about them
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

13. True or false: Unbelief, doubt, and negativity pull on you constantly.

14. *Discussion question:* Why could facing a big problem be a good thing?

15. Why was David not intimidated?

16. What did beating Goliath accomplish for David?

17. *Discussion question:* Share your thoughts about the other men who were there with David and had the same opportunity. Discuss what you can learn from those men.

18. David had to start _____ forth his _____.

19. If David had just stood there and not spoken his vision, would it have come to pass?

20. *Discussion question:* What sort of words have you been speaking? Are the kind that God can use to open doors and stop the devil in his tracks? What changes, if any, do you feel you need to make in what you say?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 17:26

And David spake to the men that stood by him, saying, What shall be done to the man that killeth this Philistine, and taketh away the reproach from Israel? for who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?

1 SAMUEL 18:2

And Saul took him that day, and would let him go no more home to his father's house.

1 SAMUEL 17:31

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him.

1 SAMUEL 18:7

And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.

Outline

- I. Here's David standing up to the enemy, operating in faith, and doing nothing but good things that should be admired and praised.

And Eliab his [David's] eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

1 SAMUEL 17:28, BRACKETS MINE

- A. Yet when his older brother heard it, he railed on him.
- B. Eliab turned on David and began to question why he came.
- C. David was submitted to his father, who had commanded him to go.
- D. Everything David was doing was exactly right.
- II. If you're going to be a giant killer, you need to recognize that criticism will come your way.
- A. If you get a different attitude and start operating in faith instead of fear, if you stand up to your giants instead of running from them, if you recognize your covenant rights and privileges—and start speaking forth your faith—you will be criticized.
- B. When you believe for victory, speak forth your faith, and go for it, you condemn the average person's mediocre life.
- C. That's the number one reason they criticize and fight against you.
- D. If what you're saying about walking in health, prosperity, and joy is true, then they're wrong.
- E. These folks who have been moaning, bellyaching, and using these things to excuse their ineffective, defeated, and powerless lives are going to be condemned by what you say.
- F. They have to do one of two things: repent and change, or criticize.
- G. Very few people repent, because it requires integrity and taking responsibility for their attitudes and actions.
- H. Most people will just try to discredit and stop you.
- I. Instead of climbing up to your level, they'll just try to pull you down to theirs through criticism.
- III. Eliab was there when David was chosen as the next king (1 Sam. 16:13).
- A. He saw Samuel hear from God and pass over him—and all the others—in favor of the runt of the family.
- B. Eliab was angry and jealous, thinking, *Why didn't God choose me?*

- C. Then on the battlefield with Saul's army, Eliab had been just like all the other soldiers—hiding from Goliath.
- D. And here came his little brother saying, “*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?*” (1 Sam. 17:26).
- E. It forced him either to admit “My youngest brother here is the one who's right. He's a powerful man of God and I'm a zero—a nothing” or contend “I'm right and he's not” and then impute some kind of wrong to David.
- F. This happens all the time in court!
 - i. When a person testifies and gives condemning witness against someone else, nine out of ten times this is what the lawyer's tactic will be.
 - ii. They'll turn on this witness and try to discredit them.
 - iii. If they're successful in their effort, then the court just throws his testimony out, and all of the damage it could have done is reversed.
 - iv. This is done on an individual basis too.

- IV. If you get the attitude of David, start basing your evaluation of things on the covenant, and get bold enough to speak it, you will be criticized—I guarantee it!
 - A. Many times this criticism comes through the people who know you the best: your family.
 - B. After Jesus' own brothers mocked him, He said,

A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

MARK 6:4

- C. The people who know you the best have a hard time believing that there's really anything special about you, because they know you.
- D. Since they're basing their judgment on outward appearance, it's hard for them to really see what God has done in you.
- V. I'm not saying that all the criticism is mean and malicious or that you can't overcome it.
 - A. I'm just saying it's natural.
 - B. The people who know you the best are still going to consider you as their little brother, neighbor, coworker, or whatever.
 - C. They don't know what God said, and they can't see what's happened on the inside of you.
 - D. But after a period of time, they can.
 - E. If you're going to become a giant killer, criticism will come.
 - F. When you start trying to overcome your problems instead of just sitting down and being overcome by them, when you begin to believe and speak forth your faith instead of just running and hiding like everyone else, you'll be challenged.
 - G. However, you can't let criticism stop you.

- VI. It doesn't matter what other people say about you; it's what you say about yourself that counts!
- This truth is clearly illustrated when Moses sent twelve men to spy out the Promised Land.
 - Ten of them came back saying, "It's a good land, but we can't take it because there are giants there!"

We were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

NUMBERS 13:33B

- What other people say might be a factor, but it's not the determining factor.
 - What really counts is how you see yourself.
 - Do you see yourself as a grasshopper or a giant killer?
 - This is a tremendous lesson from the life of David!
 - You need to find out who you are and what God has called you to do.
 - Then—no matter what criticism you might face—go on in His power and do it!
- VII. My good friend Joe Nay has made a huge impact on my life.
- He's the one who actually helped stir me up to seek the Lord.
 - Immediately after I became turned on to Jesus, I started receiving criticism from both my family and my church, and all this criticism was beginning to wear on me.
 - So, I went to one of Joe Nay's meetings.
 - Joe called me out in front of everyone and started prophesying, "Andrew, I see you going up into the grandstands to argue with these spectators. But even if you win the argument, you're going to lose the race."
 - That was a powerful word that really ministered to me.
 - When you start going for it, Satan raises up people to criticize you.
 - His purpose is to divert you from what you're supposed to do.
 - You need to get to the place where you don't let criticism change you.
 - Stay on track, and don't let it change your message!

- VIII. That is exactly what David did.
- After his brother said all of these things, he responded,

What have I now done? Is there not a cause?

1 SAMUEL 17:29

- In other words, David said, "What are you on my case for? I haven't done anything wrong!"

And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner.

1 SAMUEL 17:30

- C. David just turned to the next guy and repeated the same words, “*Who is this uncircumcised Philistine?*” (1 Sam. 17:26).
- D. He didn’t let his older brother’s criticism slow him down one bit!
- E. If you are going to be a giant killer, you’re going to have to get beyond criticism.
- F. If you’re going to start overcoming problems and bring deliverance to yourself and others, you’re going to have to get to where you aren’t so touchy.
- G. Who cares what other people have to say about you?
- H. David overcame this criticism and continued to speak forth his faith.

And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. [32] And David said to Saul, Let no man’s heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

1 SAMUEL 17:31-32

Discipleship Questions

1. Was David doing everything exactly right?

2. *Discussion question:* Have you ever faced a situation like David's, where someone close to you criticized your actions, even when you were doing what you were supposed to do? How did you deal with the situation?

3. If you're going to be a _____, you need to recognize that _____ will come your way.

4. True or false: If you get a different attitude and start operating in faith instead of fear, if you stand up to your giants instead of running from them, if you recognize your covenant rights and privileges—and start speaking forth your faith—you will be wholly accepted.

5. *Discussion question:* Discuss why a lot of people criticize those who begin to speak forth their faith.

6. Why do very few people repent?

- A. It requires a blood sacrifice and a wave offering
- B. It requires effort and time that they can't spare from their busy schedules
- C. It requires good character and an excellent lineage
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. What will most people do?

8. According to 1 Samuel 16:13, where was Eliab when David was chosen as the next king?

9. *Discussion question:* What is the significance of the answer to question #8?

10. Many times, where does criticism come from?

11. What did Jesus say in Mark 6:4?

12. *Discussion question:* Find some examples in the Scriptures of people being criticized by those closest to them (like their families) and discuss what you can learn from their experiences.

13. True or false: After a period of time, the people who know you best will be able to see what's happened on the inside of you.

14. You can't let criticism _____ you.

15. *Discussion question:* Think about what you have been saying about yourself. Do you think what others have been saying has impacted what you say about yourself? Do you feel any changes need to be made in your life?

16. *Discussion question:* How could things have been different if the ten spies had brought back a positive report in Numbers 13:33?

17. What do you need to find out?

- A. Who you are and how to become a muay thai fighter
- B. Who you are and what your parents want you to do
- C. Who you are and what God has called you to do
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

18. What is the problem with arguing with the spectators in the grandstands instead of running your race?

19. *Discussion question:* How can criticism possibly change your message?

20. What did David do after his brother Eliab criticized him?

21. Read 1 Samuel 17:31-32. What else did David do?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 17:28-32

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle. [29] And David said, What have I now done? Is there not a cause? [30] And he turned from him toward another, and spake after the same manner: and the people answered him again after the former manner. [31] And when the words were heard which David spake, they rehearsed them before Saul: and he sent for him. [32] And David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; thy servant will go and fight with this Philistine.

1 SAMUEL 16:13

Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.

1 SAMUEL 16:6

And it came to pass, when they were come, that he looked on Eliab, and said, Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.

MARK 6:4

But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, but in his own country, and among his own kin, and in his own house.

NUMBERS 13:33

And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

Outline

- I. David was bold because he believed God and was aware of his covenant.
- A. But even though David's *faith* was in the promises contained in God's Word, what he said next reveals where his *confidence* came from.

And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: [35] And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. [36] Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. [37a] David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine.

1 SAMUEL 17:34-37A

- B. David was saying, "Look, I've already proven God to be faithful. I have a history! This isn't the first time I've ever believed God. I've trusted Him and seen Him work miracles through me before. Because of this past experience, I have confidence, hope, and belief that it's going to happen again!"
- C. One of the reasons David was able to overcome the giant—and the others weren't—was because he had been faithful and proven God in the small things.
- D. Jesus said,

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

LUKE 16:10

- E. In other words, if you aren't faithful in a small thing, you won't be entrusted with the great things.
- F. Most people are waiting until they get into a crisis situation—until the big thing—to believe God; however, they aren't trusting Him on a daily basis.
- G. If that's the way you're thinking, your faith isn't going to work.

- II. Your faith has to grow and increase with use.
 - A. You have to accelerate—you have to build up momentum and speed.
 - B. Jesus said that the kingdom of God is...

...as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

MARK 4:26B-28

- C. The kingdom of heaven works like a seed.
- D. It takes time and many seasons for the seed to go through the growth process to maturity.

First the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

MARK 4:28B

- E. This is a principle of God; it's how everything works.
- F. You must start trusting the Lord in smaller things and then progress and increase.

- III. This battle between David and Goliath didn't happen the way some people picture it.
 - A. David didn't just go out there and—BOOM!—all of a sudden this spirit of faith came upon him enabling him to rise up and kill this giant.
 - B. No, David had been seeking God.
 - C. He'd been faithful in smaller things—in fact, David had been faithful in seemingly insignificant things.
 - i. We don't know exactly how many sheep David kept, but according to Eliab's statement, it was just a few (1 Sam. 17:28).
 - ii. No matter what size the herd really was, in some ways it was insignificant—it certainly wasn't worth David's life.
 - iii. Even though shepherds were expected to defend the sheep by attempting to scare off wild animals, surely Jesse wouldn't have wanted David to die trying to save one lamb from a lion or a bear (1 Sam. 17:35).
 - iv. Sheep are important, but not that important.
 - v. In most people's opinion, it definitely wasn't worth his life—it was small, insignificant.
 - D. But David was faithful, even to the point of laying his life on the line in a small, insignificant matter.

Discipleship Questions

1. Why was David bold?

2. *Discussion question:* Where did David's confidence come from (1 Sam. 17:34-37)?

3. What does Luke 16:10 say?

4. *Discussion question:* How does Luke 16:10 relate to trusting God?

5. Your faith has to _____ and _____ with use.

6. The kingdom of God works like a what?

- A. Slot machine
- B. Watch
- C. Seed
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. *Discussion question:* Explain how Mark 4:28b is how everything works.

8. *Discussion question:* Why do you think David was faithful in seemingly insignificant things?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 17:33-37

And Saul said to David, Thou art not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him: for thou art but a youth, and he a man of war from his youth. [34] And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: [35] And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. [36] Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God. [37] David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

LUKE 16:10

He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.

MARK 4:26-28

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; [27] And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. [28] For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear, after that the full corn in the ear.

1 SAMUEL 17:28

And Eliab his eldest brother heard when he spake unto the men; and Eliab's anger was kindled against David, and he said, Why camest thou down hither? and with whom hast thou left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know thy pride, and the naughtiness of thine heart; for thou art come down that thou mightest see the battle.

