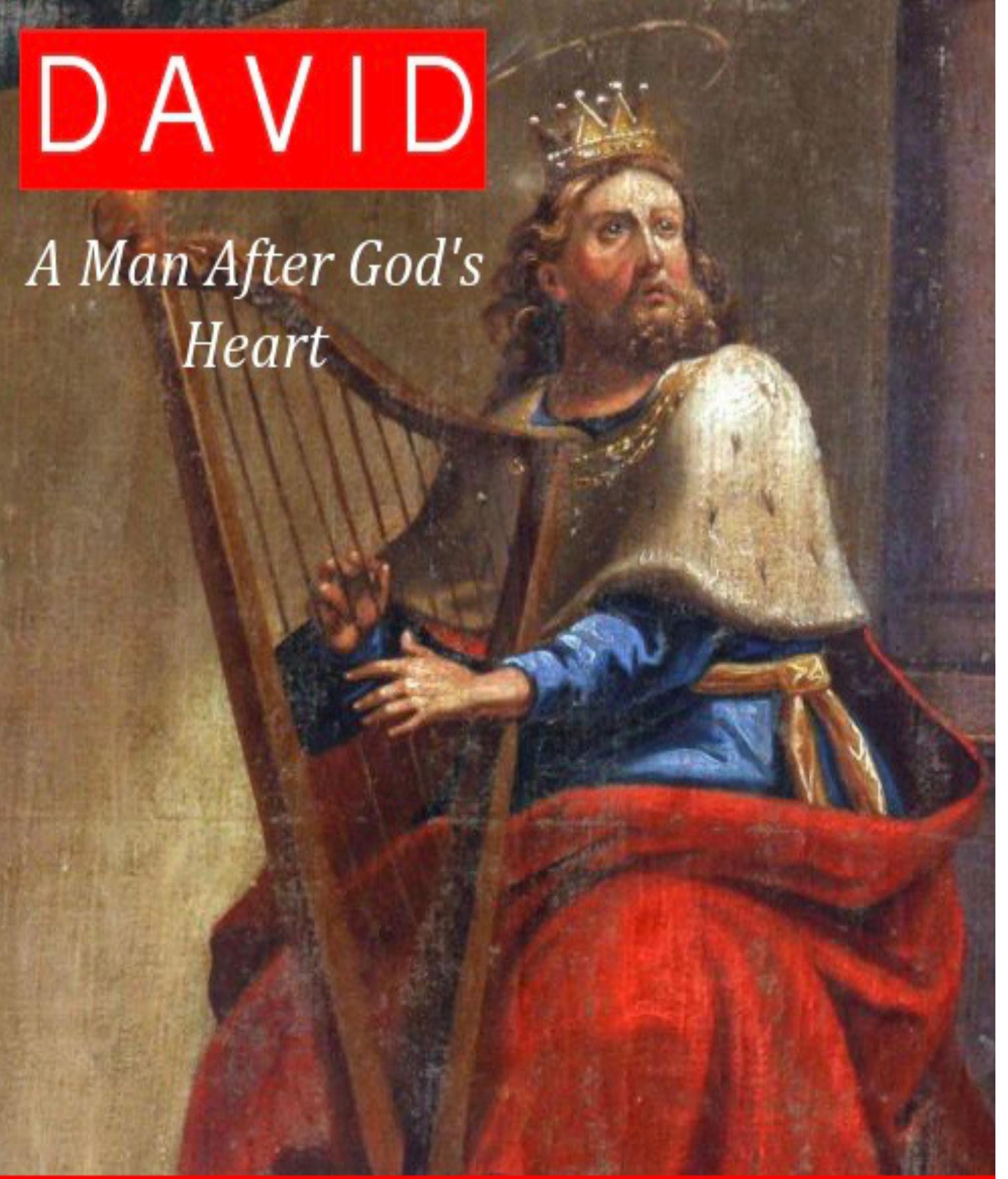


DAVID

*A Man After God's
Heart*



Spend 30 Days With A King

David, a man after God's own heart, was a huge success and at the same time a huge failure. He was not perfect, he made mistakes, but at the end of the day he was someone who lived out a real and authentic relationship with God. Our lives may look a lot like David's – with the exception off all the wives, concubines, war, lies, treachery, politics, deception, and drama (or maybe not). In the midst of some very tough circumstances and some major sin issues David still sought after God. My hope is that as you spend the next 30 days with him you will be encouraged to seek after God no matter what may be going on in your life. We can all be men and women after God's own heart and David can help show us the way. Listen intently to what he has to say to you today.

