**A WORK OF HEART**

Intro: God is at work in your heart.

Intro: David story starts with Samuel and Saul story. Tell Story. Judges: God is the head of state. Choosing Saul story.

Chiastic structure – climactic moment is when David gets anointed for 1 Sam. In chapter 16. For 2 Sam it is the moment David has sex with Bathsheba in chapter 11-12– a man acting in arrogant independence rather than listening to the word of the Lord

How long will you mourn for Saul? A dour humourless unfriendly man – Samuel. 1 Sam 15 he is fearful of Saul to go to David. We see his humanity in his mourning and in his fear. There has been a falling out between him and Saul, they don’t talk again after the sacrifice fiasco and the rejection of Saul

God who makes concessions to our frailties and weaknesses and tells him that he can sacrifice on his way to anointing David.

They ask if he comes in peace. 1 Sam 16

Three takeaways from this story.

**1 Samuel 13:1313“How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. 14But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord’s command.”**

1. **People seek out their celebrities. God seeks out people whose hearts beat with his heart.**

I am looking for a heart. True leadership is lived from the heart. Let me hear you from the inmost places – psalm.

We want somebody to look up to. We have this desire to worship something or someone. We want someone to embody the best we have.

Illustration: Pro Bowl or

Celebrityism only works from a distance. You get up close and you see the human element.

Saul was a celebrity. He was a head taller than everybody else. He seemed to lack confidence and awareness. He could have put his confidence in God.

He ruled for 40 years. It was after the first 25 that the stories of his lack of trusting God’s heart kicked in. He always seemed to lack that.

Celebrity culture. Kardashians give evidence of that. Unbelievable how quickly the media can create a celebrity. Jonas brothers. Just takes some marketing savvy. Some talent. Some looks and you are good to go.

**Picture of David statue. Perfect physique.**

**Picture of chubby David.**

**Picture of David’s eyes that are heart shaped**

David is no model for us but a mirror of us.

Sometimes we see him get it right. And he soars. At other times we see him brutal.

Passion that served him and at other times unraveled him.

A man after God’s own heart – not directly applied to David but from Samuel that God has chosen not Saul but a man after God’s own heart.

A bloodstained fiend of hell – you man of blood.

David is both.

Swindoll who says we all need heroes…and goes on to tell about what he does that is so heroic. Or another commentator who looks for everything horrific in David

David comes naked before God – he comes hungry….after God’s own heart. He becomes more about managing his image later on.

Quote of Reggie McNeal.

“Twice the fiend of hell.”

David ‘s heart. It is God with whom I have to do

Heart that beats with God’s heart.

David at his best was so in tune with all-powerful Yahweh that he was unsurpassed by any other earthly king in his ability to handle the temptations of power. David, who is certainly more a mirror than a model to us in his use of power, had times in his life when he failed miserably in handling power. We cannot overlook that fact. Yet through the Psalms and in the narrative account, we get to see so much beauty in the way in which he used power for the benefit of so many.

Andy Crouch, in his superb book “Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power” submits that on a very simple level “power is the ability to make something of the world”p.17. David’s life is so fascinating to us because after growing up in such obscurity, did he ever “make something of the world”! He begins a kingly line that is powerfully consummated in the coming of King Jesus. Jesus himself was referred to as the Son of David. David as a rule did not see power as something to be grasped for and gripped tightly but rather as a tool for the flourishing of others. As Crouch says “Power is for flourishing. This means power is a gift worth asking for, seeking, and – should we receive it – stewarding.” P.37 David in the psalms often pleads for power over God’s (and his) enemies and he stewards that power many times in such a beautiful way that we are left with such awe. At other times, human as he is, David stewards that power for selfish gain.

The obvious question is, how could God call David “a man after His heart” when David was such a terrible a sinner, having committed adultery and murder? Much has been written regarding the meaning of the verse and its applicable value today. Much has also been written about David, especially in the books of 1 and 2 Chronicles and 1 and 2 Kings. However, we find much of his character in the book of Psalms as he opened up his life for all to examine. David’s life was a portrait of success and failure, and it highlights the fact that he was far from perfect. But what made David a cut above the rest was that his heart was pointed toward God.