Outline

- IV. This is how you become a giant killer—you start trusting God in the small things every day.
- A. You fight to keep your joy and peace just like you were fighting a giant out there.
 - B. You stand on principle on the small things, doing what’s right even when nobody else is watching.
 - C. David risked his life in a relatively insignificant manner, in a way that he might never have received recognition and acclaim for.
 - D. Yet he was just as faithful with that as if it were something big and important.
 - E. Many people want the great victory, but few are willing to pay the price of faithfulness.
 - F. You need to learn to trust God in the everyday things.
 - G. If you can’t control yourself with something small, you’ll never make it when the big things come.
- V. One of the common traits I’ve noticed among people whom God is using in a mighty way is that they are faithful in the little as well as the big.
- A. They aren’t just faithful when big things are on the line and someone’s watching—they do the right thing even if nobody’s looking.
 - B. This is one of the reasons God used David to kill Goliath.
 - i. He was faithful in small things.
 - ii. He’d been faithfully serving his father and protecting those sheep.
 - iii. Because of that, he had confidence to go in and fight the big battle.
 - C. You can’t prepare for the future any better than just by starting to be faithful today.
 - D. Make the decision today that you are going to start believing God, walking in joy, choosing to do the right thing, controlling your emotions, studying the Word, and blessing other people.
 - E. Choose to spend time with God, even if there’s nothing pressing—just do it to be a faithful servant.
 - F. Do things with integrity and excellence.
 - G. If you do this over a period of time and prove yourself faithful, then when the giant comes knocking on your door, you’ll have the ability to stand against him and overcome!
- VI. Right after David testified to Saul about killing the lion and the bear, he boldly declared, “This uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them!”

And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

1 SAMUEL 17:37B

- A. This was nearly as big of a miracle as David killing Goliath!
 - B. The terms of this contest had already been set forth.
 - i. If Goliath won, all the Israelites would become the Philistines' servants.
 - ii. But if an Israelite won, all the Philistines would serve the Israelites.
 - C. So, when Saul said, "Go," he was basically putting his entire kingdom—the whole nation of Israel—into the hands of this youth whom he had just moments before told, "You don't stand a chance!"
 - D. Apparently, David's response to Saul's previous comments persuaded him otherwise.
 - E. There was so much authority and anointing in David's words that it literally caused the king to place his entire kingdom into his hands.
 - F. I think Saul recognized the anointing of God on David's life.
 - G. Saul had experienced this in his early years (1 Sam. 10:9 and 11:1-15).
 - H. I believe he was putting his faith not just in David but also in the power of God that was on David's life.
- VII. As you mature, people will respond to you.
- A. As you recognize your covenant and believe God, as you stand up and speak forth your faith, as you are faithful in the small things and grow, you'll come to a place where what you say will command respect.
 - B. When you have absolute faith and confidence in what you're saying, it'll inspire faith and confidence in those who hear you.
 - C. When you know what you're talking about—by both revelation and experience, not just theory—people will respond to you in ways they don't respond to others.
 - D. People can perceive it when you're ministering God's Word from your heart—it rings true and gives you credibility in their sight.
 - E. If God has called you to be a leader, you need to apply these truths and become totally convinced of what He's given you to share.
 - F. When you believe what you speak with all of your heart, then the people who listen to you will be able to believe it with all of their heart too.

Discipleship Questions

9. How do you become a giant killer?

10. Many people want the great victory, but few are willing to do what?

11. *Discussion question:* What are some of the small things that you can trust God in?

12. True or false: One of the common traits among people whom God is using in a mighty way is that they are faithful in only the big things.

13. You can't prepare for the future any better than by what?

- A. Consulting a financial planner
- B. Starting to be faithful today
- C. Going to church at every opportunity
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

14. *Discussion question:* Why would doing things with integrity and excellence make a difference?

15. Why was Saul telling David "Go, and the LORD be with thee" nearly as big of a miracle as David killing Goliath?

16. What changed Saul's mind?

17. *Discussion question:* Discuss why people will respond to you as you mature.

18. If God has called you to be a leader, what do you need to do?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 17:37

David said moreover, The LORD that delivered me out of the paw of the lion, and out of the paw of the bear, he will deliver me out of the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said unto David, Go, and the LORD be with thee.

1 SAMUEL 10:9

And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day.

1 SAMUEL 11:1-15

Then Nahash the Ammonite came up, and encamped against Jabeshgilead: and all the men of Jabesh said unto Nahash, Make a covenant with us, and we will serve thee. [2] And Nahash the Ammonite answered them, On this condition will I make a covenant with you, that I may thrust out all your right eyes, and lay it for a reproach upon all Israel. [3] And the elders of Jabesh said unto him, Give us seven days' respite, that we may send messengers unto all the coasts of Israel: and then, if there be no man to save us, we will come out to thee. [4] Then came the messengers to Gibeah of Saul, and told the tidings in the ears of the people: and all the people lifted up their voices, and wept. [5] And, behold, Saul came after the herd out of the field; and Saul said, What aileth the people that they weep? And they told him the tidings of the men of Jabesh. [6] And the Spirit of God came upon Saul when he heard those tidings, and his anger was kindled greatly. [7] And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the LORD fell on the people, and they came out with one consent. [8] And when he numbered them in Bezek, the children of Israel were three hundred thousand, and the men of Judah thirty thousand. [9] And they said unto the messengers that came, Thus shall ye say unto the men of Jabeshgilead, To morrow, by that time the sun be hot, ye shall have help. And the messengers came and shewed it to the men of Jabesh; and they were glad. [10] Therefore the men of Jabesh said, To morrow we will come out unto you, and ye shall do with us all that seemeth good unto you. [11] And it was so on the morrow, that Saul put the people in three companies; and they came into the midst of the host in the morning watch, and slew the Ammonites until the heat of the day: and it came to pass, that they which remained were scattered, so that two of them were not left together. [12] And the people said unto Samuel, Who is he that said, Shall Saul reign over us? bring the men, that we may put them to death. [13] And Saul said, There shall not a man be put to death this day: for to day the LORD hath wrought salvation in Israel. [14] Then said Samuel to the people, Come, and let us go to Gilgal, and renew the kingdom there. [15] And all the people went to Gilgal; and there they made Saul king

before the LORD in Gilgal; and there they sacrificed sacrifices of peace offerings before the LORD; and there Saul and all the men of Israel rejoiced greatly.

Outline

I. First Samuel 17:38-39 says,

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. [39] And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him.

- A. Saul's armor wasn't doing him any good.
- B. He had all of this armor and weaponry, yet he was still hiding—he hadn't gone out and fought Goliath.
- C. If his armor wasn't going to grant him victory, what made him think it would give David victory?
- D. This armor was burdensome to David.
- E. The issue was that David had never proved it.
- F. He wasn't familiar with it, and it wasn't what he had used before.
- G. He wasn't trusting in some physical thing to overcome Goliath—it was his faith in God that was going to put him over.

II. People will try to talk you out of serving God.

- A. But if you persist, they'll finally say "Well, okay. Do it. But at least do this"—and they'll try to give you their theories about how it should be done that are not working for them.
- B. There's no victory in their lives, yet they're quick to tell you what to do.
- C. God may have spoken something to you, and you're trying to obey Him.
- D. You are taking a step of faith, but the truth is that you aren't going with what's in your heart—you aren't doing what God told you to do.
- E. You're trying to live off somebody else's revelation.
- F. They may mean well, but you can't go by what God has told them to do.
- G. You need to get in the presence of God and develop your own relationship with Him.

III. You need to become secure in the Lord and hear from Him.

- A. Then, when He does tell you something, don't let other people talk you out of it.
- B. You need to follow God and do what He says!
- C. That's where your strength lies.
- D. David's strength wasn't in armor or a sword—it was in trusting God.
- E. When Goliath saw David walk out toward him with just a slingshot, he laughed at him.
- F. Goliath didn't recognize the power of God.

And he [David] took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. [41] And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. [42] And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. [43] And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44] And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. [45] Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. [46] This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. [47] And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

1 SAMUEL 17:40-47, BRACKETS MINE

- G. Goliath began to rail on and ridicule David; then he cursed David by his gods.
 - H. However, David was an anointed king—he had the power and anointing of Almighty God on the inside of him.
- IV. You can't always see that power and anointing just by looking at someone.
- A. But the truth is that if you're born again, you have a covenant with God and you're the winner.
 - B. You're the one who is an anointed priest and king (Rev. 1:6 and 5:10).
 - C. David was a king—he knew he was anointed.
 - D. David had thought this thing through.
 - i. He didn't just see himself going out there and killing Goliath with a sling.
 - ii. He saw himself using a sword to cut his head off.
 - E. Then he ran at Goliath.

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. [50] So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

1 SAMUEL 17:49-50

Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* What lessons do you glean from 1 Samuel 17:38-39?

2. Was Saul's armor doing him any good? Why or why not?

3. What was David's issue with Saul's armor?

- A. It wasn't polished enough
- B. He wanted his own armor
- C. He had never proved it
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

4. *Discussion question:* Why do you think people will try to talk you out of serving God?

5. There's no _____ in their lives, yet they're quick to tell _____ what to do.

6. *Discussion question:* What is it so important to develop your own relationship with God?

7. Once you become secure in the Lord and hear from Him, what should you not do?

8. True or false: David's strength wasn't in armor or a sword—it was in trusting God.

9. *Discussion question:* Why do you think David let Goliath berate and curse him? Do you think many people today would react the way David did? Why or why not?

10. What do Revelation 1:6 and 5:10 tell you?

11. *Discussion question:* What difference can the answer to #10 make in your life?

12. What did David do when it was time to battle with Goliath?

- A. He ran at Goliath
- B. He ran from Goliath
- C. He waited for Israel's army to back him up
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 17:38-47

And Saul armed David with his armour, and he put an helmet of brass upon his head; also he armed him with a coat of mail. [39] And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him. [40] And he took his staff in his hand, and chose him five smooth stones out of the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag which he had, even in a scrip; and his sling was in his hand: and he drew near to the Philistine. [41] And the Philistine came on and drew near unto David; and the man that bare the shield went before him. [42] And when the Philistine looked about, and saw David, he disdained him: for he was but a youth, and ruddy, and of a fair countenance. [43] And the Philistine said unto David, Am I a dog, that thou comest to me with staves? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. [44] And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give thy flesh unto the fowls of the air, and to the beasts of the field. [45] Then said David to the Philistine, Thou comest to me with a sword, and with a spear, and with a shield: but I come to thee in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom thou hast defied. [46] This day will the LORD deliver thee into mine hand; and I will smite thee, and take thine head from thee; and I will give the carcasses of the host of the Philistines this day unto the fowls of the air, and to the wild beasts of the earth; that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. [47] And all this assembly shall know that the LORD saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hands.

REVELATION 1:6

And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

REVELATION 5:10

And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

1 SAMUEL 17:49-50

And David put his hand in his bag, and took thence a stone, and slang it, and smote the Philistine in his forehead, that the stone sunk into his forehead; and he fell upon his face to the earth. [50] So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

Outline

- V. Little is much when God is in it.
 - A. The little boy only had five loaves and two fish, yet when he gave it to Jesus, it multiplied, it fed the multitude, and they had more left over after they were all full than when they began (John 6:5-13).
 - B. Give God the little bit you have, and He'll take it and multiply it to abundantly meet the need.
 - C. I believe that's what happened with David: He may have been good, or even average, with his sling, but it wasn't his marksmanship—it was his trust in God.
 - D. David went out there and slung that stone in faith; the Lord took it and made it hit the mark.

- VI. Notice that the Word says David...

...slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David.

1 SAMUEL 17:50B

- A. David didn't stop once Goliath was down.

Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

1 SAMUEL 17:51

- B. He got on top of him, took Goliath's own sword out, cut off his head, and then held it up for all to see.
- C. Once the Philistines saw that Goliath was dead, they fled.
- D. David didn't just fight his enemy and knock him down—he completely conquered and totally vanquished him!
- E. David made sure there was no way Goliath would ever get up and fight again.
- F. Many times, we resist the devil and fight just enough to get some relief.
- G. We knock him down, but we don't knock him out.
- H. So, he rises up and fights us again another day.
- I. David fought his enemy until they were destroyed.

- VII. Don't just resist the devil until you get some relief.
- A. Fight him until his work is totally destroyed!
 - B. You need to pursue the blessings of God and defeat your Enemy until he cannot rise again!
 - C. You need to get the attitude that you are taking no prisoners and giving no quarter.
 - D. You are going to fight the devil and destroy him.
- VIII. Once you cut the head off that problem you're fighting and hold it up for all to see, all the other demons will begin to flee.
- A. When the Philistines saw David hold up the head of their champion, they fled, but they didn't flee until they were certain he wasn't going to get back up again.
 - B. Once the Enemy sees that you have this attitude that you are going to totally vanquish him from your life, that's when he and all the other demons will flee.
 - C. The only reason the devil fights you so hard is because he's a coward.
 - D. He knows that if he doesn't fight you now, he'll have to fight you later.
 - E. So, he'll fight you if he thinks he can get you to back down and cower before him.
 - F. But once he sees that you're going to take it to him, he just tucks his tail and runs!

Discipleship Questions

13. *Discussion question:* Are there any areas of your life where the principles of John 6:5-13 can be applied? In what ways?

14. What will happen when you give God the little bit you have?

15. When did the Philistines flee?

16. *Discussion question:* What enemies in your life have you fought just enough to get some relief? How do you think your battle strategy needs to change so that you can knock those enemies out, not just down?

17. David fought his enemy until they were _____.

18. True or false: You need to pursue the blessings of God and resist the devil until you get some relief.

19. What happens once the Enemy sees that you have this attitude that you are going to totally vanquish him from your life?

