

A MAN AFTER HIS OWN HEART

1 SAM 13:14, PS 84

Text: 1 Sam 13:14

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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.

(Acts 13:22) "And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfil all my will."

Introduction:

Faithful Christians have yielded their hearts to many noble causes in recent years. Some of God's choicest servants have shown a heart to fight abortion, and are consumed in the battle. Others have a heart for soul winning and evangelism which certainly is the greatest cause of the church. Some have a heart for doctrinal debate, and others for outward personal standards. Still others have a heart for the old time religion or perhaps a heart for church growth.

Amazingly, with godly leaders totally devoted to these and other causes, we continue to lose battles in each of these arenas. One of the greatest reasons that we are losing battles is because we are losing soldiers. We have forgotten that the primary responsibility of every Christian is to develop a heart for God. Our love for God must be supreme; it must surpass our love or desire for all other causes and agendas. Too many pastors and laymen today have a heart for the ministry or a heart for causes, but they have failed to develop a heart for God.

(Mark 12:29-30) "And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: {30} And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment."

When we look at the Christian life, especially in today's society, it becomes painfully clear that desiring a heart for God does not come naturally. Not one Christian in his natural, sinful flesh, desires a close relationship with God. Many Christians are farther away from God than they have ever been.

If we would be honest with ourselves, we would have to admit that from the very first day of our existence, thinking about ourselves has come naturally. We love

to think about our own needs and our own desires first, and we have become obsessed with our own significance.

This problem of selfishness is something we battle during our adult lives, even as Christians. In fact, we see it illustrated repeatedly in our society. Selfishness is the prevalent philosophy of life today.

Self centeredness has also crept into the hearts of many Christians. It is a battle that Christians face every single day.

Has there ever been a day when you opened your heart to God and said, “Jesus come into my heart and save me”? If so, do you have that same heart for God and that same tenderness for God today, or has the old nature hardened your heart?

Perhaps you are losing the battle. Perhaps you have lost the heart you once had for God. If you truly desire to reclaim that strong passion to know and to love God, possibly the best way to begin is by identifying a true “heart for God.” One Bible character who truly experienced and identified the “heart for God” was David.

Notice.

1. A Heart That Felt the Need for God's Presence

A. David's desire for God.

(Psalms 84:1-2) "How amiable are thy tabernacles, O LORD of hosts! {2} My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

B. David's intensity for God

(Psalms 84:2) "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth for the courts of the LORD: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God."

2. A Heart Fixed On God

(Psalms 84:5) "Blessed is the man whose strength is in thee; in whose heart are the ways of them."

(Psalms 57:7) "My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise."

A. Determine to fix your heart on Godliness

1. Wickedness

(Jeremiah 17:9) "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

2. Unstable

(Psalms 12:1-2) "Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men. {2} They speak vanity every one with his neighbour: with flattering lips and with a double heart do they speak."

(James 4:8) "Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded."

(James 1:8) "A double minded man is unstable in all his ways."

3. A Heart That Followed Through the Valleys

A. God provisions in trials

(Psalms 84:6) "Who passing through the valley of Baca make it a well; the rain also filleth the pools."

(Psalms 84:10) "For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness."

(Psalms 84:12) "O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee."

1. Baca means mourning, and tears.

B. God's strength in times of trials

(Psalms 84:7) "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion appeareth before God."

Close:

In 1992, Patty Wheat was having a normal day in Bedford VA. Her three children were playing in the back yard. There was no fence, just an open back yard and woods. Her husband was away on business. As usual, she let her eight year old, six year old, and two year old play in the back yard. In the kitchen she set the oven timer for ten minutes, for her ritual was to check on the children every ten minutes. When the timer went off, she noticed that Jay her two year old son was gone. With a racing heart she looked through the house. Thinking he might be near the road, she ran out to the highway. Frantically Mrs. Wheat called the Bedford Co sheriff's department. Within just a few minutes patrol cars arrived. Soon helicopters were overhead. Bloodhounds were brought to the scene. In a short time a hundred people had gathered determined to look for the missing child. The volunteers began searching through the dense woods,

looking through briars and thick undergrowth. They were searching for a two year old boy wearing a T shirt and a diaper. The search continued hour after hour, but they found nothing. Mrs. wheat's heart began to sink, and her tears began to flow.

About 4:30 the next morning an elderly woman noticed that her dog a German Shepherd was trying to lead her in a specific direction. When the rescuers finally arrived they found little Jay bleeding from the briars and crying for his mother. They quickly took the child home to an overjoyed mother. It is impossible to understand what it must have felt like to have that little boy back in her arms.

Perhaps you are playing a dangerous game. Perhaps you are wandering from God. You are out in the thickets. You are convinced that you can handle life without God's help. You are convinced that being sold out for God really isn't important. You are convinced that it really isn't necessary to yield your heart to God. You are not crying to God because you seem to be doing all right. However there is a God in Heaven whose heart is broken. You once ask Him into your heart, but now you are asking Him to move over.

God help us to develop a heart for God. God help to rekindle our desire to walk with Him and to please Him, and to love Him supremely.