Take the time to read the chapter listed at the beginning of each day. There is so much to David's life I do not want you to miss out by just reading the verses I highlighted and comments I made.

Your fellow pursuer of God's Heart,
Pastor Matt

Day 1 – Read 1 Samuel 13 The Right Man For The Job

1 Samuel 13:13-14 (NLT)

“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. But 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.”

When the people rejected God and demanded a king (1 Samuel 8:4-9) all they knew was they wanted to be like everyone else. But, God knew the person to lead them needed to be someone special, someone after his own heart. Saul was given the opportunity to be that man, to lead God's people, and to pursue God's heart. But, it was not long after he became king that it became evident it was not God's heart he was pursuing, but his own. In his disobedience he missed an opportunity to be a part of something special.

It is hard to think David was given the opportunity to play such an important role in God's plan because Saul messed his opportunity up. Everyday God gives us opportunities to be a part of His plan because He believes we are the right people for the job and, just like Saul, there are times that we mess that up. So, let's make it a point to live always in pursuit of God's heart.

Day 2 – Read 1 Samuel 16 Not About Appearance

1 Samuel 16:6-7 (NLT)

“When they arrived, Samuel took one look at Eliab and thought, “Surely this is the Lord’s anointed!” 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.””

It is easy to define people and their capabilities based off of outward appearance, but there is so much more to a person than that. Samuel quickly learns that lesson as he looks for someone who, according to the world's standards, looked like a king. God was not interested in someone who looked like a king; God wanted someone who would let Him use them as a king (a big difference). He needed someone with the right heart, one He could mold and shape.

Being God, He has a distinct advantage over us when it comes to looking past appearance. All we can see is appearance so that is the easiest thing for us to judge. So, that is exactly what we do most of the time. To look at someone's heart requires us to put our initial assumptions and definitions on hold and truly get to know someone. In that time of relationship building God will help us become more aware of their heart and not just their appearance. Make it a point to get to know people, despite your initial impressions.

Day 3 – Read 1 Samuel 17

Trust Big

1 Samuel 17:37 (NLT)

“The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!” Saul finally consented. “All right, go ahead,” he said. “And may the Lord be with you!””

Saul and his army were up against a formidable foe. The Philistine army was strong and effective, but they also had this giant that everyone was scared of. No one was willing to even stand up against him. The giant did not even have to defeat them, their fear was doing a good job of that. I am sure David was nervous, maybe even a little scared, going up against this giant – he had to be, he was only human! The difference between David and all these other soldiers was that his trust in God was bigger than his fear of the giant. It was that trust that got him the victory.

In life we will have fear. We will fear failure, death, sickness, embarrassment, change, and.... (fill free to add your fear to this list). When our fear is bigger than our trust in God it wins and we live defeated, even if the thing we are afraid of never actually happens. David trusted God because he kept record of the things God delivered him from. Pay attention to the things God delivers you (and others) from, write it down if you have to, then when fear begins to defeat you, remind yourself of the One who is bigger.

Day 4 – Read 1 Samuel 18

A Powerful Presence

1 Samuel 18:14-15 (NLT)

“David continued to succeed in everything he did, for the Lord was with him. When Saul recognized this, he became even more afraid of him.”

The Lord’s presence brought success in David’s life and fear in Saul’s. This is the same God, but two very different results. The reason is fairly simple; David was obedient and Saul was not. At this point in David’s life he was making very wise decisions and behaving just as God was directing (as we will see later this is not always the case in his life). The result of this kind of life was success and a tremendous amount of respect from the people, they loved him.

God’s presence in our lives is a very powerful thing. When we listen to him and take advantage of His presence we can be successful in being the people He wants us to be. In those moments of obedience His presence is not something to fear, but something to be excited about. Are you living in the joy and excitement of God’s presence or in fear of it?

Day 5 - Read 1 Samuel 19-20

Good Friends

I Samuel 19:1-2 (NLT)

“Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David. But Jonathan, because of his strong affection for David, told him what his father was planning.

“Tomorrow morning,” he warned him, “you must find a hiding place out in the fields.”

Good friends are hard to find, but very necessary to have. David understood this better than most. His life was saved twice in this chapter by two good friends; his wife and Jonathan. David was about to go down a very long and hard road, God knew that, so He made sure he did not have to walk that road alone. David was wise in accepting their help and not trying to do it by himself.