- A. He will laugh at you and settle in for a long stay
- B. He and all the other demons will flee
- C. His demons will panic but not go anywhere
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

20. *Discussion question:* Have you experienced the devil fighting you “now” so he doesn’t have to fight you “later”? How have you dealt with that in the past, and how do you plan to deal with it in the future?

Scriptures

JOHN 6:5-13

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, Whence shall we buy bread, that these may eat? [6] And this he said to prove him: for he himself knew what he would do. [7] Philip answered him, Two hundred pennyworth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may take a little. [8] One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him, [9] There is a lad here, which hath five barley loaves, and two small fishes: but what are they among so many? [10] And Jesus said, Make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. [11] And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and likewise of the fishes as much as they would. [12] When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, Gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. [13] Therefore they gathered them together, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves, which remained over and above unto them that had eaten.

1 SAMUEL 17:50-51

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and smote the Philistine, and slew him; but there was no sword in the hand of David. [51] Therefore David ran, and stood upon the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath thereof, and slew him, and cut off his head therewith. And when the Philistines saw their champion was dead, they fled.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:8

And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work.

Outline

- I. Right before David became king, he was driven from the land of Israel because Saul had been hotly pursuing him.
 - A. So, he moved into the land of the Philistines and was living among them (1 Sam. 27:1-3).
 - B. He gained favor with Achish, the Philistine king of Gath, and Achish gave David the city of Ziklag to dwell in (1 Sam. 27:5-6).
 - C. However, when the Philistines were marshaling their forces to go to battle, the princes didn't trust him to go with them, so David and his men were sent home.
 - D. But as they were returning, they saw that the city had been invaded by the Amalekites, who must've known that the city was unprotected.

So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. [4] Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

1 SAMUEL 30:3-4

- E. The Scripture also says that the Amalekites had plundered the city and taken spoils (1 Sam. 30:19).
- F. David was experiencing a devastating loss.
- G. Get a picture of this: David was about seventeen years old when Samuel anointed him to be king, and this instance in 1 Samuel 30:1-4 is just a day or two shy of when he actually began his reign, at the age of thirty (2 Sam. 5:4).
- H. All the while, he'd operated in integrity and faithfulness, but it was going on thirteen years of him having troubles day in and day out.
- I. And on top of all that, all of his wives and children had been taken, and the city had been burned to the ground.
- J. But he wasn't the only one who had been through distress and suffered loss; all of his men had been with him:

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters.

1 SAMUEL 30:6A

- K. David could have just quit right here.
- L. Most people wouldn't have survived this, let alone what he had been through the previous thirteen years.

- II. If David would have quit and given up, which is what he was tempted to do, he wouldn't have become king.
- A. He could have given up and his men would have dispersed, or he could have said "What's the use? What's the point in living now?" and let his men kill him.
 - B. It would have been foolish for David to give up (see Job 2:9-10), even in the face of this tragic situation he was in.
 - C. But David was no fool!
 - D. He stuck with God no matter what.

But David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

1 SAMUEL 30:6B

- E. Very few people encourage themselves in the Lord.
- F. They're always calling somebody else; they're always depending upon somebody else to encourage them.
- G. But we have to get to where we encourage ourselves in the Lord.

And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.

1 SAMUEL 30:7

- H. The ephod was a breastplate that the priests wore, and somehow or another, God could communicate through the stones that were on it—this would be comparable in our day to the Word of God.
 - I. God speaks to us through the Word, and David encouraged himself by going back to the Word.
- III. Also, another benefit that I think a lot of Christians do not take advantage of is speaking in tongues.
- A. The Scripture says this in 1 Corinthians 14:

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4A

- B. The word "edify" means to build up.
- C. It says something similar in Jude about speaking in tongues:

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

JUDE 20

- D. When you speak in tongues, you are building yourself up on your most holy faith.

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 CORINTHIANS 14:23

- E. Your carnal mind will say you're foolish for speaking in tongues.
- F. But the reason it's so powerful is because if you do it over a prolonged period of time, it forces you to get into your most holy faith.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

- G. When you speak in tongues, it takes faith to believe that there's actually a benefit.
- H. I say all this to say that for the New Testament believer, when you need encouragement, like David did, you can pray in tongues and build yourself up.
- I. If you've been filled with the Spirit, this is a resource you need to use.
- J. God has given it to you, and you can speak in tongues anytime you want and receive this benefit.
- K. If you've been praying "God, what do I do?" here's help coming your way: You need to be like David, to where you can encourage yourself in the Lord.
- L. In the New Testament, speaking in tongues is one of the most important things you can possibly do.

- IV. There's not a single a Christian who is facing something more than they can bear.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

- A. Satan doesn't have different things to throw at you—it's the same contents with a different wrapper and a different bow on it.
- B. You're not having to endure something you just can't handle.
- C. When it seems like you can't stand another minute and you've hit your limits, God is going to make some way of escape so you can survive and come through the thing.
- D. I'm telling you, if you feel like you should quit, you could be just moments away from seeing the breakthrough you've been looking for.
- E. God is going to come through, but you have to encourage yourself in the Lord.
- F. For David, after he encouraged himself, he asked God what he should do about his situation:

And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

1 SAMUEL 30:8

- G. The rest of this story goes that David took leadership of his men, they submitted unto him, and he pursued the Amalekites, caught them off guard, and completely destroyed them.
- H. David and his men got back every woman, every child, and all of their livestock; they didn't lose a single life—plus, they got all the spoil of the Amalekites!
- I. Then, in just hours after this, he got news that Saul had been killed in battle, and David was crowned king.
- J. So, after thirteen years, and when things were at their worst, David encouraged himself in the Lord, and that's when he saw the breakthrough!
- K. You might be contemplating quitting, but it's like what Peter said—where else can you go?

Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

JOHN 6:68

- L. You don't have anywhere else to go; you just need to stand and believe God.
- M. If you will stand your ground and encourage yourself in the Lord, you'll become a victor like David was—you'll outlast what the devil is trying to do in your life.
- N. This is one of the great lessons you can learn from the life of David.

Discipleship Questions

1. What was the name of the city Achish gave David?
 - A. Gath
 - B. Jerusalem
 - C. Mizpah
 - D. Ziklag
 - E. Denver
2. *Discussion question:* Can you sympathize with David's reaction to the devastating loss he experienced? Why or why not?

3. *Discussion question:* What life lessons can you take from this period in David's life—the thirteen years when he operated in integrity and faithfulness yet still faced troubles day in and day out?

4. True or false: It would have been wise for David to give up, given the tragic situation he was in.

5. True or false: David stuck with God no matter what.

6. *Discussion question:* Why do you think very few people encourage themselves in the Lord?

7. God speaks to us through the _____, and David _____ himself by going back to the Word.

8. What does 1 Corinthians 14:4a say?

9. What does the word “edify” mean?

- A. To comfort
- B. To build up
- C. To eddy
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

10. *Discussion question:* Meditate on Jude 20 and share your thoughts and revelations.

11. *Discussion question:* Discuss why speaking in tongues is so important to encouraging yourself in the Lord.

12. First Corinthians 10:13 says, “*There hath no temptation taken you but such as is _____ to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are _____; but will with the temptation also make a way to _____ that ye may be able to bear it.*”

13. *Discussion question:* Have you ever experienced a situation like David’s, where it seemed like you’d hit your limits but God made some way of escape for you? What did you learn from that?

14. God is going to come through, but you have to what?

15. If you stand your ground and encourage yourself in the Lord, will you become a victor like David was and outlast what the devil is trying to do in your life?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 27:1-3

And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. [2] And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish, the son of Maoch, king of Gath. [3] And David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, even David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's wife.

1 SAMUEL 27:5-6

And David said unto Achish, If I have now found grace in thine eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there: for why should thy servant dwell in the royal city with thee? [6] Then Achish gave him Ziklag that day: wherefore Ziklag pertaineth unto the kings of Judah unto this day.

1 SAMUEL 30:1-4

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; [2] And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. [3] So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. [4] Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

1 SAMUEL 30:19

And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.

1 SAMUEL 30:6-8

And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. [7] And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. [8] And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

JOB 2:9-10

Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die. [10] But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:4

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

JUDE 20

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:23

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:13

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

JOHN 6:68

Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Outline

- I. I'd like to contrast Saul, who was the first king of the nation of Israel; David, who has been the focus of our study; and Absalom, David's son who tried to take the kingdom from him by force.
 - A. David is one of the central figures of the Bible.
 - B. Only Moses had more chapters written by him and about him.
 - C. This means that by sheer volume, David occupies the attention of a tremendous amount of Scripture.
 - D. He's the only person the Word calls "*a man after [God's] own heart*" (1 Sam. 13:14, brackets mine).

- II. As New Testament believers, every one of us who have been born again now have God's heart placed within us.
 - A. This is a fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecies:

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.

EZEKIEL 11:19

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27a] And I will put my spirit within you.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27A

- B. However, not every believer operates in this.
 - C. Even David himself, the man after God's own heart, didn't always operate in accordance with the Lord—he had flesh flashes that were devastating!
 - D. We're going to look at these three kings and give priority to showing that David walked in the superior way.
 - E. This doesn't mean that everything he did was right; God's Word records his sin too.
 - F. But we need to look at these three kings in order to see what made David a man after God's own heart.
- III. In contrast to both Saul and Absalom, David's *heart* was what made him a man after God's own heart.
 - A. When talking about what grants us God's favor—things that the Lord looks at and is pleased with—most people today will put the emphasis on actions.

- B. Now, the Word does reveal that there is a relationship between our actions and what's in our hearts.

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

JAMES 2:20

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

JAMES 2:26

- C. Actions aren't always a 100 percent reflection of what's truly in a person's heart.
- D. For instance, David—a man after God's own heart—committed adultery and then murder in order to cover up his adultery.
- i. Now certainly, those weren't expressions of God's heart.
 - ii. When David did this, he was unplugged from the Lord; he wasn't walking with Him.
 - iii. Even though he sinned and did these things, David remained a man after God's own heart—we'll see why as we continue our study.
- E. As you and I become people after God's own heart, it'll be reflected in our actions.
- F. If someone claims to be something, but there are no actions to back it up, then it's appropriate to call them hypocritical.
- G. However, we can have good hearts and still do some stupid things.
- H. In our church world today, I think we're too judgmental based on people's actions.
- I. We do need to take those actions into account; we can't just separate a person from their actions, because actions are an indication of what's inside.
- J. But there's more to it than that—it's a heart issue.
- IV. There's no record in Scripture of Saul ever being reprov'd over sexual immorality of any kind.
- A. It's possible that there could have been some, but if there was any, it wasn't an issue.
 - B. Before Absalom rebelled against David, there is no record in Scripture of him committing any sexual immorality.
 - C. As a matter of fact, by the way Absalom responded to the sexual abuse of his sister Tamar—including his eventual murder of their half brother Amnon—we can deduce that he certainly had a high moral standard, at least in respect to his sister.
 - D. So, out of these three kings—Saul, David, and Absalom—David is the only one who committed adultery that's recorded in Scripture prior to Absalom's rebellion against David, when he committed adultery with David's wives.
 - E. And David did it in such a way that he took another man's wife and then had him killed.
 - F. So, in a sense, Saul and Absalom were more moral in many ways than David was.
 - G. Again, that's a relative statement because Saul killed all but one of the sons of a priest—eighty-five men (1 Sam. 22:11-21).

- H. Absalom murdered his half brother Amnon for raping his sister Tamar.
 - I. As far as actions are concerned, David wasn't any better than Saul or Absalom.
 - J. Therefore, we can conclude that it's not just our actions that reveal whether or not we have a heart after God—it must go deeper than that.
- V. Integrity begins with an attitude.
- A. It doesn't end with it, and that's not all there is to it, but it has to go that deep.
 - B. We tend to judge people only by their actions today without looking beyond them to their hearts.
 - C. Actions are important, but people are more than just physical bodies that act.
 - D. There are emotional and spiritual parts on the inside of us that drive us to do things.
 - E. We have to take that into account as well.
- VI. As a leader, I look at and deal with actions because the other employees are watching what's going on, but I try to take into account the person's heart.
- A. If their heart was wrong and I knew it, then I wouldn't be able to show them as much latitude.
 - B. If I *made* them submit in these areas, then the problem would just show up again somewhere else because their heart was wrong.

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he.

PROVERBS 23:7A

- C. Therefore, if it's a heart problem, I would just terminate them right then.
 - D. But for someone with a good heart who is doing things wrong, I deal with them differently.
- VII. You are more than just what you do.
- A. If you want to be a person after God's own heart, you're going to have to get beyond just behavior modification and trying to fulfill a set of rules and regulations.
 - B. You need to develop the characteristics in your heart that are like Him.
 - C. This won't guarantee that you'll never do anything wrong.
 - D. However, having this kind of heart will minimize the things you do wrong.
 - E. And when God reprovess you of it, this will cause you to be quick to repent.
 - F. You'll be able to regain your position and your effectiveness and go on, whereas other people will be destroyed by it.

Discipleship Questions

1. _____ is one of the central figures of the Bible—only _____ had more chapters written by him and about him.

