

A Man After God's Own Heart

Text: Acts 13:36, 22

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."

"A man after God's own heart" has to be one of the greatest compliments God ever gave a mere mortal man.

Jesse presented seven sons before the prophet Samuel, but all seven were refused. Insight into the man God was going to use is given in I 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." David was the eighth son, which is the number of new beginnings. In I Chronicles 2:15, David is called the seventh son. This is because I Chronicles, which tells the genealogy of a family, was written a few years later than I Samuel, and it appears one of Jesse's sons died before he had children to carry the family lineage.

In I Samuel 17 we see from God's perspective what God was looking for as the qualifying factors in a man after His very own heart. What kind of man is a man after God's own heart? He is:

1. A MAN WHO HONORS THE AUTHORITY GOD PLACES OVER HIM

I Samuel 17:17-20

Deuteronomy 5:16: "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee." We cannot be right with God and wrong with mom and dad.

2. A MAN WITH A GRATITUDE ATTITUDE

I Samuel 17:20

David praises God for the challenge before Israel. I've never known a spiritual grouch. The Word of God is dogmatic; we are commanded in I Thessalonians 5:18, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." The prophet Habakkuk declared that although the crops would fail and the animals would die, there would yet be a rebounding blessing. There are times we praise God no matter how things are going and we also praise God for what He promises to do in spite of our circumstances and when circumstances change. Habakkuk 3:18: "Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will joy in the God of my salvation. The LORD God *is* my strength, and he will make my feet like hinds' feet, and he will make me to walk upon mine high places...." Philippians 4:4: "Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice."

3. A MAN WHO HAS A MAGNIFICENT VISION OF GOD

I Samuel 17:21-26

Perspective means everything. If your vision of man and his temporal might is larger than God and His eternal might and power, you are doomed to fail. Big God = little problems. Little God = big problems.

4. A MAN WHO IS CAPTURED BY GOD'S CAUSE

I Samuel 17:28, 29

The world has many causes and many are not good causes. God has the perfect plan and the worthy cause. Jeremiah said in Lamentations 3:51, "Mine eye affecteth mine heart because of all the daughters of my city." What he saw broke his heart. Jeremiah was wrongfully imprisoned (Lamentation 3:55; Jeremiah 38:6), but even then because Jeremiah's cause was God's cause, he was delivered (Lamentations 3:59; Jeremiah 38:7-13).

5. A MAN WHO ALLOWS THE DIFFICULTIES OF THE PAST TO PAVE THE WAY FOR THE FUTURE

I Samuel 17:31-37

David accomplished some dangerous tasks alone, but all along God was using these episodes as giant killing training school. David learned later in life, that even in the darkest days, even when death approaches, God will be with His children (Psalm 23:4).

6. A MAN WHO OPERATES WITHIN THE PERIMETERS OF HIS GOD-GIVEN GIFTING

I Samuel 17:38-40

David was constrained by Saul's armor. David had to be David. David was a shepherd. He must do battle as a shepherd.

7. A MAN WHO HAD EVERY INTENTION TO FINISH THE JOB

I Samuel 17:40

This is apparent by the fact that David collected five smooth stones. If the first one missed, he was prepared with back-up ammunition. Quitters never win and winners never quit.

8. A MAN WHO ONLY ALLOWS GOD TO DEFINE WHO HE IS AND WHAT GOD'S PURPOSE FOR HIS LIFE WILL BE

I Samuel 17:41-45

God's servant must allow only God to define who he is and what he does in life. The Devil is a master at attempting to defeat us before we get into the fray. The battle is often won in the trenches before we enter the battlefield.

Theodore Roosevelt gave perhaps his most famous speech now called, "The Man in the Arena" at the Sorbonne in Paris, France on April 23, 1910. This is the attitude of a man who refuses to be defined by despots or threatening giants:

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit

belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

9. A MAN WHO TURNS LIFE'S BATTLES OVER TO GOD

I Samuel 17:46-47

Matthew 11:28, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

10. A MAN WHO ADVANCES TOWARD THE PROBLEM, NOT FROM THE PROBLEM.

I Samuel 17:48

When King Darius signed a decree that a petition or prayer could not be made to anyone but the king himself, the Bible says in Daniel 6:10, "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime." James 1:5 tells us to ask for wisdom in times of trial and then James 1:6 warns us, "But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed." We will either stand firm or waver. Let us stand (Ephesians 6:13)!

11. A MAN WHO ELIMINATES THE OPPORTUNITY FOR THE ENEMY TO RETALIATE

I Samuel 17:49-51

If a giant is beheaded, he is not getting back up! God's wise man will not leave a path back to his problem after the enemy is defeated. Let's be a man after God's own heart.

-Pastor Pope-