There are times in life where we will be called on to be the good friend and there will be times when we are in need of some good friends. The great thing about going after God's heart is that we are part of a great body of people doing the same thing; we are not on this journey alone. So, do not try to do it by yourself and do not let those around you live without a good friend. How can you be a good friend today?

Day 6 – Read 1 Samuel 21-22

In A Cave

I Samuel 22:1-2

“So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.”

At this point David is running for his life. He is trying to find a safe haven, some place where no one recognizes him, a place he can hide. His search comes up empty and he finds himself hiding alone in a cave. It must have been disheartening to him, to know God has a great plan for him but, before he can enjoy the fullness of that plan he has to hide in a cave. Would he continue to trust God's plan or come up with one of his own that did not include a cave? It seems David stuck it out in the cave, long enough for others to find out where he was and come to him.

We often find ourselves in caves. We end up there for many different reasons and they can be very lonely places. God provided David with some encouragement by sending people to that cave who were in similar positions as David. His cave filled up fast and instead a place of sorrow it became a training ground for an army. Know that whatever cave you are in, there are others in it with you. But, notice what happens next – David leads them out of the cave. Caves are not places we stay; they are places we leave. Find the other people in your cave and leave it, together.

Day 7 – Read 1 Samuel 23-24

The Enemy Trapped

1 Samuel 24:3-4 (NLT)

"At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave! "Now's your opportunity!" David's men whispered to him. "Today the LORD is telling you, 'I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.' " So David crept forward and cut off a piece of the hem of Saul's robe."

It is interesting to note Saul is trying to kill the very man who was once the only one who calmed him when he was distressed by an evil spirit. How quickly people can turn on each other when they get in the way of their personal agenda. At this point, Saul has made life very miserable for David. Now, here Saul is, very literally caught with his pants down. David's army wants to take advantage of this opportunity and end it – Saul wants to kill you, let's kill him first!

When we are faced with dealing with our enemies there are those who give us similar advice – do to them what they have been or want to do to you. Destroy your enemy before they can destroy you seems to be our culture's motto. But, that does not settle well with the one who is after God's heart. David doesn't kill him, he just cuts off a part of his robe and feels guilty about that. David lives what Jesus taught in the New Testament – to love our enemy and pray for those who persecute us. When dealing with your enemies, do as David did, show grace, mercy, and restraint.

Day 8 – Read 1 Samuel 25

Be Teachable

1 Samuel 25:32-33 (NLT)

"David replied to Abigail, "Praise the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you to meet me today! Thank God for your good sense! Bless you for keeping me from murder and from carrying out vengeance with my own hands."

David is human after all! In his anger toward Nabal for not paying him he is ready to commit murder. If it were not for Abigail he probably would have gone through with his plan. What is amazing to me in this story is that even in the midst of his anger he remained teachable and humble. He was angry, but not blinded by it.

We are bound to have conflicts in our life and we are bound to get angry. What will we do with that anger? Will we let it blind us to any intervention? No matter what happens in our lives we must always remain humble and vigilant for the voice of God. If we do not, our anger could lead us down some very scary paths. Be teachable in all circumstances and in the midst of every emotion.

Day 9 – Read 1 Samuel 26-27, 29

To Trust or Not To Trust

1 Samuel 26:10; 27:1 (NLT)

“Surely the Lord will strike Saul down someday, or he will die of old age or in battle.... But David kept thinking to himself, “Someday Saul is going to get me. The best thing I can do is escape to the Philistines. Then Saul will stop hunting for me in Israelite territory, and I will finally be safe.””

Did David trust God or not? At one moment he shows complete trust in His plan and in another he shows total doubt. Time and time again God rescues David from Saul and puts Saul right in front of David. Every time David walks away because he believes God is in control. Then, why does he run off to the enemy (seemingly walking away from God)?

Do we trust God or not? There are times when we are exactly like David – trusting God in one moment and then doubting in the next. The scary thing about our doubt is that when we stay there, we start to think on human terms and not on God's.

David started thinking like a fallen human coming to fallen conclusions (Saul will kill me, I will be better off with the enemy). When doubt starts to creep into our life we need to get rid of it quickly, if we don't, we just might find ourselves running to the land of the enemy for false security.