2. As a born-again, New Testament believer, what do you have?

3. This is a fulfillment of whose prophecies?

- A. Ezekiel's
- B. Isaiah's
- C. Jeremiah's
- D. Jesus'
- E. Nostradamus'

4. *Discussion question:* Give some reasons that not every believer operates in what God has given them.

5. *Discussion question:* Why do you think most people today put the emphasis on actions?

6. What are two scriptures that reveal there is a relationship between your actions and what is in your heart?

7. _____ aren't always a 100 percent reflection of what's _____ in a person's _____.

8. *Discussion question:* Explain why it's possible to have a good heart but still do some stupid things.

9. Why can it be concluded that it's not just your actions that reveal whether or not you have a heart after God?

10. Integrity begins with what?

11. *Discussion question:* Why is it so important to remember that people are more than just physical bodies that act?

12. Read Proverbs 23:7. "For as he _____ in his heart, so is he."

13. *Discussion question:* What difference does it make if a person has a good heart or a wrong heart?

14. If you want to be a person after God's own heart, you're going to have to do what?

- A. Get all the self-help books you can and attend every seminar and conference you can find
- B. Get beyond just behavior modification and trying to fulfill a set of rules and regulations
- C. Go to church every time the doors are open and volunteer in every area you can
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

15. Will having characteristics in your heart that are like Him guarantee that you'll never do anything wrong?

16. *Discussion question:* What sort of impact do you think having God's own heart will make on your life?

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 13:14

But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

EZEKIEL 11:19

And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh.

EZEKIEL 36:26-27

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. [27] And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

JAMES 2:20

But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

JAMES 2:26

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

1 SAMUEL 22:11-21

Then the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests that were in Nob: and they came all of them to the king. [12] And Saul said, Hear now, thou son of Ahitub. And he answered, Here I am, my lord. [13] And Saul said unto him, Why have ye conspired against me, thou and the son of Jesse, in that thou hast given him bread, and a sword, and hast enquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as at this day? [14] Then Ahimelech answered the king, and said, And who is so faithful among all thy servants as David, which is the king's son in law, and goeth at thy bidding, and is honourable in thine house? [15] Did I then begin to enquire of God for him? be it far from me: let not the king impute any thing unto his servant, nor to all the house of my father: for thy servant knew nothing of all this, less or more. [16] And the king said, Thou shalt surely die, Ahimelech, thou, and all thy father's house. [17] And the king said unto the footmen that stood about him, Turn, and slay the priests of the LORD; because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled, and did not shew it to me. But the servants of the king would not put forth their hand to fall upon the priests of the LORD. [18] And the king said to Doeg, Turn thou, and fall upon the priests. And Doeg the Edomite turned, and he fell upon the priests, and slew on

Outline

- I. David had qualities that set him apart from Saul and Absalom.
 - A. God sent Saul on a mission to destroy all the Amalekites, but he didn't do it.
 - B. He claimed he had performed everything the Lord had told him to do, and he blamed the people.
 - C. The people couldn't have done this if Saul had not tolerated it; Saul had to give his approval.
 - D. Saul whitewashed it, calling it a sacrifice: "Instead of letting the deaths of these animals be in vain, we wanted to offer them to the Lord."
 - E. When David offered a sacrifice to the Lord (2 Sam. 24:18-25), Araunah basically said, "Take my oxen. Take my yokes and use them for the fire."
 - i. David answered,

Nay; but I will surely buy it of a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God of that which doth cost me nothing.

2 SAMUEL 24:24

ii. What a great attitude!

- F. If you aren't giving of yourself—of your own substance—if it's not costing you anything, then it really isn't a sacrifice.
- II. David also disobeyed the Lord.
 - A. He committed adultery, murdered, and then tried to cover up his sins.
 - B. What he did was terribly wrong, but once he was reprovved, he repented in sackcloth and ashes.
 - C. He didn't point the finger at Bathsheba and say, "She enticed me; she shouldn't have been washing herself on the roof!"
 - D. Neither did he say, "Joab helped me kill her husband."
 - E. David wrote in Psalm 51:4,

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.

- III. Absalom also refused to own up to his sin.
 - A. He would not acknowledge that his problems happened because he murdered his brother Amnon.
 - B. Absalom contended that it was his father David's fault, saying, "Why didn't my father punish Amnon? Then I wouldn't have had to bring vengeance for what he did to my sister."

- C. David refused to whitewash what had happened, so Absalon committed treason by trying to kill him and committing adultery with his concubines.
 - D. Yet he blamed his father for it because David didn't accept him back.
- IV. One of the most important issues facing our society is the fact that people will not accept responsibility for their actions.
- A. It has become standard fare that nobody will say, "It's my fault":
 - i. Somebody takes the lid off their boiling hot coffee, and when it splashes out, they sue McDonald's.
 - ii. If someone shoots someone, people say it's not the fault of the person who pulled the trigger; it's now the responsibility of the company that manufactured the gun.
 - iii. People are making cigarette companies responsible for those who smoke cigarettes and fast food chains responsible for obesity.
 - B. I know there are people who take exception to this and get very upset with me because I say that it's not genetics or chemical imbalances that cause depression, alcoholism, gambling, or drug addiction.
 - C. I don't care how many degrees someone has after their name; if what they say goes contrary to the Word, they're wrong!

Let God be true and every man a liar.

ROMANS 3:4

- V. The Word teaches that the Lord will hold us accountable for our emotions and that He actually punished people for not rejoicing.

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; [48] Therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee.

DEUTERONOMY 28:47-48

- A. As born-again believers, the Lord doesn't send "enemies" against us; however, we can open up a door to the devil by complaining.
- B. We are commanded to...

Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, rejoice.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

- C. Psalm 34:1 emphasizes this word "always":

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

PSALM 34:1, EMPHASIS MINE

- VI. On the night before His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples that they would have trouble but not to be troubled by it.

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

JOHN 16:33, EMPHASIS MINE

- A. God would not command you to do something that you are genetically incapable of doing.
- B. The mindset of not accepting responsibility has even infected Christians.
- C. People can justify anything, and that's absolutely wrong!
- D. If you want to be a person after God's own heart, you're going to have to unplug from the way the world thinks.
- E. David's humility is one of the heart attitudes that stands out in stark contrast to Saul's and Absalom's heart attitudes.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

God's Word is a greater authority in my life than what anybody else has to say. In fact, the Word teaches us that the Lord will hold us accountable for our emotions. My book entitled *Harnessing Your Emotions* goes into much more detail on this topic. God made us accountable for our emotions and actually punished people for not rejoicing.

If you or someone you know is facing a crisis situation, I recommend my teaching entitled the *Christian Survival Kit*. This is an indepth study of John 14, 15, and 16—Jesus' last words to His disciples before His arrest and crucifixion. These messages have helped many people overcome.

Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* What was it about Saul that made it possible for him to rationalize disobedience?

2. What did God send Saul to do?

- A. Talk to the Amalekites about their merciless behavior
- B. Kill the Amalekite men
- C. Deliver a pizza
- D. Get spoils
- E. Obey His command exactly by wiping out every trace of the Amalekites

3. Read 2 Samuel 24:18-25. What was David's attitude about sacrificing to the Lord?

- A. He bartered to get the best deal on the best animal
- B. He thought, *Well, my heart's right, so God will understand if I don't pay for this sacrifice*
- C. He would not offer the Lord something that cost him nothing
- D. He looked to the people to help him obey God and supply the offering
- E. He didn't want to put forth the effort

4. When you stumble and sin, do you immediately think, *Against you, and you only have I sinned?* Why or Why not?

5. David knew _____.

- A. He was too busy to be watching Bathsheba take a bath
- B. He could wiggle his way out of any trouble that might come from his adultery
- C. Bathsheba should have been bathing inside of a tent
- D. He was terribly wrong
- E. It didn't matter what he'd done

6. Read Psalm 51:4. David sinned against whom?

- A. God
- B. Bathsheba
- C. Bathsheba's husband
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

7. *Discussion question:* Consider the ways you may have blamed others for your transgressions. How do you realize the truth?

8. Why did Absalom refuse to own up to his sin?

- A. It was easier that way
- B. It was his responsibility to take care of Amnon's wrong
- C. He had an undeniable passion for justice
- D. He blamed his father
- E. He had been spoiled as a child

9. David refused to _____ what happened with Absalom.

10. *Discussion question:* Why is it important to take responsibility for your actions?

11. It has become standard fare that nobody will say _____.

12. If what someone says is contrary to the Word of God, they are _____!

13. *Discussion question:* Why do you think it is right for the Lord to hold you accountable for your emotions?

14. Does the Lord send enemies against you?

15. You are _____ to rejoice.

16. *Discussion question:* Do you believe that God would not command you to do anything that you were genetically incapable of doing? Why or why not?

17. If you want to be a person after God's own heart, you are going to have to _____ from the way the world thinks.

18. David's humility is one of the heart attitudes that stands out in stark contrast to what?

- A. The Hollywood Elite and most of society
- B. Presbyterians and Baptists
- C. The president
- D. Saul's and Absalom's heart attitudes
- E. Everyone else's

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 15:13-23

And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD. [14] And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear? [15] And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed. [16] Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. [17] And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel? [18] And the LORD sent thee on a journey, and said, Go and utterly destroy the sinners the Amalekites, and fight against them until they be consumed. [19] Wherefore then didst thou not obey the voice of the LORD, but didst fly upon the spoil, and didst evil in the sight of the LORD? [20] And Saul said unto Samuel, Yea, I have obeyed the voice of the LORD, and have gone the way which the LORD sent me, and have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and have utterly destroyed the Amalekites. [21] But the people took of the spoil, sheep and oxen, the chief of the things which should have been utterly destroyed. [22] And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. [23] For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.

2 SAMUEL 24:17-25

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house. [18] And Gad came that day to David, and said unto him, Go up, rear an altar unto the LORD in the threshingfloor of Araunah the Jebusite. [19] And David, according to the saying of Gad, went up as the LORD commanded. [20] And Araunah looked, and saw the king and his servants coming on toward him: and Araunah went out, and bowed himself before the king on his face upon the ground. [21] And Araunah said, Wherefore is my lord the king come to his servant? And David said, To buy the threshingfloor of thee, to build an altar unto the LORD, that the plague may be stayed from the people. [22] And Araunah said unto David, Let my lord the king take and offer up what seemeth good unto him: behold, here be oxen for burnt sacrifice, and threshing instruments and other instruments of the oxen for wood. [23] All these things did Araunah, as a king, give unto the king. And Araunah said unto the king, The LORD thy God accept thee. [24] And the king said unto Araunah, Nay; but I will surely buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the LORD my God

of that which doth cost me nothing. So David bought the threshingfloor and the oxen for fifty shekels of silver. [25] And David built there an altar unto the LORD, and offered burnt offerings and peace offerings. So the LORD was intreated for the land, and the plague was stayed from Israel.

PSALM 51:4

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

2 SAMUEL 13:20-29

And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house. [21] But when king David heard of all these things, he was very wroth. [22] And Absalom spake unto his brother Amnon neither good nor bad: for Absalom hated Amnon, because he had forced his sister Tamar. [23] And it came to pass after two full years, that Absalom had sheepshearers in Baalhazor, which is beside Ephraim: and Absalom invited all the king's sons. [24] And Absalom came to the king, and said, Behold now, thy servant hath sheepshearers; let the king, I beseech thee, and his servants go with thy servant. [25] And the king said to Absalom, Nay, my son, let us not all now go, lest we be chargeable unto thee. And he pressed him: howbeit he would not go, but blessed him. [26] Then said Absalom, If not, I pray thee, let my brother Amnon go with us. And the king said unto him, Why should he go with thee? [27] But Absalom pressed him, that he let Amnon and all the king's sons go with him. [28] Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. [29] And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

2 SAMUEL 13:37-38

But Absalom fled, and went to Talmai, the son of Ammihud, king of Geshur. And David mourned for his son every day. [38] So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

2 SAMUEL 14:21-24

And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. [22] And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant. [23] So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. [24] And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

2 SAMUEL 14:28

So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

ROMANS 3:4

Let God be true, but every man a liar.

DEUTERONOMY 28:47-48

Because thou servedst not the LORD thy God with joyfulness, and with gladness of heart, for the abundance of all things; [48] therefore shalt thou serve thine enemies which the LORD shall send against thee.

PHILIPPIANS 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice.

PSALM 34:1

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

JOHN 16:33

In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Outline

- I. Accepting responsibility is one of the greatest signs of whether someone has truly repented or not.
 - A. Saul eventually admitted “I have sinned,” but he was still saying, “It’s their fault!”
 - B. The prodigal son truly repented:

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, [19] And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

LUKE 15:18-19

- i. The prodigal son didn’t tell his father, “You shouldn’t have given me all this money; it’s your fault too.”