When God scans the earth for potential leaders, He is not on a search for angels in the flesh. He is certainly not looking for perfect people, since there are none. He is searching for men and women like you and me, mere people made up of flesh. But He is also looking for people who share the same qualities He found in David. God is looking for men and women “after His own heart” ([1 Samuel 13:14](http://biblia.com/bible/nlt/1%20Samuel%2013.14)).

Goliath: God of victory.Passionate for God’s honor. Courage

Jonathan: God of loyal faithfulness. Loyal will not betray a friend.

Wilderness: God of hope and faith. Hunted and pursued. Everything looks like God’s against him yet he believes that God is on my side

David and Nabal and Abigail: God of wisdom. Heart that can get so full of rage and yet is teachable. A guy who at first flips out in rage but then listens to a woman of wisdom and restrains himself.

David and the death of Saul and Jonathan. God who feels our pain. Heart that is real.

Dancing before God: God of celebration. Heart that is in tune with the joy of God

David and his thanksgiving prayer. God of grace

David and Mephibosheth: God of kindness

Celebrity is a hero. We want perfection.

God does not look for perfection. He is looking to use those who are for Him. Whose hearts beat with his.

Illust: Ever since the movie Frozen I hear my daughters sing. Love is an open door...  
*[Hans:]* I mean it's crazy...*[Anna:]* What?*[Hans:]* We finish each other's-  
*[Anna:]* Sandwiches!  
*[Hans:]* That's what I was gonna say!*[Anna:]* I've never met someone-  
*[Both:]*  
Who thinks so much like me!  
Jinx! Jinx again!  
Our mental synchronization  
Can have but one explanation*[Hans:]* You-*[Anna:]* And I-*[Hans:]* Were-  
*[Anna:]* Just-  
  
*[Both:]* Meant to be!

Not to become sentimental but what God is looking for is the kind of heart that connects with the

**1 Samuel 16:6-7 When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!”7 But the Lord said to Samuel, “Don’t judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord doesn’t see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

1. **People Judge Appearance. God sees what is real and focuses in on our hearts.**

Talmudic reflections on David for a paper. The angels are asking God why David. When you hear the rustling in the leaves then go and attack. David listens to the weirdest instructions. David does what God wants.

When you lose that sense of what does God think…it is a terrible state of affairs when each man does what is right in his own eyes. Will a king be the solution? Will the king reverse this?

If God is looking at my heart. Both comforting and challenging.

Illustration: Mirror. Magic mirror. My heart and God’s heart

David mirrors our lives. We see ourselves in David and we get to see the heart of God.

Where will our focus be?

Focusing in on the heart requires that we do a heart check.

Illustration: Apple Watch The device also takes advantage of new pressure-sensing technology and is able to determine the difference between a tap and a press, allowing for a new range of contextually specific controls. A second physical button next to the digital crown lets users tap to bring up a list of contacts and then communicate with friends by sending quick drawings, messages, and animated emoji. It's also possible to send a heart beat, drawn from the watch's sensors.   
  
Inside the device, there's a new Taptic Engine that allows users to hear and feel the design The back of the watch is constructed from zirconia with four sapphire lenses that can detect pulse rate. There is also a gyroscope and accelerometer, which helps the Apple Watch provide a comprehensive picture of daily activity.   
  
Because it is a watch, the device is designed to keep accurate time, continually checking its internal clock against the definitive global time standard with the "precision found in GPS satellites." Apple's Watch is designed to improve the health and fitness of its users, and thus it is able to keep track of a variety of health metrics, accurately tracking movement and a wide range of activities. An included Activity App gives users an overview of their daily fitness levels, with three "rings" representing calories burned, exercise done, and how often a break has been taken from sitting.   
  
There's also a Workout App, which shows real-time stats like time, distance, calories, and pace when working out. It's designed to encourage users to meet and beat goals, and over time, the Watch is said to be able to act as a personal trainer, suggesting new fitness goals.

Amazing technologies. Heart Scans are in the future? What do you see in your heart?

It can look pretty ugly. It can get quite discouraging. Maybe there has been some heart damage.