Day 10 – Read 1 Samuel 30

Find The Strength

1 Samuel 30:6 (NLT)

“David was now in great danger because all his men were very bitter about losing their sons and daughters, and they began to talk of stoning him. But David found strength in the Lord his God. ”

David had plenty to think about and worry about. Saul was out to kill him, his wives were just taken captive, his village was destroyed, the Philistines no longer trusted him, and the army was ready to stone him. That is a bad day, a day that could have led to David's defeat, but instead it is a day that ends in great victory. He chose to not wallow in self-pity, but to spend time in the presence of God.

David was in desperate need of supernatural strength to make it through this day, and he found just what he was looking for. God will provide you with the strength you need to make it through even the worst of days. You might be carrying around quite a burden, one that will defeat you if you let it. Jesus asks us for our burden, He wants to carry our loads. Let's give it to Him so that in Him we can find the strength to keep moving forward to victory.

Day 11 – Read 2 Samuel 1

Not Just Me

2 Samuel 1:12 (NLT)

"They mourned and wept and fasted all day for Saul and his son Jonathan, and for the Lord's army and the nation of Israel, because they had died by the sword that day."

The loudest cry of sorrow for the death of Saul comes from David, the man he tried to kill. Instead of rejoicing in the demise of his enemy, David weeps and mourns. Why? David always respected Saul, not because of who Saul was, but because of the One who put him in that position. He had an eye for the bigger picture – God’s plan, God’s glory, and God’s Kingdom. In a moment when he could have rejoiced because of what Saul’s death meant for him he cried because of what Saul’s death meant for the nation – a defeat.

All throughout Scripture we are reminded of the bigger picture and how life is not just about “me.” We live in a culture that celebrates “me” and encourages success by any means necessary, even if that means the defeat of another. But, to live a life in pursuit of God’s heart is to live a life that is more concerned about the “us” rather than just the “me.”

Day 12 – Read 2 Samuel 2

Finally!

2 Samuel 2:4 (NLT)

"Then the men of Judah came to David and anointed him king over the people of Judah."

Talk about hard work paying off! It had been about 15 years since he received Samuel’s anointing to be king. 15 years of running, hiding, and worry. I cannot imagine what David must have been feeling in this moment. It reminds me of Proverbs 13:12, “hope deferred makes the heart sick, but longing fulfilled is the tree of life.”

Waiting for the things God has promised can get exhausting and difficult at times, but the wait is worth it. Had David strayed from the course this day may have never come. Stay the course! The things God has called you to and promised will come to pass, do not lose hope. One day, the tree of life will be ours!

Day 13 – Read 2 Samuel 3-4

Political Intrigue

2 Samuel 3:1 (NLT)

"That was the beginning of a long war between those who were loyal to Saul and those loyal to David. As time passed David became stronger and stronger, while Saul's dynasty became weaker and weaker."

Even a man after God's own heart is not free from the consequences of bad decisions and human frailty. David did not have it easy and in many ways he did not make it easy. There was civil war and distrust amongst the people, he let his love of women cloud his judgment, and his very children grew out of control. Because David was indebted to these men, it was difficult for him to oppose them. Humans know how to make a mess of things.

In the midst of the political mess, the lies, and the murder David's house still became stronger and stronger while Saul's became weaker and weaker. While David was making his share of mistakes and traveling a difficult road he still kept his eyes on God. God can and will see us through our messes, so long as we do not take our eyes off of him.

Day 14 – Read 2 Samuel 5

Burst Through

2 Samuel 5:20 (NLT)

"So David went to Baal-perazim and defeated the Philistines there. "The Lord did it!" David exclaimed. "He burst through my enemies like a raging flood!" So he named that place Baal-perazim (which means "the Lord who bursts through").

David is now king over the entire kingdom and with the responsibility comes great opposition. The Philistines, the very ones David was once hiding among, have set out to destroy him, but God steps in. It seems this was an easy win for David and his army, based on the description. Despite David's imperfections God still bursts through in his life and gives him the victory.

As we pursue God's call on our life it comes with great responsibility but will also come with great opposition. There will be those who do not want to see us succeed or be effective in ministry. We may not always do everything right or make the greatest choices, but we still need to trust God for victory. He is, after all, the One who bursts through!