- II. I’ve seen people who were humiliated, who cried, who were sorry and said they repented, but there was a thread running through everything they said.
 - A. They’d say “Yes, I’m wrong, but you just don’t understand; I was raised to be this way” or “With the way my spouse treated me, I just couldn’t help it.”
 - B. As long as there are threads of blaming someone else, then true, genuine, heartfelt repentance hasn’t occurred.
 - C. In order to be a person after God’s own heart, you’re going to have to move beyond that mindset.
- III. When David humbled himself before God and repented of his sin with Bathsheba, he said “*I have sinned against the LORD*” (2 Sam. 12:13) and “*Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight*” (Ps. 51:4).
 - A. God’s opinion of him was the only thing he cared about.
 - B. Contrast this with Saul, who feared the people:

I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

1 SAMUEL 15:24

- C. Saul’s problem was that he was a man pleaser.

- IV. God’s Word is very clear about the fear of man:

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

PROVERBS 29:25

- A. Being a man pleaser brings a snare—like a trap that is used to catch animals—and it opens the door for the enemy to come destroy you.
 - B. Seek the Lord's approval more than man's; that's how you can avoid this trap of the devil.
 - C. Are you a God pleaser or a man pleaser?
- V. To be a person after God's own heart, you need to quit covering up, hiding, and concealing sin and failure in your life.
- A. The Bible doesn't say, "Thou shalt not lie"; it says, "*Thou shalt not bear false witness*" (Ex. 20:16).
 - i. If you're filling out an application and you fail to put something there that should be, you bore false witness.
 - ii. If something needs to be said, be honest and courageous enough to expose it to the light.
 - B. Sometimes you need to tell someone else about your sin in order to help them.
 - i. You could testify of how the Lord forgave you and your life went on, how He healed your heart, how He restored your marriage, etc.
 - ii. If you won't share something just because you don't want anyone else to know about it, then you're still a man pleaser; you're still ensnared by the fear of man.

Discipleship Questions

1. What is the benefit of accepting responsibility for our transgressions? What is the cost of not accepting responsibility?

2. Saul finally admitted he was wrong, but he didn't let go of saying, "_____"

3. The prodigal son recognized that he had sinned against _____, and before his _____.

4. *Discussion question:* Why shouldn't you try to justify yourself when you've sinned?

5. To be a person after God's own heart, you are going to have to move beyond the _____ of blaming someone else.

6. David _____ himself before God.

7. Saul was a man pleaser, meaning he _____ the people.

- A. Feared
- B. Loathed
- C. Pleased
- D. Tolerated
- E. Loved

8. What does being a man pleaser do?

9. How can you avoid this trap of the devil?

10. If something needs to be said, you should be _____ and _____ enough to expose it to the light.

11. If you won't share something just because you don't want anyone else to know about it, then you are what?

- A. Timid
- B. Needing psychiatric help
- C. Confused about what is right and wrong
- D. A man pleaser
- E. A very private person who doesn't need others to affirm you

Scriptures

LUKE 15:18-19

I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, [19] And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants.

2 SAMUEL 12:13

I have sinned against the LORD.

PSALMS 51:4

Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight

1 SAMUEL 15:24-28

I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice. [25] Now therefore, I pray thee, pardon my sin, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD. [26] And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel. [27] And as Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the skirt of his mantle, and it rent. [28] And Samuel said unto him, The LORD hath rent the kingdom of Israel from thee this day, and hath given it to a neighbour of thine, that is better than thou.

1 SAMUEL 15:30

Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

PROVERBS 29:25

The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

1 PETER 5:8

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

MATTHEW 6:33

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.

PSALM 90:16-17

Let thy work appear unto thy servants, and thy glory unto their children. [17] And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.

EXODUS 20:16

Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.

LUKE 22:66-71

And as soon as it was day, the elders of the people and the chief priests and the scribes came together, and led him into their council, saying, [67] Art thou the Christ? tell us. And he said unto them, If I tell you, ye will not believe: [68] And if I also ask you, ye will not answer me, nor let me go. [69] Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God. [70] Then said they all, Art thou then the Son of God? And he said unto them, Ye say that I am. [71] And they said, What need we any further witness? for we ourselves have heard of his own mouth.

LUKE 23:1-3

And the whole multitude of them arose, and led him unto Pilate. [2] And they began to accuse him, saying, We found this fellow perverting the nation, and forbidding to give tribute to Caesar, saying that he himself is Christ a King. [3] And Pilate asked him, saying, Art thou the King of the Jews? And he answered him and said, Thou sayest it.

1 SAMUEL 28:3-19

Now Samuel was dead, and all Israel had lamented him, and buried him in Ramah, even in his own city. And Saul had put away those that had familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land. [4] And the Philistines gathered themselves together, and came and pitched in Shunem: and Saul gathered all Israel together, and they pitched in Gilboa. [5] And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled. [6] And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets. [7] Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor. [8] And Saul disguised himself, and put on other raiment, and he went, and two men with him, and they came to the woman by night: and he said, I pray thee, divine unto me by the familiar spirit, and bring me him up, whom I shall name unto thee. [9] And the woman said unto him, Behold, thou knowest what Saul hath done, how he hath cut off those that have familiar spirits, and the wizards, out of the land: wherefore then layest thou a snare for my life, to cause me to die? [10] And Saul sware to her by the LORD, saying, As the LORD liveth, there shall no punishment happen to thee for this thing. [11] Then said the woman, Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And he said, Bring me up Samuel. [12] And when the woman saw Samuel, she cried with a loud voice: and the woman spake to Saul, saying, Why hast

thou deceived me? for thou art Saul. [13] And the king said unto her, Be not afraid: for what sawest thou? And the woman said unto Saul, I saw gods ascending out of the earth. [14] And he said unto her, What form is he of? And she said, An old man cometh up; and he is covered with a mantle. And Saul perceived that it was Samuel, and he stooped with his face to the ground, and bowed himself. [15] And Samuel said to Saul, Why hast thou disquieted me, to bring me up? And Saul answered, I am sore distressed; for the Philistines make war against me, and God is departed from me, and answereth me no more, neither by prophets, nor by dreams: therefore I have called thee, that thou mayest make known unto me what I shall do. [16] Then said Samuel, Wherefore then dost thou ask of me, seeing the LORD is departed from thee, and is become thine enemy? [17] And the LORD hath done to him, as he spake by me: for the LORD hath rent the kingdom out of thine hand, and given it to thy neighbour, even to David: [18] Because thou obeyedst not the voice of the LORD, nor executedst his fierce wrath upon Amalek, therefore hath the LORD done this thing unto thee this day. [19] Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and to morrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines.

Outline

- I. David was a man after God's own heart because of the attitude of his heart.
 - A. He had a cause that was bigger than himself.
 - B. David knew he was where he was to serve God's purposes, not his own.
 - i. This important trait helped make David a man after God's own heart.
 - C. If you live a self-centered life, you will never be a person after God's own heart.
 - D. If you are all wrapped up in yourself, you make a very small package!

- II. Even when Absalom revolted against him, David's heart was to serve the Lord.
 - A. David had to flee for his life from Jerusalem, or he would have been trapped there and killed by Absalom (2 Sam. 15:13-14).
 - B. While leaving with those still loyal to him...

...the king said unto Zadok [the priest], Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and his habitation: [26] But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

2 SAMUEL 15:25-26, BRACKETS MINE

- C. What a revelation into David's heart.
 - i. When the Ark—which would have given him a great advantage—was offered to go with him, David said, “No. Take the Ark back to its place in the tabernacle. If God is pleased to return me as king over Israel, then I'll come back to it. But if the Lord is through with me, then let Him do what He wants.”
- D. Although he was king, it wasn't for his ego or how it would benefit him; it was to serve the Lord and the nation of Israel.

- III. There are so many ways you are all tempted to exalt yourself in everyday situations.
 - A. If you can overcome in the small things, then you'll be able to handle the big temptations when they come.
 - B. All of our ministry expansion, including this new building and the multiplying of Bible colleges all around the world, isn't about me.
 - C. What's important is getting the Word out about God's unconditional love, and the balance of grace and faith.

- D. These truths I'm sharing about David have become real to me and have transformed my life, and I believe that the Lord wants them to become real to you and impact your life—that's what drives me!
 - E. If I were in ministry just for my own personal benefit, I would have quit a long time ago.
 - i. We've lived through decades of hardships and trials.
 - F. But it's about serving the Lord and accomplishing His goals.
- IV. When it was literally his life on the line, his kingdom on the line, or his legacy on the line, what mattered to David was serving God.
- A. Have you been accepting responsibility for your actions, or do you still shift the blame?
 - B. If you've been guilty of these things I've been talking about, you can repent.
 - C. It's God's power that changes your heart, but it's your choice whether that power functions or not.
 - D. You must stop exalting yourself and living by your own self-will.
 - E. It starts with a decision, but you have to walk it out.
- V. The contrasts between these three kings really brings out and magnifies what made David a man after God's own heart and how you and I can become people after God's own heart today.
- A. You choose what your heart is going to be like.
 - B. Whatever your heart is like right now is the result of the choices you have made in the past.
 - C. You can start making choices today that will soften and sensitize your heart toward God.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

Again, I refer you to my booklet entitled *Self-Centeredness: The Source of All Grief*. This book goes into much more detail about this. I encourage you to get it!

Also, my book entitled *Hardness of Heart* would go right along with this. It will instruct you on how to cultivate and keep a sensitive heart toward the Lord.

Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* Identify a cause in your life that is bigger than yourself. How did this become your cause?

2. True or false: If you live a self-centered life, you're still a person after God's own heart.

3. When Absalom revolted, David had to _____.

- A. Flee for his life
- B. Stay trapped in Jerusalem
- C. Hide in a barrel
- D. Act like he was crazy
- E. Plot a counterattack

4. Why didn't David want to take the Ark with him?

- A. He wasn't serving as king in order to feed his ego
- B. He did not want to use it for his own advantage
- C. He believed the Ark should stay in the tabernacle
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. If God wasn't pleased with David, what did he want Him to do?

- A. Kill him
- B. Whatever seemed good to Him
- C. Nothing
- D. Replace him
- E. Give him something better to do

6. True or false: Only people who are wildly successful are tempted to exalt themselves.

7. Why does Andrew want the truths about David to become real to others?
 - A. Because they transformed his life
 - B. Because he believes the Lord wants them to impact your life
 - C. Because he is driven by personal benefit
 - D. A and B
 - E. A and C

8. What mattered to David?
 - A. Serving dinner to others out of his great riches
 - B. Staying alive and keeping his kingdom
 - C. Having a spotless legacy
 - D. Serving God
 - E. Being appreciated

9. In order to accept responsibility for your actions, you must do what?
 - A. Assess where all the blame lies with all the people involved
 - B. Feel guilty
 - C. Shift the blame around to protect your reputation
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

10. It's God's power that changes your heart, but _____.
 - A. He doesn't mind you living in your own self-will
 - B. It's your choice whether that power functions or not
 - C. It's okay for you to keep exalting yourself a little
 - D. As long as you confess your sin in public, you don't need to change
 - E. You have to use it sparingly

11. The contrast between these three kings magnifies how you can become _____.
 - A. Cynical
 - B. A king as well
 - C. A person everyone likes
 - D. A person after God's own heart
 - E. Rich and famous

12. You can start making choices today that will do what?

Scriptures

2 SAMUEL 15:6

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 SAMUEL 15:13-14

And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom. [14] And David said unto all his servants that were with him at Jerusalem, Arise, and let us flee; for we shall not else escape from Absalom: make speed to depart, lest he overtake us suddenly, and bring evil upon us, and smite the city with the edge of the sword.

2 SAMUEL 15:25-26

The king said unto Zadok, Carry back the ark of God into the city: if I shall find favour in the eyes of the LORD, he will bring me again, and show me both it, and his habitation: [26] But if he thus say, I have no delight in thee; behold, here am I, let him do to me as seemeth good unto him.

Outline

- I. After David was king, he intended to bring the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem (1 Sam. 7:1 and 2 Sam. 6:3), the city he had chosen as his royal city and residence.
 - A. The Ark symbolized God’s presence, and it didn’t seem good to him not to have it in Jerusalem (1 Chr. 13:2-3).
 - B. So, he had the Ark placed on a cart that was pulled by oxen, and they started for Jerusalem.
 - C. But while they were on the way, something terrible happened—

And when they came to Nachon’s threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. [7] And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

2 SAMUEL 6:6-7

- D. This judgment upon Uzzah looks harsh, and the Scripture says, “*David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah*” (2 Sam. 6:8a).
- E. We might be able to identify with David here, but God is never wrong—there was a reason for what happened.
- F. From our point of view, it sometimes looks like God’s promises aren’t true, but that’s never the case.
- G. Whether we know the reason or not, there was something the Lord told us to do that we failed to do if some of His promises didn’t come to pass.
- H. David didn’t realize it, but there was a prescribed order as to how the Ark was supposed to be approached and handled (Num. 4:15).
- I. In the Old Testament, this separation between a holy God and unholy man had to be enforced—people couldn’t just approach God.

All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 3:23

- J. There are a lot of people today who don’t understand and appreciate these things, and they think God is love (1 John 4:8) and therefore God’s just going to accept them.
- K. But God is a holy God, too, and the reason you have access to God today is because a price was paid.
- L. A price had to be paid (Rom. 6:23a), and before that price was paid, man could not just come into the presence of God.

