

Trinity 6/29/19

I removed many of the scripture quotes in the following for time's sake. However, all the addresses are present. Look them up, and check them out. These notes are not edited, so here they are warts and all.

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Yesterday, I was listening to a Baptist preacher in the Southland. He introduced his message by stating that though he studies for his messages, 90% of his messages are extemporaneous. He invited his hearers to correct him if he strayed from Scripture.

He read his text from Romans 1, and then wandered off into the weeds. I finally gave up because he seemed to be lost in the weeds.

A godly pastor will spend as many hours studying needed, and he will deviate very little from his study. I always use an abundance of Scriptures to support whatever point I want to make. So, this morning, for time's sake, I will only give the addresses of most of the passages.

1 Corinthians 10:11 *Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. 12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. 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. 14 Wherefore, my dearly beloved, flee from idolatry.*

Let us see what example David has for us.

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.*

Samuel spoke this about 20 years before David would be born, yet God refers to David as a man after his own heart. David was about 16 years old when Samuel anointed in 1 Samuel 16.

As we look at David's life, we wonder how the Lord could have considered him a *man after God's own* heart.

Here are **some of David's more obvious sins**.

First:

Before he was king and after being anointed by Samuel and fearing Saul, David fled to Achish, King of Gath. **1 Samuel 21 and 27.**

Both times, David lived a lie. In chapter 27, David told the King how he was raiding into Israel, while all the time he was raiding against Israel's enemies.

Second:

The Chronicles reiterates what was given in the books of Samuel and Kings, yet from a different view-point. The books of Samuel and Kings gives man's view of the history of Israel, where the Chronicles gives God's

view of the same events.

In **1 Chronicles 13:7**, though he knew better, David carried the ark on a new cart. His sin resulted in the death of Uzza.

Third:

In **2 Samuel 5:13**, we are told that David “**loved**” women, and took many wives and concubines to himself. He had a serious **weakness for women**.

* Women are probably the most serious temptation faced by men who are in authority.

David wrote **Psalms 119**, which professes his love for the law of the Lord. He was a strong king who could control an army and rule a kingdom with justice and equity, but he **could not rule his own spirit**.

In **Deuteronomy 17:17**, God strictly forbade His rulers from multiplying wives to themselves. The warning is that they would turn the king’s heart away from serving the Lord, as they did with both David and Solomon.

Of course, we must condemn David for more than one wife, and his many non-wives, concubines. (An unpurchased wife was considered a concubine.)

God never meant it to be that way, but He permitted it. **David's weakness**, women, caused him to fall. **His uncontrolled spirit** cost him his family and it cost Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, the united kingdom.

* An uncontrolled spirit is paid for by the following generations.

Though David checked with the Lord about everything else, he did not check with the Lord about taking more wives and concubines.

***Psalms 127:3** Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. 4 As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. 5 Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate.*

Matthew Henry says here:

“Happy is the man that has his quiver full of these arrows but one vine by the side of the house with the blessings of God, may send boughs to the sea, and branches to the river.”

* David's many vines (wives) and many arrows (children) got him in a barrel of trouble.

Forth:

In **2 Samuel 11:1-5**, David’s uncontrolled spirit evidenced in his lust for women led to adultery.

Fifth:

In **2 Samuel 12:9** David’s uncontrolled spirit led to outright murder.

David’s uncontrolled spirit led to his downfall, and destroyed his united kingdom. Solomon followed in his

father's footsteps, and greatly multiplied wives to himself.

David checked with the Lord whenever he was about to confront the enemy in battle, yet he **did not check** with the Lord when he had to confront the enemy within – his own spirit.

2 Samuel 12:8 *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.*

Nathan apparently told David here that if David **lusted after more** women, and if he would have asked God, the Lord would have given him more women.

* There are times when one woman is more than enough.

God's law-word abounds with warnings against an uncontrolled spirit.

Proverbs 4:23 *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

2 Timothy 2:22 *Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.*

2 Corinthians 10:5 *Casting down imaginations,*

Sixth. 1 Chronicles 21, David sinned in **forcing Joab to number the people**.

