

## Moving From Comfort to Character David - the characteristic of a Godly Heart.

Scripture 1 Samuel 17 - 2 Chronicles 29:30

Text - 1 Samuel 13:14

Today I want to continue my series of sermons “Moving from our Comfort zone to our Character Zone.” I believe that it is not only important and necessary to move like this in our Christian life, I believe that it is what God wills and wants for us. We began by looking at 4 character traits we need to develop. The first was \_\_\_\_\_ Faith \_\_\_\_\_. In that we looked at Noah. The second one was \_\_\_\_\_ obedience \_\_\_\_\_. For that one we looked at Abraham. The third one was \_\_\_\_\_ commitment \_\_\_\_\_, demonstrated by Joshua and Caleb. And the fourth was \_\_\_\_\_ courage \_\_\_\_\_, demonstrated by Deborah. Then switching direction just a little I shared and am still sharing some of the characteristics that are developed as a result of the first four. The first of these was Daniel, who demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_ integrity \_\_\_\_\_. Joseph who demonstrated \_\_\_\_\_ overcoming anxiety \_\_\_\_\_, and today we are going to look at David who demonstrates a \_\_\_\_\_ Godly Heart \_\_\_\_\_.

The story of David in the Bible spans over 116 chapters in 4.5 books of the old testament. How many of you would like me to read it?

Have you heard about the guy who applied to be a door to door salesman for a Bible company. The owner of the company was hesitant to hire him because he had a terrible stutter when he talked, but agreed to give him a chance to prove he could do it. The first month he was the top salesperson as he was in the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> month. The boss was so pleased that he called him into the office and said I want you to share with the rest of the sales team how you do it. The next day at the sales meeting he got up and showed everybody exactly how he did it. He would walk up to the door, ring the bell and when someone answered he would say: Hi I'm John and I am selling Bi bi bi bibles, would youuuuu likkkke tooo buyyyyy one, or would youuuuuu like meeee to readddd it to youuuuuu. So I wont read it today, and I am just going to touch on a couple of high lights that show why he was called as a man who longed after the heart of God.. So what helped David become a Godly Man with a Godly heart.

- I. You must be anointed by God.
  - A. David was chosen by God, to take the place of Saul, as the King over Israel.

1. It was the peoples choice to have a king, not God's.
  2. So God told Samuel to choose and anoint someone for that job.
  3. So he went out and choose Saul.
    - a. He was an impressive man with no equal.
    - b. He was bigger and stronger than any other.
    - c. Even thou they went against God, he sent Samuel to bless him.
    - d. Sometimes God will bless us, even if we have chosen not to listen to Him.
    - e. Saul was given every opportunity to be a successful king.
  4. But almost immediately Saul disobeyed God and chose to follow his wisdom over Gods.
  5. When ever we panic and fear, it's probably because we have left God out of our decision.
    - a. Like Saul we then try to bribe God into protecting us.
  6. That's when God sent Samuel on a very important mission.
    - a. That's when Samuel told Saul, God was looking for a man whose heart was seeking God.
    - b. Today God uses the Holy Spirit to rebuke us, and guide us.
- B. God doesn't look for the biggest and brightest, but for the willing.
1. The Steer conference emphasis was "God Uses the unlikely".
  2. He looks for the person who has a heart that wants to be like Him.
  3. In this case it was a young man by the name of David.
  4. David and Joseph had some similarities.
    - a. Both had older and bigger brothers.
    - b. Both of them were among the youngest in the family.
  5. But their differences were notable.
    - a. David's father looked upon him as a child.
    - b. David was the one out doing the work.
    - c. He marched all of his other boys before Samuel.
    - d. Even forgot he had another son.
  6. But it was obvious to Samuel that this is the one God was choosing to become the new King.

II. Must be willing to desire what God desires.

- A. That's a key part of becoming a mature Christian.
  1. It requires us to move out of our comfort zones.
- B. David grew up being a shepherd to his fathers sheep.
  1. That meant feeding them, guiding them, and protecting them.

2. Not quite the requirements one would put on his resume for becoming a king.
  3. But God used it to prepare David.
- C. What ever you are doing in life, God can use it to prepare you.
1. He used it to teach David how to worship him.
    - a. Many of the Psalms David wrote were probably written in the times of being alone.
  2. He used it to teach David how to pray.
    - a. Sometimes out of necessity but often out of praise.
    - b. Can you see David lying out under the stars on a clear night looking at God's vast creation.
  3. He used it to teach David how to trust in Him.
    - a. He was completely alone and had to trust God for all he had and all he needed.
- D. As a result David had a completely different concept of how great and mighty God was.
1. When he went to check up on his brothers and the warriors who were fighting the enemy, he couldn't believe what he saw and heard.
  2. Goliath was making fun of them and God.
  3. He couldn't help but speak up, who is this heathen.
  4. In doing so, he upstaged his brothers and all the other soldiers.
    - a. It made his brothers look like cowards.
    - b. And that made them very angry with him.
  5. When we become comfortable in our walk with God we don't want anyone to shake the boat.
    - a. One of my favorite authors is John Orthberg who wrote a book entitled, "If you want to walk on water, you have to get out of the boat."
    - b. That's why so many churches are dying, we don't want to move out of our comfort zones.
    - c. Thank God for the Peter's and David's in life.
  6. He remembered how God had helped him slay the Lion and the Bear.
    - a. He knew it wasn't him but God who made up the difference.
    - b. With God we can do all things.
    - c. Especially when it is what God wants us to do.
- E. He wasn't trying to upstage anyone he was just living out his faith.