- II. God had specific instructions about how to handle the Ark of the Covenant.
 - A. It was to be carried between two poles by the Levites so that it would be supported properly and couldn't fall (Ex. 25:12-15 and Num. 4); this also kept it out of reach so no one could bump into it and bring judgment on themselves.
 - B. But David was bringing it to Jerusalem on a cart that could easily bounce and tip over, and sure enough, that's exactly what happened: The oxen stumbled, and the Ark was about to fall over.
 - C. Then Uzzah, trying to brace it, reached out and touched it, totally violating God's prescribed order, so God struck him dead.
 - D. Sin's price had not yet been paid—no one could touch the presence of God and get away with it.
 - E. However, David got very upset at this.
 - F. His intentions were good; the Lord could have adjusted to what he wanted.
 - G. But that's not how it works.
 - H. We have to conform our actions to God and not the other way around.

- III. Likewise, we sometimes think the Lord is too bound to His word.
 - A. Our intentions are good, so we think the Lord should just go ahead and perform our every wish even though we are full of doubt or fear or bitterness or whatever.
 - B. The temptation is to blame God, but the Word says,

And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

2 SAMUEL 6:9

- C. Instead of being mad, David feared the Lord.
- D. That's a very wise thing to do when it looks like God's not coming through for us—we should humble ourselves and proclaim God's faithfulness, even when it doesn't look like that to us.
- E. After three months, David once again wanted to bring it to Jerusalem.

Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

1 CHRONICLES 15:2

- F. This indicates that David had finally gone back to God's Word and found the proper way to carry the Ark.

And [David] said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the

place that I have prepared for it. [13] For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

1 CHRONICLES 15:12-13, BRACKETS MINE

- G. Uzzah died because David didn't follow the prescribed order—he hadn't sought the Lord the first time about how to handle the Ark.
- H. If we are paying attention to this example from David's life, we can see that there *is* a proper order to seeking the Lord.
- I. There *is* a right way and a wrong way to relate to God.
- J. Acts 4:12 says,

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.

- K. In John 14:6, Jesus said,

I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

- IV. If you're going to really connect with the Lord, the Bible is the instruction manual.
 - A. It is God telling you how you are to relate to Him, and you have to do it according to the pattern He gives.
 - B. That's really simple, but there are a lot of people today who have accepted the mindset that they can relate to God any way they want.
 - C. That's what David started off thinking.
 - D. But what's quick and easy isn't always the best way.
 - E. You need to accept the Word of God and recognize that there's a reason He gives the instructions He gives.
 - F. David finally saw that and did it the way God told him, so the Scripture goes on to say,

So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obedom into the city of David with gladness. [13] And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. [14] And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. [15] So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

2 SAMUEL 6:12B-15

- G. Things just work out when you do it God's way.
- H. This is a major lesson to learn from the life of David: Do it God's way—the first time—and you'll avoid unnecessary problems.

Discipleship Questions

1. How did David first try to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?

2. According to 2 Samuel 6:6-7, what happened to Uzzah?

3. *Discussion question:* What are your thoughts regarding this judgment on Uzzah?

4. *Discussion question:* Discuss the difference between how people approached God in the Old Testament and how they can approach Him now that the price has been paid.

5. *Discussion question:* How would things have been different if they had followed God's specific instructions for carrying the Ark?

6. Why did David get upset at Uzzah's death?

7. You have to conform your _____ to God and _____ the other way around.

8. *Discussion question:* Why do people sometimes think that since their intentions are good, the Lord should just go ahead and perform their every wish?

9. Instead of being mad, what was David's reaction?

- A. He broke down crying
- B. He carried on as though nothing had happened
- C. He feared the Lord
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

10. What did David do when he again wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem?

11. True or false: There really is no proper order to seeking the Lord.

12. *Discussion question:* If you're going to really connect with the Lord, why is the Bible so important?

13. Do things just work out when you do it God's way?

14. Do it God's way—the _____ time—and you'll avoid _____.

Scriptures

1 SAMUEL 7:1

And the men of Kirjathjearim came, and fetched up the ark of the LORD, and brought it into the house of Abinadab in the hill, and sanctified Eleazar his son to keep the ark of the LORD.

2 SAMUEL 6:3

And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

1 CHRONICLES 13:2-3

And David said unto all the congregation of Israel, If it seem good unto you, and that it be of the LORD our God, let us send abroad unto our brethren every where, that are left in all the land of Israel, and with them also to the priests and Levites which are in their cities and suburbs, that they may gather themselves unto us: [3] And let us bring again the ark of our God to us: for we enquired not at it in the days of Saul.

2 SAMUEL 6:6-9

And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. [7] And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God. [8] And David was displeased, because the LORD had made a breach upon Uzzah: and he called the name of the place Perezuzzah to this day. [9] And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?

LEVITICUS 16:34

And this shall be an everlasting statute unto you, to make an atonement for the children of Israel for all their sins once a year. And he did as the LORD commanded Moses.

ROMANS 3:23

For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.

ROMANS 6:23

For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

EXODUS 25:12-15

And thou shalt cast four rings of gold for it, and put them in the four corners thereof; and two rings shall be in the one side of it, and two rings in the other side of it. [13] And thou shalt make staves of shittim wood, and overlay them with gold. [14] And thou shalt put the staves into the rings by the sides of the ark, that the ark may be borne with them. [15] The staves shall be in the rings of the ark: they shall not be taken from it.

1 CHRONICLES 15:2

Then David said, None ought to carry the ark of God but the Levites: for them hath the LORD chosen to carry the ark of God, and to minister unto him for ever.

1 CHRONICLES 15:12-13

And said unto them, Ye are the chief of the fathers of the Levites: sanctify yourselves, both ye and your brethren, that ye may bring up the ark of the LORD God of Israel unto the place that I have prepared for it. [13] For because ye did it not at the first, the LORD our God made a breach upon us, for that we sought him not after the due order.

2 SAMUEL 6:12-15

And it was told king David, saying, The LORD hath blessed the house of Obededom, and all that pertaineth unto him, because of the ark of God. So David went and brought up the ark of God from the house of Obededom into the city of David with gladness. [13] And it was so, that when they that bare the ark of the LORD had gone six paces, he sacrificed oxen and fatlings. [14] And David danced before the LORD with all his might; and David was girded with a linen ephod. [15] So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

Outline

- V. Michal was David's wife.

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

2 SAMUEL 6:16

- A. This instance in 2 Samuel 6 makes it obvious that Michal was bitter over the abuse that had happened in her life (see 1 Sam. 18:20-21, 19:11-18, 25:44; and 2 Sam. 3:14-15).
- B. And when she saw David dancing and twirling around, she directed this bitterness at him, and the Scripture says "*she despised him in her heart.*"
- C. She went out to meet him and began criticizing him, saying,

How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

2 SAMUEL 6:20B

- D. She thought David was ruining the kingship—her father had certainly never acted like David was acting.
- E. But the truth is, Saul would never have danced before the Lord like this because he was a man pleaser, not a God pleaser.
- F. David was a completely different king from Saul.
- G. Michal didn't recognize that what David was doing was for the Lord.
- H. When she said David shamelessly uncovered himself, she meant he uncovered himself in an improper way.
- I. Here is his response to her unjust criticism:

It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

[22] And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

2 SAMUEL 6:21-22

- J. In his exuberance, he might have exposed something he wasn't supposed to reveal, but she was unjustly criticizing him.

- VI. This is one of the things that made David a man after God's own heart: He loved God and wasn't ashamed to show his commitment and affection to Him publicly.
- Contrary to what Michal thought, he *had* learned to do things the prescribed way.
 - He wasn't going to stop worshiping God for anything!
 - He referred to how God had blessed him, and he was not ashamed to show his love, his commitment, and his worship to God in front of people.
 - If you want to be a man or a woman after God's own heart, then you need to learn that your love and commitment to God ought to trump any other relationship.
 - You shouldn't be a man pleaser, no matter what.

- VII. In John 5:44, Jesus said,

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

- Most don't realize that being a man pleaser stops them from believing God.
- They are intimidated by what other people think; they are afraid to stand up for what His Word says.
- They are exactly opposite of how David was here.
- You should not be ashamed to stand up for the Lord and His standards.
- Instead of you being intimidated by the people who don't love God, whose standards are totally wrong, instead of you feeling strange, they ought to feel strange.
- Look at what happened to David and Michal after this:

Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

2 SAMUEL 6:23

- In other words, that was the end of her relationship with David; she let this bitterness ruin her relationship with the man after God's own heart.
- You may have had bad things happen to you, but you have a choice as to whether you'll become bitter or better.
- If you allow this bitterness to fester, the Scripture says that a root of bitterness will spring up and defile the whole body and many people will be defiled because of it (Heb. 12:15).
- You need to run to the Lord and let Him take care of this bitterness you might have.
- You don't have to learn things from your own hard knocks—the Bible is full of examples like this one, to show you how to do things and be who He's called you to be.

Discipleship Questions

15. What was Michal bitter about?

16. What did she do with that bitterness?

17. *Discussion question:* What difference can being a man pleaser make, especially in worshiping the Lord?

18. *Discussion question:* Read David's response to Michal in 2 Samuel 6:21-22. What would your response be to criticism like Michal's? Would you respond as David did? Why or why not?

19. What was one of the things that made David a man after God's own heart?

20. You shouldn't be a _____, no matter what.

21. *Discussion question:* Why does being a man pleaser stop you from believing God?

22. What did Michal's bitterness bring about in her life (2 Sam. 6:23)?

23. Do you have a choice as to whether you become bitter or better?

24. *Discussion question:* Discuss why bitterness can be so destructive.

25. What is the solution for bitterness?

Scriptures

2 SAMUEL 6:16

And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

1 SAMUEL 18:20-21

And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him. [21] And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.

1 SAMUEL 19:11-18

Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain. [12] So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped. [13] And Michal took an image, and laid it in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster, and covered it with a cloth. [14] And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He is sick. [15] And Saul sent the messengers again to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may slay him. [16] And when the messengers were come in, behold, there was an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' hair for his bolster. [17] And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee? [18] So David fled, and escaped, and came to Samuel to Ramah, and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and dwelt in Naioth.

1 SAMUEL 25:44

But Saul had given Michal his daughter, David's wife, to Phalti the son of Laish, which was of Gallim.

2 SAMUEL 3:14-15

And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines. [15] And Ishbosheth sent, and took her from her husband, even from Phaltiel the son of Laish.

2 SAMUEL 6:20-23

Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself! [21] And David said unto Michal, It was before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD. [22] And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour. [23] Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

JOHN 5:44

How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

HEBREWS 12:15

Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

Outline

- I. You can learn many lessons from the negative aspects of David's life.
 - A. You see how God dealt with him and was able to continue using him.
 - B. You can receive instruction through David's life regarding how much his sin cost him and damaged those around him.
 - i. It will definitely inspire you not to go that route.
 - C. So, whether you've been through a major moral failure in your life or not, there are lessons God wants you to learn from David.

- II. David didn't have a major departure from God "accidentally."

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

JAMES 1:14-15

- A. Sin must be conceived.
- B. This episode with Bathsheba was an anomaly—totally contrary to how his heart was most of his life.
- C. But when he should have been out with his armies running the battles, he had delegated this role to Joab:

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 SAMUEL 11:1

- D. This is our first clue as to why David had this major moral failure: He wasn't doing what the Lord had called him to do—he had lost his vision.
- E. One of the things that had made David such a great man was that he saw himself as God's appointed minister and kept that goal out in front of him.
- F. But David had won many victories, and the kingdom was now established—he was at the top of his game.
- G. Now that the pressure was off, David quit seeking the Lord with the same intensity.
- H. He basically became bored.

- III. Temptation is worse in times of prosperity.
 - A. In hardship, you know you need the Lord.
 - i. Even someone with a low commitment to God will run to Him in hardship and ask Him for help, because it's easy to seek the Lord and be God dependent in a time of need.
 - B. But what happens when the pressure is removed?
 - C. David's major moral failure wasn't an accidental, unintentional minor failure; it was a major departure from God, and it came as a result of choices.

- IV. What likely caused this moral failure was that he had become so occupied with the affairs of being king that before he knew it, a long time had passed since he was intimately relating to God the way he had before.
 - A. This is a warning to those of us who haven't had a moral failure like David's.
 - B. David was a man after God's own heart, yet he committed adultery and even murdered the woman's husband, trying to cover it up.
 - C. David was living in a way that even Saul never did.
 - i. It just goes to show that the flesh is capable of doing anything that anybody has ever done.
 - D. We can never get to a place where we don't have to want a better relationship with the Lord, wait on Him, and look to Him for everything.
 - E. If we ever think we've arrived at such a place, it's just a matter of time before we fall.
 - F. If we learn to seek the Lord and keep our hearts sensitive to Him, we'll discover that we cannot wickedly depart from God unless we first of all departed from depending on Him.
 - G. If we maintain an attitude of dependency on Him, it'll keep us from great transgression.