Day 15 – Read 2 Samuel 6-7

The Covenant

2 Samuel 7:16 (NLT)

"Your house and your kingdom will continue before me for all time, and your throne will be secure forever.' "

The Davidic Covenant is one of the most important covenants in Scripture. It is within this covenant and the one made with Abraham we begin to see God's plan of redemption. David's house and kingdom would be one that endures for eternity. It is, then, from this house the eternal King must come. This covenant makes all those long genealogies important as they trace Christ back to the house of David making Him the rightful King of God's eternal Kingdom.

There is a lot that happens between the making of this covenant and the full execution of it. It is important for us to know that God never forgets this promise or His plan. With the birth of Christ the final stages have been set in motion, one day the King will sit on His throne and there will be an eternal Kingdom of which we get to be part.

Day 16 – Read 2 Samuel 8

Right Leadership

2 Samuel 8:15 (NLT)

"So David reigned over all Israel and did what was just and right for all his people."

God was with David, helping him everywhere he went. He was experiencing victory after victory in battle. Part of what made David such a powerful leader was the way in which he led. He wasn't a dictator, he was out fighting with the people, and he was making decisions that were just and right for them. He was looking out for them.

We need to be watched out for and we need someone to fight for us. God is the one doing that, he always has been. Way back in 1 Samuel the people rebelled against God and demanded a King. They forgot how much they needed Him, how much they needed right and just leadership. God never loses sight of what we need. Even though they rebelled, He found a way to give them what they needed, a king who would lead with justice and righteousness. God will provide what we need, even when we think we don't need it.

Day 17 - Read 2 Samuel 9-10

Be Strong and Courageous

2 Samuel 10:12 (NLT)

"Be courageous! Let us fight bravely for our people and the cities of our God. May the Lord's will be done."

Joab and the army found themselves in a tough spot. Their backs were very much up against the wall. Their choices were to surrender to the army that had surrounded them or fight. They chose to fight, but not just for themselves. They were fighting for God. As a result of their courageous decision they won their battle and David was able to lead them to a huge victory.

There are several instances in Scripture where God tells us to be courageous. Following God is not for the faint of heart. There will be times when all we can do is be courageous and engage in the fight with total trust in God for the victory. I am reminded of John 16:33 where Jesus tells us to not be scared in times of trial, but to be courageous because He has already overcome the world.

Day 18 - Read 2 Samuel 11

Temptation Wins

2 Samuel 11:2-3 (NLT)

"Late one afternoon, after his midday rest, David got out of bed and was walking on the roof of the palace. As he looked out over the city, he noticed a woman of unusual beauty taking a bath. He sent someone to find out who she was, and he was told, "She is Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam and the wife of Uriah the Hittite."

David has had a problem with women all of his life. If we look back over his relationship there are many different wives and concubines. Now, in this moment as he gives in to temptation for a woman yet again, the sin catches up to him. Not only does he sleep with another man's wife, but he has that man killed in an attempt to cover up his sin. This was David's greatest weakness.

What is your weakness and what are you doing to control it or overcome it? If we give in to our weaknesses eventually we may find ourselves in over our heads. David needed to deal with this sin long before this, but he waited until it spiraled out of control. Learn from David. Stop justifying and covering up your sin, instead confess your sin and allow God to free you from it.

Day 19 – Read 2 Samuel 12

The Pain of Sin

2 Samuel 12:13 (NLT)

"Then David confessed to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan replied, "Yes, but the Lord has forgiven you, and you won't die for this sin."

Sin, while fun for a while, ends in pain and misery. David's fleshly desires were fulfilled with Bathsheba and maybe even a little with the death of her husband, but there were consequences to the sin. God was angry with him and was ready to destroy him. But, when David confessed, God forgave. Thank Him for His grace and forgiveness.

David, however, still suffered the pain of the sin with the death of the child. Sin is a very serious thing and we cannot escape the consequences or the pain of it in this life. God will forgive us but there still may be some suffering as a result. When we suffer because of sin do not think you are unforgiven, rejoice in your forgiveness and trust God for the strength to make it through the suffering.

Day 20 – Read 2 Samuel 13

Like Father, Like Son

2 Samuel 13:39 (NLT)

"And King David, now reconciled to Amnon's death, longed to be reunited with his son Absalom."

Absalom and Amnon were both sons of David, they both took after their father. Amnon gave in to his temptation for a woman and Absalom took things into his own hands in response to that sin. Amnon ended up dead and Absalom ended up running and hiding for three years. No doubt, David understood where both of his children were coming from and what they were going through. David neglected justice and it ended up a son dead and another in hiding.

