**Pastor Tim’s Message Notes from 8-1-2021
David, A Man After God’s Own Heart**

We have been in the midst of the Olympics for several days now. I hope you are enjoying all the sports and more importantly, all the athletes.

These women and men, and sometimes even youth, representing their countries, have put so much training and effort in that it is difficult to not see them all win.

One way to describe it is that they have put all their heart into it.

When we say things like “I put all my heart into it,” we know that this means something much bigger than our organ. The heart represents our efforts and devotion, our time and energy, our focus, our strength.

Similarly, the biblical understanding of the word “heart” is much deeper and richer than our physical organ.

When the Bible speaks of one’s heart it is referring to the source or the seat of our emotions and our behavior. It is from the heart that our actions flow, just as these athletes are driven deep within them to push so hard to excellence in these sports.

And this is not just those in the Olympics. It is for all of us in our drive for success and excellence in whatever we are pursuing. There is this inner drive from the heart that is pushing people forward.

And we can think of our own journeys. Our own inner-driving towards something. We are all made to live from deep within the heart. From the inside out.

The big problem with the world, however, is that the human heart is selfish by nature. The human heart is focused on one’s own name, one’s own reputation, one’s own glory.

Because of the fall of humanity, this is the default place for our hearts. Without the grace of God transforming our hearts, our driving passions will ultimately have self-centered motives.

Jeremiah 17:9 states:

**The heart is deceitful above all things
    and beyond cure.
    Who can understand it?**

Jeremiah, writing by the Holy Spirit’s inspiration, tells us that the human heart is naturally deceptive. They can look good and sincere, but deep within people, the heart is not driven for the Lord’s purposes, but for self-centered purposes.

However, Jeremiah goes on to right in verse 10 of that same chapter.

**10“I the Lord search the heart
    and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
    according to what their deeds deserve.”**

This verse teaches us that the LORD searches the heart. It is the LORD alone that understands each human heart. And while all human hearts will struggle with self-centeredness, Christ rewards those who are seeking to follow His heart rather than their own.

And this was true even before God became man in Jesus Christ. It was true even before the new and better covenant that God would make with all who follow Jesus.

And one man that did this well was David. We are told in Scripture that he was a man after God’s own heart. He was someone that deep at the core of his being, wanted to let God’s heart fully replace his own selfish deceitful heart.

David was truly a man ahead of his time. He lived before Jesus established a new and better covenant. In the New Covenant, God actually does a spiritual heart transplant in people. This doesn’t mean that we will not be tempted by sin, but it does mean that those who trust in Christ will have God’s Spirit living within them to drive them toward Christlike living.

We are told in Jeremiah 33:33 that God will **“put His law on people’s minds and write it on their hearts.”**

The transforming power and the grace of the New Covenant established in Jesus Christ are far greater than in the Mosaic Covenant of the Old Testament.

So despite David living 1,000 years before Jesus came to earth, David lived as a man after God’s heart.

And even though we live under a new and better covenant with God than David did, we can learn many things from David’s life about how to be people after God’s own heart as well.

Beginning today and for the next several weeks we are going to take a journey together, examining a number of things that we can learn from David and his relationship with God.

But today, we are going to start when we first meet David in Scripture. In 1 Samuel 16:1-13 we read the following:

**16 The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.”**

**2But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.”**

**The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.”**

**4Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, “Do you come in peace?”**

**5Samuel replied, “Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me.” Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.**

**6When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed stands here before the Lord.”**

**7But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.”**

**8Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, “The Lord has not chosen this one either.” 9Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, “Nor has the Lord chosen this one.” 10Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, “The Lord has not chosen these.” 11So he asked Jesse, “Are these all the sons you have?”**

**“There is still the youngest,” Jesse answered. “He is tending the sheep.”**

**Samuel said, “Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.”**

**12So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features.**

**Then the Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; this is the one.”**

**13So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.**

We see that the Lord had examined and searched David’s heart. His own father Jesse did not even find David as significant enough to be invited to be present when the prophet Samuel came. Samuel, the faithful prophet who came to anoint the next king of Israel, did not grasp that God did not choose one of David’s brothers to be king. Samuel was looking at the outward appearance, not the heart.

But God cannot be deceived. The Lord sees the hearts of people clearly and plainly. And God saw in David someone that would be a faithful shepherd for Israel.

We will unpack various qualities that the Lord saw in David in the weeks to come, but today we will focus on one of those qualities.