- V. David himself wrote,

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins.

PSALM 19:13A

- A. The Hebrew word translated "*presumptuous*" literally speaks of sins of pride and arrogance, which are self-sufficiency.
- B. The next part of the verse says,

Let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

PSALM 19:13B

- C. In other words, you have to sin in these small areas of not seeking the Lord and being dependent on Him before a big downfall.

- D. David had become so prosperous that he thought he didn't have to depend on the Lord the way he once did.
- E. That's where his sin was conceived—the adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of Uriah just happened to be the way it manifested itself.
- F. David wasn't obeying God; he was at home sleeping during the day, goofing off, and being aimless and purposeless.
 - i. If you sleep all day and carouse at night, you're going to run into trouble!

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

My teaching entitled *How to Prepare Your Heart* explains why people do evil and that it doesn't just happen. I share how you can keep yourself from entering this process, simply by keeping yourself dependent on God. Humble dependence on the Lord makes all the difference!

Discipleship Questions

1. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God wants you to learn from David?

2. Read James 1:14-15. Sin _____ be conceived.

3. What is the first clue as to why David had this major moral failure?

4. David was at the top of his game, so he _____.

- A. Could relax and drink wine
- B. Felt he deserved a break
- C. Became bored and did not seek the Lord with his usual intensity
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

5. *Discussion question:* What are some aspects of everyday life that you have seen distract you from seeking the Lord with intensity?

6. True or false: Temptation is not as bad in times of prosperity.

7. *Discussion question:* David's failure was a major departure from God, and it came as a result of choices. What do you think you can do specifically to safeguard against such a departure?

8. David was living in a way that even Saul never did. What does this show?
- A. The flesh is capable of leading you in the right direction
 - B. You can become preoccupied with eating cake
 - C. You can never allow yourself to get to a place where you don't want a better relationship with the Lord
 - D. No one can be trusted
 - E. David really wasn't a good example
9. You cannot wickedly depart from God unless _____.
- A. You watch too much TV
 - B. You first depart from depending on Him
 - C. You become rich and lazy
 - D. You have lost everything
 - E. You accidentally stumble into it
10. Read Psalm 19:13a. The word "*presumptuous*" refers to what?
- A. Presuming in advance that God will forgive you
 - B. Assuming that you are strong enough to handle all that comes
 - C. Pride and arrogance, which are self-sufficiency
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
11. True or false: You have to sin in small areas of not seeking the Lord and being dependent on Him before a big downfall.
12. If you sleep all day and carouse at night, you're going to run into _____.
- A. Red eyes and a sore throat
 - B. Opportunity
 - C. Criminals
 - D. Trouble
 - E. A friendly face

Scriptures

JAMES 1:14-15

But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. [15] Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

2 SAMUEL 11:1-2

And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem. [2] And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon.

PSALM 19:13

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins. Let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Outline

I. David saw a beautiful woman washing herself, so he...

...sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. [5] And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

2 SAMUEL 11:3-5

- A. When David found out Bathsheba was pregnant, he knew it was going to look really bad for him.
- B. But rather than humbling himself and dealing with it, he tried to cover it up.
- C. This reveals how hard David's heart had become toward God.

II. If I could imagine doing what David, I think that by the time I found out the woman was pregnant, I'd repent and deal with it right then, but David didn't miss a beat.

- A. He called for Bathsheba's husband, Uriah, who was out fighting in the battles that David himself should have been fighting.
- B. David expected that Uriah would go home and have sexual relations with his wife, but he stayed on the steps of the king's house.
- C. David finally realized that it wasn't going to work to get Uriah and Bathsheba together, so he wrote a letter to his general, Joab, to have Uriah put in a place where he knew it was dangerous and then withdraw from Uriah so that he would be killed.
 - i. David even sent this letter by Uriah's own hand!
- D. When David heard that Uriah was dead, he sent for Bathsheba and made her his wife:

And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 SAMUEL 11:27

- E. What an understatement!

III. Nathan—David's longtime friend, advisor, and prophet—came to the king and gave him this parable:

"YOU ARE THE MAN!"

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. [2] The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: [3] But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. [4] And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.

2 SAMUEL 12:1-4

- A. This parable was symbolic of what David had done—he was like the rich man.
 - i. When he had a need, he didn't go to the Lord—and what He had already provided—to meet it.
- B. Instead of choosing one of his own wives or concubines, which were given to him by God, he took another man's wife.
- C. Then he killed that man in an effort to cover up his sin.

IV. David didn't realize the parable was about him:

And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: [6] And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

2 SAMUEL 12:5-6

- A. In light of his reaction, let's consider this scripture:

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. [13] For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

JAMES 2:12-13

- B. The Lord delights in showing mercy to people who have shown mercy, but to those who have shown no mercy, they reap what they sow!
- C. Although it's listed later in the chronology of the Bible, David spoke this before he became king, showing he understood this principle:

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright.

2 SAMUEL 22:26

- V. David's heart had become so hardened that he had quit being responsive to the things God had shown him before.
 - A. So, when he heard this parable, he responded in judgment to a much lesser transgression than he himself had just committed.
 - B. He basically determined his own judgment.
 - i. David could have said, "This man did wrong, but I'm going to show him mercy. Instead of giving him all that he deserves, I'm just going to have him make restitution. Maybe his heart was right somehow."
 - ii. However, without asking for any further information or finding out any additional details, David jumped right into judgment, declaring, "This man shall die! He's going to suffer four times the punishment for the suffering he's caused."
 - C. God gave this parable to David because if he would have been merciful, I believe the Lord would have been merciful toward him.
 - D. God responded to David the way he was responding to other people.

Discipleship Questions

1. True or false: David didn't know that Bathsheba was married when he sent for her.

2. What was the outcome of David's relations with Bathsheba?

3. When David found out that Bathsheba was pregnant, what did he do?

- A. He humbled himself and dealt with it
- B. He thought it would make her look really bad
- C. He sent for the priest to confess his sins
- D. He tried to cover it up
- E. He fled Jerusalem

4. *Discussion question:* How does David's reaction to finding out that Bathsheba was pregnant show that his heart had become hard toward God?

5. Whom did David call for once he found out that Bathsheba was pregnant?

6. What did David expect Uriah to do that would help him cover up his own sin?

- A. Sleep on the steps of the palace
- B. Go home and have sexual relations with his wife
- C. Discover his wife was pregnant
- D. Go back to battle
- E. Throw a party

7. Uriah did not help David's plan when he slept on the _____ of the king's house, instead of going home to his wife.

8. True or false: Uriah carried the letter back to the battlefield that gave orders to orchestrate his own death.

9. What did David do after Uriah was dead for a reasonable amount of time?

10. *Discussion question:* Andrew says that it is an understatement to say, “*But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD*” (2 Sam. 11:27b). Why?

11. Who was Nathan to David?

- A. Advisor
- B. Prophet
- C. Longtime friend
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

12. True or false: The Lord’s purpose in sending Nathan to King David was to tell him an entertaining story.

13. In the parable, the _____ represented the David.

14. *Discussion question:* How does the parable relate to David’s sin of murdering Uriah?

15. True or false: David didn’t realize the parable was about him.

16. David’s _____ was kindled against the man in the story (2 Sam. 12:5).

17. *Discussion question:* Why did David say the man who did this should be put to death and should have to restore the lamb fourfold?

18. David had no _____ for the rich man in the story.

- A. Wisdom
- B. Tolerance
- C. Mercy
- D. Judgment
- E. Money

19. True or false: Even after killing Uriah, David remained responsive and tenderhearted toward God.

20. Why did David respond in judgment against someone who had done something less sinful than he had done?

21. In pronouncing judgment on the rich man in the story, who was David really pronouncing judgment on?

22. *Discussion question:* Share what you have learned from God giving David this parable to reveal to him his own heart.

Scriptures

2 SAMUEL 11:3-5

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite? [4] And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned unto her house. [5] And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child.

2 SAMUEL 11:27

And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

2 SAMUEL 12:1-6

And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor. [2] The rich man had exceeding many flocks and herds: [3] But the poor man had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter. [4] And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him. [5] And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, As the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this thing shall surely die: [6] And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

2 SAMUEL 3:2-5

And unto David were sons born in Hebron: and his firstborn was Amnon, of Ahinoam the Jezreelitess; [3] And his second, Chileab, of Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite; and the third, Absalom the son of Maacah the daughter of Talmai king of Geshur; [4] And the fourth, Adonijah the son of Haggith; and the fifth, Shephatiah the son of Abital; [5] And the sixth, Ithream, by Eglah David's wife. These were born to David in Hebron.

2 SAMUEL 3:14

And David sent messengers to Ishbosheth Saul's son, saying, Deliver me my wife Michal, which I espoused to me for an hundred foreskins of the Philistines.

2 SAMUEL 16:21-22

And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong. [22] So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

JAMES 2:12-13

So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty. [13] For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

2 SAMUEL 22:1

And David spake unto the LORD the words of this song in the day that the LORD had delivered him out of the hand of all his enemies, and out of the hand of Saul.

2 SAMUEL 22:26-28

With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. [27] With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. [28] And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down.

Outline

- VI. If you want God to be merciful to you, you need to be merciful to others.
 - A. If you rail on people when they make a mistake, you can expect to be railed on when you make a mistake.
 - i. Is that really what you want?
 - B. You just love to see a person who thinks they're perfect and criticizes others receive what they deserve.
 - C. But when someone has been merciful, you want to extend them mercy—that's just how things work!

- VII. The real sin here wasn't adultery or murder, but the fact that David quit trusting in the Lord:

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; [8] And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.

2 SAMUEL 12:7-8

- A. David had stopped looking to God as his source.
 - i. At one time, he knew he had to be God-dependent; however, once he became king, he quit trusting God and started doing things because he wanted to and could.
- B. When we prosper to such a degree that we no longer have to pray and trust God to provide things for us, we need to beware!
- C. The danger is that we will quit depending on God as our source.

- VIII. Then Nathan continued, saying,

Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. [10] Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

2 SAMUEL 12:9-10

- A. The Lord didn't say, "David, look what you've done to Bathsheba—how you've defiled her. Look what you've done to Uriah—how you murdered him. Look at all of the people you've offended."
 - B. It all came down to "David, look what I've done for you. If you had trusted Me, I would have given you even more. But all of these things are going to happen now because you have despised Me!"
 - C. This was all about David's personal relationship with God!
- IX. Most people think of sin in terms of the damage they do to others.
- A. But the issue is they're sinning against God!
 - B. They are despising the Lord!
 - C. Instead of trusting God and letting Him supply them with things in an honest way—a way of integrity—they're going against Him and doing it their way.
 - D. Not trusting God—unbelief—is the heart of sin.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

My teaching entitled *The Positive Ministry of the Holy Spirit* is taken from John 16:8-11. In verse 8, Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would reprove us of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Most people interpret this as saying, "The Spirit reproves us of sins like adultery, lying, stealing, dope addiction, etc. Then, He tells us we're unrighteous because of what we did and—if we don't repent—we're going to be judged." That's not at all what Jesus was saying here. As a matter of fact, the Lord knew this verse would be misinterpreted, so He explained Himself in verses 9-11. Not believing on Jesus is the sin the Holy Spirit reproves us of (a.k.a. unbelief, verse 9). Also, He doesn't convict us of "unrighteousness," but that we are righteous in Christ (verse 10). Verse 11 doesn't say that the Holy Spirit would convict us that we would be judged, but rather that He would talk to us about the judgment of the devil. Religion has really twisted these verses up. Therefore, I strongly recommend this teaching. It'll be a blessing!

Discipleship Questions

23. True or false: Being merciful causes others to be merciful to you.

24. People who rail on others for their mistakes inspire others to do what?

- A. Be merciful
- B. Make mistakes
- C. Hold them to their mistakes
- D. Play a game of cards

25. If you have been merciful, people will want to _____ mercy to you.

26. What was David's real sin?

- A. Murder
- B. Not trusting God
- C. Adultery
- D. Lying
- E. Dancing

27. David had stopped _____ to God as his _____.

28. Who or what did David depend on before he was king?

29. True or false: God prospers you so that you no longer have to bother Him to provide for you.

30. *Discussion question:* Prosperity is not the real danger—what must you beware of as you prosper?

31. Which of the following sins did God emphasize when He corrected David?
- A. Despising God
 - B. Killing Uriah
 - C. Taking Uriah's wife
 - D. Using the sword of Ammon to kill Uriah
 - E. Eating the shewbread
32. True or false: God cared most how David's sin hurt and offended other people.
33. If David had turned to God, God would have _____ him even _____ than He already had.
34. True or false: People usually only think about their sin and its damage to others.
35. When people sin, what are they really doing?
- A. Not trusting God
 - B. Despising the Lord
 - C. Sinning against God
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above
36. When you sin, you are _____ God and doing it _____.
37. *Discussion question:* Share how you understand that not trusting God, unbelief, and sin are all connected.

Scriptures

2 SAMUEL 12:7-10

And Nathan said to David, Thou art the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul; [8] And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if that had been too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things. [9] Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon. [10] Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.