We, like David, will make mistakes but we cannot let those mistakes influence our definitions of justice and righteousness. When those we care about commit the same, or similar, mistakes it is not time for us to turn our heads, but to teach and lead from the very lessons we learned. When we ignore others sin, just because it is similar to ours, we are not helping but only hurting. In grace, we must find ways to hold others accountable to their sin, even if it makes us feel like a hypocrite.

Day 21 – Read 2 Samuel 14-15

Not Again!

2 Samuel 15:13-14 (NLT)

“A messenger soon arrived in Jerusalem to tell David, “All Israel has joined Absalom in a conspiracy against you!” “Then we must flee at once, or it will be too late!”...

After all this time David is fleeing for his life once again. His own son has conspired against him and is trying to take over the throne. What a blow to the king and a horrible reminder of the past. Most of this was a result of David not dealing with sin aggressively but letting it creep into his life and into his family's life. In the midst of this turmoil God send people into David's life to encourage him and stand with him.

When things blow up in our face, even when it is our fault, we need people in our lives who will stand with us and not give up on us. David quickly learned who his true friends were. Be a person who loves as Jesus loves and make sure to surround yourself with people who love as Jesus loves, it will make life much easier to bear.

Day 22 – Read 2 Samuel 16

Soft Heart, Thick Skin

2 Samuel 16:10-12 (NLT)

“‘No!’ the king said. ‘Who asked your opinion, you sons of Zeruiah! If the Lord has told him to curse me, who are you to stop him?’ Then David said to Abishai and to all his servants, ‘My own son is trying to kill me. Doesn’t this relative of Saul have even more reason to do so? Leave him alone and let him curse, for the Lord has told him to do it. And perhaps the Lord will see that I am being wronged and will bless me because of these curses today.’”

David is being cursed and everyone is asking for permission to retaliate – off with his head! David's response is a picture of self-control, he waves it off and just moves on. David is at rock bottom and instead of fighting back finds the strength to forgive and not be distracted by the drama. We need to be more like David in this instance. We are going to have those who kick us when we are down, those who will say all sorts of things about us, and people that just want to start drama. When those people come along we would do well to exercise some self-control and just move on.

Remember what Jesus said, ““God blesses you when people mock you and persecute you and lie about you and say all sorts of evil things against you because you are my followers.” (Matthew 5:11)

Day 23 – Read 2 Samuel 17

God Provides A Way

2 Samuel 17:22 (NLT)

"So David and all the people with him went across the Jordan River during the night, and they were all on the other bank before dawn."

David and his group had spent all day walking the 20 miles from Jerusalem to the Jordan River. No doubt, they were ready for a good night sleep and some rest. But, with the enemy closing in, rest was not an option for them. They had to cross the Jordan at night, not an easy journey in the daylight. By dawn, they had all made it across.

God, once again, provides a way for David when the enemy was creeping at his door. It may not have been the easiest way, but he provided the strength and energy to take it. When you are facing a tough situation do not look for an easy way out, there might not be one. God will provide a way, it might take some effort and work on your part, but God will be with every step of the way.

Day 24 – Read 2 Samuel 18-19

Forgiveness

2 Samuel 19:23 (NLT)

"Then, turning to Shimei, David vowed, "Your life will be spared."

Shimei is back! This is the guy who, back in chapter 16, said all kinds of things about David cursing him. If you remember, everyone wanted him dead then. Now, with David back on the throne, they still want Shimei to pay for what he did. But, David wanted to celebrate his being king again and not tarnish it with a heart of unforgiveness and bitterness.

David let forgiveness win, why? I think David knew how much he had been forgiven and was sharing that same thing with those around him. It is also possible he understood where Shimei was coming from and did not blame him for his words. We must find ways to forgive if we want to enjoy the victories God has given us. All of us, like David, have been forgiven much and therefore we are only expected to go do the same.

Day 25 – Read 2 Samuel 20-21

Making Amends

2 Samuel 21:3 (NLT)

David asked them, “What can I do for you? How can I make amends so that you will bless the Lord’s people again?”

Israel was experiencing a curse from God because Saul had slaughtered the Gibeonites. The slaughter violated a treaty that existed between them and had been established before the Lord. When David sought God as to the reason for the famine all of this was revealed to him. So, David met with the Gibeonites with the hopes of making amends. This could not have been easy for him, having to admit a wrong he did not commit and work toward a solution to a problem that he didn't start.