Two questions:

First: The author of the Chronicles gives the details of all of David's problems, except his sin with Uriah. That sin is not even mentioned in Chapter 20. **Why is it not mentioned?** Maybe forgiveness, Ps 51.

Second: In **1 Chronicles 21**, we are told that Satan provoked David to number Israel. Yet in **2 Samuel 24:1**, we are told that the Lord moved David to number Israel.

(The **implication in 2 Samuel 24** is that God moved David to number Israel and the following plague was God's judgment against Israel for following in Absalom's rebellion.)

Again, we are reminded that Satan is no more than a tool of God to work God's good pleasure here on this earth.

Thus, we have recorded for us at least **six major problems** in David's life:

1) FLED TO A PAGAN KING FOR PROTECTION.

2) MOVED THE ARK IMPROPERLY.

3) HE LOVED MANY WOMEN.

4) SINNED BY ADULTERY.

5) SINNED IN THE MURDER OF URIAH

6) SINNED WHEN HE NUMBERED THE PEOPLE.

Even with these six obvious sins, we are told in **1 Samuel 13:14**, that God considered David a *man after God's own heart* even before he was born.

But we see that after David was exalted, his heart was given over to lust whenever he saw a beautiful woman. **The highly exalted King David, was unable to control his own spirit.**

Knowing the love for beautiful women that would control David, even leading to murder, how could the Lord say that David was *a man after his own heart*?

The answer is in 1 Samuel 13.

1 Samuel 13, Saul had been king for two years, and in the face of the Philistine threat, he had called together an army of three thousand men. Saul led two thousand, and his son, Jonathan led one thousand.

V. 3, Jonathan smote the garrison of Philistines stationed in Geba, which stirred up a hornets' nest.

V. 4, Saul took the credit for Jonathan's victory.

V. 5, the Philistines gathered an army, and prepared for a serious war with Saul—thirty thousand chariots, six thousand horsemen and soldiers as the sand of the sea. These all came up, and made ready for battle against Israel at Michmash.

V. 6, the size and determination of the Philistine army caused great fear in Israel's army, and they fled from King Saul, and hid themselves anywhere they could find to hid.

Back in **1 Samuel 10**, after Samuel had anointed Saul king, Samuel told Saul to wait seven days for him at Gilgal, at which time Samuel would come to him, offer the burnt offerings and sacrifices, and **then** he would show Saul what to do.

In 1 Samuel 13, Saul is in Gilgal waiting for Samuel as he had been instructed. Saul waited seven days, but Samuel did not show up. Fearful of the angry Philistines, Israel's army was fleeing, seeking their own safety.

1 Samuel 13:8, unable to wait any longer on Samuel, on the seventh day, Saul made the offering that Samuel said he would make. Of course, as soon as Saul made the offering, Samuel shows up, **JUST BEFORE THE TIME EXPIRED!**

1 Samuel 13:11, 12, Samuel asks Saul, "***What have you done?***"

Saul says, "The people were scattering, and you did not come when you said you would. I saw the Philistines gathering their army at Mishmash, and I knew they were getting ready to attack me here at Gilgal. But I knew I could not go to battle until the offering was made, so I ***forced myself***, and I made the offering that you were not here to make, as you promised."

However, Samuel was there at the appointed time. The problem was that Saul could not wait on the Lord as he had been instructed.

Then Samuel spoke the fateful words just two years into Saul's forty-year reign:

1 Samuel 13:13 *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.*

But we have seen that David also had sin problems which cost him and his nation greatly.

So we ask, **WHAT WAS THE DIFFERENCE?**

Samuel spoke the fateful words of **1 Samuel 13:13, 14**, after he has confronted Saul about his sin. Saul's response was to **blame** his sin on the preacher (YOU WERE NOT HERE IN TIME) and on the people. **1 Samuel 15:24, Saul said, I have sinned...**

But we know from Saul's actions, his repentance was not real, for he immediately fell into the same sin again. Throughout his life, Saul continued to **refuse to take responsibility, repent and change.**

David, on the other hand, once a sin was brought to his attention, he immediately took responsibility, and changed accordingly.