David cared for what was entrusted to him. While David was the youngest of Jesse’s sons, we first find David out in the field tending to his family’s flock.

David was a good steward of his family’s sheep. He made sure that they were protected and well fed and that they had sufficient water.

We are told later that David protected them from lions or bears that would seek to attack them.

He took seriously what was entrusted to him. And even though David’s heart was hidden from the eyes of people, the Lord saw in him someone that would be a good steward of many more things than sheep.

Certainly, this would not be the only quality of a person after God’s own heart. But being a good steward is important to God. Jesus and the New Testament writers spoke much about the importance of people caring for what is entrusted to them, whether it is one’s time, one’s money, one’s gifts, one’s learning.

We can righty assume that David was a good steward of more than his family’s sheep. We learn in the coming chapters of the story that David was a gifted musician. He had to have been a good steward of his musical learning as well.

David’s heart was pursuing God and God was taking notice, even though people didn’t see.

Saul, the current King of Israel, was not pursuing the heart of God, but his own self-interests.

The Lord had instructed Saul to take certain actions against the wicked Amakalites and instead of obedience to the Lord, Saul listened to his men and chose to follow their suggestions instead of God’s commands.

The Lord saw David as someone who would do differently. He was looking for a King who would steward God’s instruction and put it into practice, rather than follow the suggestions of people. And this was David.

And I am excited for us to learn much more about how David was a man after God’s own heart in the coming weeks.

But today, as we reflect on David’s stewarding the flock and his musical learning, I would like for us to consider how we can be people after God’s own heart through highly valuing good stewardship as well.

I want to just give you a few practical examples of how we can pursue God’s heart through good stewardship in what God has entrusted to us.

One way is by treasuring God’s written Word. There are many good devotions out there and good Christian books, but the meat and potatoes of our Christian growth is meant to come from reading and reflecting on God’s Word. We can do it alone and with others. In our county, most everyone has a Bible, oftentimes more than 1. But far fewer are seeking to steward God’s Word deep in their hearts.

As Pastor John Estes often said, “Do not just be hearers of the Word, but doers as well”.

This doesn’t mean that we have to know and understand every passage of Scripture, but it does mean that it is essential for us that we take time to be regularly in God’s Word.

And it is not a race to how fast we read the Bible. Sometimes less is more, if we are taking time to pray and reflect on what we are reading and hearing.

I spoke a good bit about this last week in regards to Paul and how he sought to steward a deep walk with Christ.

And we can steward our relationship with God in a variety of ways.

One way we can steward our walk with Christ well is by giving God our time. While we all have obligations in our lives, we should be mindful of how we can use all of our time as holy time for the Lord.

Everything we do, we are to do for the glory of Christ and God. Our work can be holy stewardship of our time.

We must use our time each day as a gift from God that we can use to grow as followers of Jesus.

Another way that we can be good stewards is by stewarding our learning. Every sermon is an opportunity. Every time you are in the Bible it’s an opportunity. And it is learning in other ways, to be good stewards.

We can hear many messages in our lives. But it is better to hear less and steward them well, than to hear more and to have things go in one ear and other the other.

Sometimes it takes writing down notes as you are learning to help us retain things

There are stories of Christians that do not own a Bible, because those have been confiscated or are illegal. But they have little snippets. A verse or two here and there.

I know a story of Christians being imprisoned for their faith and visitors would bring in food for them and in the food would be hidden a verse. And gradually they would learn and memorize extended passages of Scripture, as it would sink down seek within their hearts.

Just a beautiful example of stewardship.

So friends, as we enjoy this last week of the Olympics ahead, let it remind us that we are to be people that live with a full heart for Christ.

Let these great words from the Hillsong from the song *I Give You My Heart* be our prayer:

(Sing) **“This is my desire to honor You. Lord with all my heart, I worship You. All I have within me, I give You praise. All that I adore is in You. Lord I give You my heart. I give You my soul. I live for You alone. Every breath that I take, every moment I’m awake, Lord have Your way in me.”**

So friends, as we seek to live out of the new hearts that Jesus gave us through our faith in Him, let us consider what God may be calling us to steward. And with the help of the Holy Spirit, may we steward these things well.

Let us pray…

Resources;

I Give You My Heart – Hillsong Worship – Found on Youtube

Biblegateway.com

Living From the Heart Jesus Gave You by E. James Wilder

Sources:

<https://www.CompellingTruth.org/what-is-the-heart.html>