Making amends is never easy. It almost always involves admitting a wrong and making a sacrifice to make it right (when possible). David had to give up some of his men in order to make things right and stop this famine, but it was worth it. Making amends is always worth it. Admit your wrongs, apologize where needed, and do what you can to right your wrongs. In those moments God is glorified and extends his hand of blessing.

Day 26 – Read 2 Samuel 22

Out Of Many Waters

2 Samuel 22:17 (NLT)

“He reached down from heaven and rescued me; he drew me out of deep waters.”

David's words of praise are some of the most powerful and honest words spoken by this king. There is much we can learn about God in this song. The overarching theme is the steadfastness and faithfulness of God. David trusted God in every aspect of his life, no matter how deep the waters. God pulled him out of trouble on more than one occasion and in many different circumstances – danger, temptation, sin, failure, and the list goes on. God rescued him and He is there to rescue us and pull us out of the same waters. Do not fear – God is our rock and our fortress!

Day 27 – Read 2 Samuel 23

Mighty Men

2 Samuel 23:8 (NLT)

"These are the names of David's mightiest warriors...."

David was a great leader. His success was based on his relationship with the Lord and the loyalty, bravery, and success of his soldiers. He had trained up, equipped, and found men who were very capable of fighting his battles and getting the wins they needed. These men would do anything for their leader – even breaking through enemy lines to get him a drink of water. David had a lot of success but it was not his alone.

When God calls us to do great things, He will usually bring great people into our life to help us along the way. Once you have determined what it is God is calling you to do, do not hesitate to seek out great people to join you. It is also important to not settle for just anyone to be on your team, make sure they are the right person for the job and they are who God wants. We all need some mighty men (and women) on our side.

Day 28 – Read 2 Samuel 24

A Troubled Heart

2 Samuel 24:10 (NLT)

"But after he had taken the census, David's conscience began to bother him. And he said to the Lord, "I have sinned greatly by taking this census. Please forgive my guilt, Lord, for doing this foolish thing."

David was far from perfect yet still described as a man after God's heart and this is why. Throughout his entire life he maintained a sensitive heart for the things of God. He acted in the moment, perhaps out of pride, bragging rights for having the biggest army, but latter did not try to justify it. David was quick to admit his mistake and confess his sin before God.

That's what set apart those who are after God's heart and those who are not – a willingness to admit the sin and to confess it. We are human and will make mistakes, what we do with those mistakes, what we do with the sin we commit is the real question. David confessed it and faced the consequences. If you want to truly pursue God's heart be ready to confess the sin in your life, deal with the consequences, and continue following God. Listen to your troubled heart, it's God trying to get your attention.

Day 29 – Read 1 Chronicles 28

Praise God

1 Chronicles 28:4 (NLT)

"Yet the Lord, the God of Israel, has chosen me from among all my father's family to be king over Israel forever. For he has chosen the tribe of Judah to rule, and from among the families of Judah he chose my father's family. And from among my father's sons the Lord was pleased to make me king over all Israel."

David had big plans for the Kingdom, he wanted to build a temple for the Ark of the Covenant, but he did not get it done. He made his share of mistakes and probably would have liked to see some things turn out differently. In the end David's focus was not on what did not work out, but on what did. God had called him to be king and used him to further His plan. That is something to be excited about and to praise God for.

It is easy for us to get overwhelmed with the things in life that did not turn out how we had hoped or wanted. Instead of focusing on those unfulfilled desires, focus on all the good things God has done in and through each of us. Not all of our dreams will come true and that is ok, because we can praise God for all the ones that do. He is busy doing great things, look around and take note!

Day 30 – Read 1 Kings 2

Walk In God's Ways

1 Kings 2:2-3 (NLT)

"I am going where everyone on earth must someday go. Take courage and be a man. Observe the requirements of the Lord your God, and follow all his ways. Keep the decrees, commands, regulations, and laws written in the Law of Moses so that you will be successful in all you do and wherever you go."

In his last days David gave Solomon the keys to success. When David followed these keys he was a great success and experienced great victories. When he strayed from them he experienced hardship and defeat. To be successful in the work of the Lord is not complicated, all we need to do is what David told Solomon – obey God, follow His ways.

David was not perfect, but he was authentic to the core. He was a man who lived in humility, dependability, and integrity. He has shown us that we too can live that way despite our shortcomings and failures, we too can be men and women after God's own heart.