JOHN 16:8-11

And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged.

Outline

- I. The root of all sin is the fact that you aren't trusting God.
 - A. He is missing you depending on Him.
 - B. You are going about obtaining your needs in an ungodly manner, contrary to His instruction.
 - C. That's what's really wrong with sexual immorality and adultery.

- II. God has purposed for you to satisfy your sexual desires with the marriage partner He gave you:

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. [19] Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

PROVERBS 5:18-19

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled.

HEBREWS 13:4A

- A. Even from the very beginning, the Lord ordained that there should be one woman for one man for life.
 - B. That's what is wrong with homosexuality: The real root is that a person is rejecting God's design.
 - C. A man whose wife had committed adultery but didn't get a sexually transmitted disease or become pregnant would never say, "It's okay, honey. Don't worry about it."
 - i. The real issue is that she broke her covenant with her husband.
 - D. In the same way, whether you get caught in sin or experience any consequences in the natural isn't the issue; God knows that you aren't trusting in Him and looking to Him to meet your needs.

- III. God didn't say, "Look what you did to Bathsheba! Look what you did to Uriah! Look what it's going to cost you and the nation"; instead, He asked, "How could you have despised Me?"
 - A. That's what's wrong when children break their parents' trust.
 - i. They've shown that they can't be trusted.
 - ii. They've proven that they don't really respect their parents.
 - iii. They're going to do whatever they want.
 - B. That's the way it is with God.
 - C. This is what's really wrong with sin.

- IV. When you substitute anything for the Lord, that's offensive to Him!
- A. You aren't letting Him meet your needs.
 - B. The fact that you're trying to get them met some other way is what grieves Him!
 - C. When you start looking at sin the right way, it totally changes your perspective.
 - i. The consequences wouldn't matter to you.
 - ii. Whether you could get by with something or not wouldn't matter.
 - iii. You would have a personal standard on the inside of you that would hold you up in any circumstance because it's a personal deal between you and God.
- V. Look at what Joseph said to Potiphar's wife, who tried to entice him to commit adultery with her:

How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

GENESIS 39:9B

- A. If Joseph had only been looking at *Can I get by with this?* he probably would have indulged himself.
 - B. The main issue is that he would have sinned against God.
 - C. This same logic kept me pure as a young American soldier in Vietnam while most of the other people I knew just lived like animals.
 - D. It didn't matter to me whether anybody else ever knew what I did or not, because God was there.
 - E. I had a personal relationship with the Lord, and I couldn't just sin against Him that way.
- VI. God's reproof is what brought David back.
- A. The Lord didn't rebuke him based on just consequences; it was all about, "David, you've left your first love!" (Rev. 2:4).
 - B. The reasoning God used with David was, "At one time, you used to adore Me. I satisfied you and gave you all these things. But now, you've moved away from Me and you're satisfying your desires through lust, instead of love."
 - C. David got the message!
- VII. David repented of his sin with Bathsheba, as recorded in Psalm 51:

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

PSALM 51:1-4

- A. Notice how David said, “Against You, and You only, have I sinned!”
- B. In one sense, that’s not right.
 - i. He sinned against Bathsheba.
 - ii. He sinned against Uriah.
 - iii. He opened a door for sexual sin and murder to work in his family.
- C. But the heart of the matter was David repenting and coming back into proper relationship with God.

Discipleship Questions

1. The root of all sin is what?
 - A. God misses you
 - B. You are trying to obtain your needs through immorality
 - C. The fact that you are not trusting God
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

2. *Discussion question:* What are some of the ways you can identify that you are not trusting God?

3. *Discussion question:* Why do you think God chose marriage as the place to satisfy your sexual desires?

4. Why is homosexuality inherently wrong?

5. A man whose wife committed adultery but had no physical consequences would not tell her, "That's okay," because of what?
 - A. She didn't confess instead of waiting to get caught
 - B. She broke covenant with him
 - C. She only did it once
 - D. He's partially at fault
 - E. It was understandable

6. What did God ask David?
- A. “Were you drinking too much?”
 - B. “Do you realize what you’ve done to Bathsheba and Uriah?”
 - C. “How can I help you out of this?”
 - D. “How could you have despised Me?”
 - E. “Do you have a good reason for your sin?”

7. *Discussion question:* Does God consider everyone trustworthy? Why or Why not?

8. It is offensive to God when _____.
- A. You do rude things in public
 - B. You take a shortcut to His destiny for you
 - C. You don’t let Him provide for you
 - D. You substitute anything for the Lord
 - E. You get defensive

9. *Discussion question:* Do you have a personal standard in your relationship with God that you think would hold you up in any circumstance?

10. What would have happened if Joseph had thought, *Can I get by with this?*
- A. He would have refused to sin
 - B. God would have sent lightning to strike him
 - C. He probably would have indulged
 - D. He would have asked God about it
 - E. He would have challenged Potiphar to a duel

11. When Andrew was in Vietnam, it didn't matter to him whether anybody else knew what he did or not, because:
- A. God was there
 - B. He had a personal relationship with the Lord
 - C. He couldn't just sin against Him that way
 - D. All of the above
 - E. None of the above

12. God's reproof is what brought David _____.
- A. A crushed spirit
 - B. Back
 - C. Mentally to the breaking point
 - D. Joy
 - E. A new psalm

13. The Lord didn't rebuke David based on just consequences, because:
- A. David still wore his promise ring
 - B. He moved to another city
 - C. David left his first love
 - D. David used to adore the Lord
 - E. C and D

14. *Discussion question:* Do you suppose it took David very long to "get the message" from the Lord? How quick are you to hear God's correction?

15. Even though David sinned against Bathsheba and Uriah, he said _____.
- A. "My sin was mostly against Uriah"
 - B. "God will spare the child"
 - C. "Against you, God, and You only, have I sinned"
 - D. "It'll be all right"
 - E. "I'll pay them back and make it good"

Scriptures

PROVERBS 5:18-19

Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. [19] Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

HEBREWS 13:4

Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

GENESIS 39:9

There is none greater in this house than I; neither hath he kept back any thing from me but thee, because thou art his wife: how then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?

PSALM 51:1-4

Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. [2] Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. [3] For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. [4] Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou judgest.

Outline

- I. Although the main issue was David's relationship with God, his sin unleashed a barrage of negative consequences, and we would do well to learn from them.
 - A. It opened up his son to lust and, therefore, one of his daughters to rape.
 - B. It opened up another son to murder.
 - C. It caused a civil war and his own concubines to be defiled in the sight of all the people.

- II. Sin will take you further than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay!
 - A. But you need to recognize and understand that sin is a transgression against the Lord—you aren't trusting and believing God!
 - B. This understanding will make a huge difference in your level of integrity.
 - i. You'll get to where you operate in integrity whether anyone is watching, checking, or holding you accountable or not.
 - C. You need to be God conscious, not man conscious.

- III. A person who is only doing what's right because it's expected of them and they're being held accountable for it doesn't have a heart after God.
 - A. God's Word says we are to serve...

In singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; [6] Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; [7] With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

EPHESIANS 6:5B-7

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; [24] Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

- B. It doesn't matter whether you ever get rewarded from people or not; you need to boil everything down to doing it as unto the Lord, and not unto people.
 - C. What a powerful truth!

- IV. The reason David sinned is because he quit having this intimacy with God.
 - A. It was just a matter of time before some form of sin manifested.

- B. Then David displayed a harsh judgment, and because of that, God gave him the same judgment that he meted out.
- C. Looking forward to the New Covenant, David himself exclaimed,

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

PSALM 32:2

- D. Under the Old Covenant, David had his sin imputed unto him, but you and I live in a covenant today where our sin has been imputed to Jesus.
 - E. However, there is still much we can learn from God's judgment on David.
 - i. Even though Jesus has borne our punishment, we should still abhor sin and walk in integrity, knowing that it cost our beloved Savior His life.
 - ii. Every time we commit a sin, Jesus suffered that sin.
 - F. We should want to live lives that glorify God.
- V. After God judged David, you can still see the forgiveness and grace of God in his life.
- A. God blessed his and Bathsheba's union, and she conceived a second son, who lived.
 - B. God sent Nathan the prophet and renamed the son Jedidiah, which means beloved of the Lord (2 Sam. 12:24-25).
 - C. If you become born again while in a totally ungodly marriage relationship, the Lord can make that relationship that was conceived in sin turn out to be godly, just like He did for David and Bathsheba.
 - D. I encourage you to learn these life lessons at David's expense, rather than through your own hard knocks.
 - E. May these truths take root in your life so that you, too, would walk like David—a man after God's own heart!

Discipleship Questions

1. David's sin unleashed a barrage of _____.

2. What were some of the results of sin for David's immediate family?

- A. One of his daughters was raped
- B. One of his sons was murdered
- C. One of his sons killed his mother
- D. A and B
- E. A and C

3. What consequence did David's sin have on his own nation?

4. What consequence did David's sin have for his concubines?

5. What will sin always do to you?

- A. Cost you more than you want to pay
- B. Put you in jail
- C. Take you further than you want to go
- D. A and B
- E. A and C

6. True or false: When you sin, you are sinning against the people you hurt even more than God.

7. Sin always means that you aren't _____ and _____ God.

8. True or false: Integrity is doing what's right whether anyone is watching or checking or not.

9. *Discussion question:* What do you think it means to be God conscious instead of man conscious?

10. True or false: If you do what's right because you're being held accountable, then you have a heart for God.

11. According to Colossians 3:24, whom should you expect your reward from?

12. It doesn't matter if you ever get _____ from people or not.

13. *Discussion question:* What powerful truth should you boil everything down to and why?

14. What did David quit doing that caused him to sin?

15. True or false: When you stop being intimate with God, it's only a matter of time before some sin manifests.

16. Why did David receive a harsh judgment?

- A. He committed adultery and murder
- B. He judged another harshly
- C. His sin had consequences
- D. God felt like punishing him
- E. So he would learn his lesson well

17. Under the Old Covenant, David's sins were imputed to him, but under the New Covenant, your sins have been imputed to _____.

18. *Discussion question:* Knowing that Jesus suffered the sins you commit, how does that change your desire to sin or not sin?

19. True or false: Even though David's sin was judged, you can still see the grace and forgiveness upon his life.

20. What are some of the ways that God showed His grace to David?

- A. God made him even wealthier
- B. God blessed David's union with Bathsheba, and she conceived a second son
- C. All of David's children were blessed and lived in peace
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

21. God sent Nathan to rename his son Jedidiah, which means what?

22. *Discussion question:* How does Nathan renaming David's son show God's forgiveness and grace on David?

23. True or false: If a relationship is conceived in sin, it can never turn out to be godly.

Scriptures

2 SAMUEL 13:1-20

And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her. [2] And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her. [3] But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man. [4] And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister. [5] And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand. [6] So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand. [7] Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat. [8] So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes. [9] And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him. [10] And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother. [11] And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister. [12] And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly. [13] And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee. [14] Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her. [15] Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone. [16] And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her. [17] Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her. [18] And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her. [19] And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying. [20] And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

2 SAMUEL 13:28-29

Now Absalom had commanded his servants, saying, Mark ye now when Amnon's heart is merry with wine, and when I say unto you, Smite Amnon; then kill him, fear not: have not I commanded you? be courageous, and be valiant. [29] And the servants of Absalom did unto Amnon as Absalom had commanded. Then all the king's sons arose, and every man gat him up upon his mule, and fled.

2 SAMUEL 13:38

So Absalom fled, and went to Geshur, and was there three years.

2 SAMUEL 14:21-24

And the king said unto Joab, Behold now, I have done this thing: go therefore, bring the young man Absalom again. [22] And Joab fell to the ground on his face, and bowed himself, and thanked the king: and Joab said, To day thy servant knoweth that I have found grace in thy sight, my lord, O king, in that the king hath fulfilled the request of his servant. [23] So Joab arose and went to Geshur, and brought Absalom to Jerusalem. [24] And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.

2 SAMUEL 14:28

So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.

2 SAMUEL 14:33

So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

2 SAMUEL 15:6

And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.

2 SAMUEL 16:20-22

Then said Absalom to Ahithophel, Give counsel among you what we shall do. [21] And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong. [22] So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

2 SAMUEL 23:34

Eliphelet the son of Ahasbai, the son of the Maachathite, Eliam the son of Ahithophel the Gilonite.

2 SAMUEL 11:3

And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

EPHESIANS 6:5-7

Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; [6] Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; [7] With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men.

COLOSSIANS 3:23-24

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; [24] Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.

PSALM 32:2

Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile.

ROMANS 4:8

Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.

2 SAMUEL 12:18

And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died. And the servants of David feared to tell him that the child was dead: for they said, Behold, while the child was yet alive, we spake unto him, and he would not hearken unto our voice: how will he then vex himself, if we tell him that the child is dead?

2 SAMUEL 12:24-25

And David comforted Bathsheba his wife, and went in unto her, and lay with her: and she bare a son, and he called his name Solomon: and the LORD loved him. [25] And he sent by the hand of Nathan the prophet; and he called his name Jedidiah, because of the LORD.