1. He was just standing up for God.
  2. We need to take a stand for God in our day and age,
  3. To often Christians seem to comfortable in our world.
  4. We stand quietly by when people do things that are contrary to God's plan and purpose.
    - a. We laugh at off color or rude jokes, we stand by while someone makes fun of or bullies others, or when they try to make fun of God.
    - b. We don't need to defend God, but we do need to defend our faith.
- F. Because he respected God, he respected others.
1. Even thou Saul tried to kill him, he refused to take Saul's life when he had a chance.
    - a. Saul was still the king, the anointed of God.
    - b. He respected the office, even if he didn't respect or agree with the man who held it.
  2. This is a lesson we need to learn today. In the church and in the world.

### III. We all know that David wasn't perfect.

- A. He, like many was tripped up by his fleshly desires.
1. A pretty woman has often been a man's downfall.
    - a. And David had a complete collapse.
  2. He went from wanting God's will to wanting his own.
    - a. He wouldn't kill his mortal enemy, but was willing to kill her husband in order to cover up his sin.
    - b. When we turn from God we get on a very slippery slope.
    - c. Joseph ran from temptation, David ran towards it.
    - d. Joseph was free in prison, David was in prison because of his freedom.
- B. The only way he could have peace again was to deal with it.
1. God loved him so much that he sent Nathan to confront him.
  2. Along with the convicting power of the Holy Spirit.
  3. And as a result David was driven to his knees before the God he loved.
  4. If we cover up our sin and don't deal with it we can't have a heart that longs for God.
  5. Until we are broken before God, can't we be healed by God.
- C. That's why as a church and a nation we need repent.

1. (2 Chronicles 7:14) If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.
2. The longer we think we can solve it ourselves and work it out the further away we will be from healing.
3. There is the story of a young man who went off to college and defied some of the values of his rearing that he had acquired in a Christian home. He had pornographic pictures on the walls. One day his mother came to visit him. She saw his walls but said nothing. Instead, she sent him a picture of herself and asked him to hang it up on his wall. The next time she went to see him the other pictures had been removed. And her picture was there hanging on the wall. She asked him about it and he replied, "You see mother, I could not have those pictures beside yours. They would be out of place."
4. Would you behave the way you do if Jesus was with you.

IV. A Godly Heart is not always perfect, but it loves God more than self.

A. Remember what the first and greatest commandment is.

1. Matthew 22: 37-38 - "‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment.
  - a. It’s impossible to live up to the second if we don’t live up to the first.
2. David returned to that first love, and was restored.
3. That doesn’t mean that he escaped consequences for his sin.
  - a. The child born out of it died.
  - b. Even thou he spent much time pleading with God.
  - c. But afterwards he cleaned himself up, accepted it and worshiped God.
4. David went on to become the greatest King Israel had.

B. But don’t forget that for David and for all of us what it takes to become a Godly man or woman.

1. It takes faith, obedience, commitment, and courage.
2. It took David those things to become a man after God’s own heart, and it took those things for David to come back to God.

Let me ask you, are you willing to move out of your comfort zone, or are you

to comfortable living where your at. Do you feel it's to late or God can't love you enough to change you. Well don't worry about God he won't give up on you.

Some years ago on a hot summer day in south Florida a little boy decided to go for a swim in the old swimming hole behind his house. In a hurry to dive into the cool water, he ran out the back door, leaving behind shoes, socks, and shirt as he went. He flew into the water, not realizing that as he swam toward the middle of the lake, an alligator was swimming toward the shore. His mother in the house was looking out the window saw the two as they got closer and closer together. In utter fear, she ran toward the water, yelling to her son as loudly as she could.

Hearing her voice, the little boy became alarmed and made a U-turn to swim to his mother. It was too late. Just as he reached her, the alligator reached him. From the dock, the mother grabbed her little boy by the arms just as the alligator snatched his legs. Then began an incredible tug-of-war between the two. The alligator was much stronger than the mother, but the mother was much too passionate to let go. A farmer happened to drive by, heard her screams, raced from his truck, took careful aim and shot the alligator.

Remarkably, after weeks and weeks in the hospital, the little boy survived. His legs were extremely scarred by the vicious attack of the animal. The newspaper reporter, who interviewed the boy after the trauma, asked if he would show him his scars. The boy lifted his pant legs. And then, with obvious pride, he said to the reporter, "But look at my arms. I have great scars on my arms, too. I have them because my Mom wouldn't let go."

We might have scars on our bodies from a battlefield or some other event that shows us that Jesus Christ would not let go of us. However, we do know that as Christians Jesus Christ will never let go of us. The marks are not on our bodies but on his. Place your hand in the nail-scarred hand.