“The heart is desperately wicked and who can know it?”

Can I trust my heart? No. You can trust God’s heart

Illustration: Tiara and directions. I just follow my heart.

Develop your heart capacity.

Character in the heart

Integrity

Courage

We need Christian community to help us see ourselves. They hold up a mirror.

Reading scripture. Search it out. Go on a search for what God says. Does this beat with your heart?

David absolutely loved God’s law. Of the 150 psalms in the Bible, David is credited for writing over half of them. Writing at various and often troubling times in his life, David repeatedly mentioned how much he loved God’s perfect Word. We find a beautiful example of this in[Psalm 119:47-48](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%20119.47-48): “For I delight in your commands because I love them. I lift up my hands to your commands, which I love, and I meditate on your decrees.” It is not hard to see his complete adoration for God’s Word. But also notice how he mentions that he “meditates” on God’s statutes. God granted David understanding and wisdom through daily meditation. We would do well to not only read God’s Word but also think about it throughout the day for God loves when we think about Him. “Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart. They do nothing wrong; they walk in his ways” ([Psalm 119:2-3](http://biblia.com/bible/esv/Psalm%20119.2-3)).

Filled with the heart of God.

How to test the heart: Pray. Ask God. David: Examine my heart and see if there is any sinful way in me.

Illustration: I am wanting this job but not sure if it compromises my heart. Will you sleep well at night? Does it pass the sniff test.

What does it mean to be a person after God’s own heart? It means your life is in harmony with the Lord. What is important to Him is important to you. What burdens Him burdens you. When He says, “Go to the right,” you go to the right. When He says, “Stop that in your life,” you stop it. When He says, “This is wrong and I want you to change,” you come to terms with it because you have a heart for God. That’s bottom-line, biblical Christianity.

When you are a man or woman after God’s heart, you are deeply sensitive to spiritual things. [Second Chronicles 16:9](http://biblia.com/bible/nlt/Second%20Chronicles%2016.9) explains it this way: “For the eyes of the LORD move to and fro throughout the earth that He may strongly support those whose heart is *completely*His” (emphasis added).

What is God looking for? He is looking for men and women whose hearts are His—*completely*. That means there are no locked closets. Nothing’s been swept under the rugs. That means that when you do wrong, you admit it and come to terms with it. You long to please Him in your actions. You care deeply about the motivations behind your actions. God is not looking for magnificent specimens of humanity. He’s looking for deeply spiritual, genuinely humble, honest-to-the-core servants who have integrity.

Listen to some of the synonyms for this Hebrew word *thamam*, translated “integrity”: “complete, whole, innocent, having the simplicity of life, wholesome, sound, unimpaired.” It’s what you are when nobody’s looking. We live in a world that says, in many ways, “If you just make a good impression, that’s all that matters.” But you will never be a man or woman of God if that’s your philosophy. Never. You can’t fake it with the Almighty. He is not impressed with externals. He always focuses on the inward qualities, like the character of the heart . . . those things that take time and discipline to cultivate.

**1 Samuel 16:1313So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the flask of olive oil he had brought and anointed David with the oil. And the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David from that day on.**

1. **God’s Spirit will fill and work in your Heart**

You don’t need to have a special celebrity or priest to have the Spirit of God powerfully come upon you. It is there for the asking. Ask for the spirit of God.

There is a supernatural filling of the Spirit.

Illustration: Feeling a call to ministry.

Whatever you have to do that is in tune with the heart of God – God will give you the power to do it.

I can put myself in a position to receive the Holy Spirit.

He will put a calling there. From that day of anointing on, David had the spirit whereas Saul just had it at times. Unlike every other time when the spirit came on people, they do something big and dramatic…kill people, drag down gates. David does nothing really but just lives. It is almost like the new testament vision where it is just in us and it is not always a loud and dramatic. But always there and not always about leading us into big exploits but rather an intimacy with God. He becomes a worship leader and not a warrior. We are not told that the spirit comes to him….rather the spirit is in him.

Spirit comes to David – 1 Sam 16:13 and in the next verse 14 the Spirit left Saul.