First, in 1 Chronicles 13:10 when Uzza died, David did not **blame the Levites** for not warning him against improperly moving the ark.

He did not **blame Uzza** for his own death, though Uzza knew better. The ark had been in Uzza's home for probably 70 years, so he obviously knew better.

When Uzza died, David did **not blame the Lord** for killing Uzza; rather, David gained a new respect for the Lord and His holiness.

Second, when Nathan pointed out David's sin of adultery and murder in 2 Samuel 12:7-13, David did **not blame Bathsheba** for exposing herself to him.

2 Samuel 12:7 *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; 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.*

He wrote Psalms 51 as a result of his repentance and the Lord's forgiveness.

Third, when the plague came in **2 Samuel 24:10**, David did **not blame Joab** nor did he blame the people for their rebellion under Absalom that brought about God's judgment.

2 Samuel 24:10 *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.*

The **difference** between Saul and David?

- * They were both sinners.
- * They both committed sins that hurt their families and caused many deaths in Israel.

Yet **David was a man after God's own heart and received untold blessings from God. On the other hand, Saul received God's curse and wrath.**

In every case, as soon as David became aware of the sin, he **immediately repented**, and set about to correct the situation.

The example David has for us.

How can we be a **man after God's own heart**? Follow the example preserved for us in the life of David:

- 1) **listen** to godly rebuke from God's word and from God's man.
- 2) **take** personal responsibility.
- 3) **change** according to the law-word of God by the grace of God,.

Let us learn the important lesson that Saul refused to learn

1 Samuel 15:22 *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.*

A lesson for us in **1 Chronicles 15:1**

1 Chronicles 15:1 *And David made him houses in the city of David, and prepared a place for the ark of God, and pitched for it a tent. 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. 3 And David gathered all Israel together to Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the LORD unto his place, which he had prepared for it.*

He knew the law of the Lord, but it was the event with Uzza that got his attention

1 Chronicles 13:12 *And David was afraid of God that day, saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?*

* What event is needed in our lives to make us realize the seriousness of the law of the Lord?

We must learn to or study to be a man after God's own heart

Parents must be willing to admit wrong, especially a man to his wife, and parents to children.

Even preachers must be willing to admit wrong.

I do not know how many preachers I either know or have known that though they know they are wrong in a matter, would never admit they are wrong, either in a moral matter or in a theological matter.

Thought it has been a good number of years ago, I clearly remember confronting a dear fellow pastor friend about his wrong understanding of a scripture, and its improper application. He admitted I was right, but he said, "This is the way I was taught by men I respect, and this is the way I have taught it, and I am too old to change now."

I cannot tell you how many times I have had to stand in the pulpit, and to my great embarrassment, admit I was wrong, particularly as the Lord delivered me from Armenian Dispensationalism. The problem with making writings public is the difficulty of admitting error, but it must be done.

One of my favorite theologians is the great Scottish Free Church minister, Patrick Fairbairn (1805-1874), In

1840, he published a book entitled, “*A course of Lectures on the Jews*” which argued for a literal interpretation of the prophecies relating to the Jews’ return to the land of Canaan. 25 years later, he published a book presenting the opposite view, proving that all the prophecies and promises must be understood as typical of the spiritual blessings to be realized in Christ. *Fairbairn vs. Fairbairn*, Eerdmans Publication, 1930, presents his two arguments.

The man after God’s own heart **will admit his sins and errors, and he will change by God’s grace.**

If a man is not *a man after God’s own heart*, then whose heart is he after?

Samuel told Saul that stubbornness and rebellion against the known will of God is witchcraft.

Though David was overcome more than once by his uncontrolled spirit, he was willing to listen to God’s man present God’s word. He was willing to accept the blame when he was in the wrong. He was willing to repent and make things right.

WE TOO CAN BE A MAN AFTER GOD’S OWN HEART IF WE ARE WILLING TO LISTEN TO GOD’S WORD, ACCEPT BLAME WHEN WE ARE WRONG, REPENT, AND BY GOD’S GRACE, CHANGE.

Pro 28:13 *He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy. 14 Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.*

1 Corinthians 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*