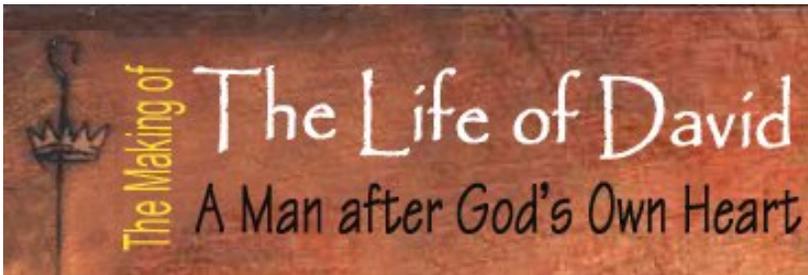




1 Samuel 21:10-15

Delivering from Fear Sunday, Mar 26th 2006



What is the most embarrassing season of your life?

- We all have embarrassing moments in life
- Seasons are more...periods of time
 - Tried something, into something – that if those around us knew – seem crazy
- If I could play on screen, true events of your life – perhaps quite humiliating.

I am convinced that what we are going to read today was such a season for David

- I have a sense that all of his days, would be embarrassed if asked him about his days in Gath
- Yet...there would be a twinkle in his eye...for it was here God taught him something powerful

I. David in Gath?

1. David & Goliath

- a. See Goliath 17:4
- b. See Israel, afraid, fleeing 17:11, 24
- c. See David's faith v.32
- d. Hear David's confidence .v45-47
- e. Jonathan's heart knit, people loved
- f. So do I – I read and love the heart - want

2. David goes to Gath

- a. David was armed w/faith...now a sword, goliaths!
 - i) Irony of it you cannot miss...telling
- b. David is fleeing! Looks a lot like Israel that day
- c. David flees to Gath...amazing, almost shocking

3. What is David thinking?

- a. Honestly – we don't know
 - i) One hand – possibility of getting killed

- ii) Other hand – to totally capitulate...destroy him
- b. Honestly – probably not thinking...clearly
- c. Know this – David is greatly afraid – fear gripped
 - i) Began back in 20:3
 - ii) Began to doubt promises, doubt God's plan
 - iii) Faith is based on hearing God – believing
 - iv) Doubt, fear taken hold...everything up for grabs
 - v) Fear is irrational...drives to do stupid things

4. Gets worse...watch David descend – acts crazy

- a. Imagine it...so horrible, so embarrassing

5. Tempted to ask – who are you and what did you do with my David?

II. God's Heroes...are real

1. Danger of Disappointment

- a. One of the struggles in life – seeing clay feet of heroes –is the sense, we don't want it that way
- b. We want perfection, consistency
- c. God is honest about His heroes
 - i) **Think of Abraham – great man of faith**
 - A. Yet...Egypt, lies...not much faith
 - B. Rebuked by world!
 - C. Not only lapse...Gerar, Hagar
 - ii) **Noah – found grace, good man**
 - A. See the scene...lying drunk
 - iii) **Elijah – man of faith, boldness, prayer**
 - A. Stops the rain– contest w/850 false prophets
 - B. Next chapter...running from a woman!
 - iv) **Peter – bold, outspoken, confident**
 - A. Denied the Lord to servant girls
 - B. Folly at Galatia
- d. God's heroes are not perfect, but God is
 - i) Romans 3:3-4 📖
 - ii) 2 Corinthians 1:17-20 📖

2. Danger of Condemnation – self or others

- a. So easy to condemn – like black and white
 - i) See folly & want to paint all that are bad then
 - ii) David is not bad, God is not done with him
 - A. Has 40 years of ministry ahead
 - iii) Don't be a part of satan's condemnation

A. Day & night he condemns – doesn't have to lie

B. Last days–will be normal in church **2Tim 3:3** 📖

b. So easy to feel condemned – to condemn ourselves

i) At that moment – feel all over

ii) Feel like crawling into a whole & disappearing

iii) How Elijah felt 1 Kings 19

iv) Who would follow such a king? Could the Philistines ever get picture out of mind – crazy

v) Satan never underestimates our sin

A. But constantly underestimates God's grace

3. Danger of Rationalization

a. David is real...struggled, behaved foolishly

b. Yet...this is not where David stayed- not who was

c. Danger is looking at this, later sins – finding reason, excuse to make it a lifestyle – NOT

d. God is gracious, see it...but not to live it it

e. David gets up, David repents, David moves to Lord

III. Watch David turn back to God

1. Personal hunch – wonder if v.12 started

a. Notice said he took it to heart – depth in those words – more than emotion of a moment

i) Wonder if these words “woke him up eventually”

b. My story – testimony – folly, forgot all that God had done, had showed, even how I lived

2. Psalm 56

a. Be merciful – crying out not to give what deserve

b. Lesson learned – when afraid – trust in You

i) A lesson, a refrain to make true in life

c. When cry out – God will acts

d. This I know – because God is for me

e. Knows God rescued Him...worshiped Him

3. Psalm 34

a. Continual praise

b. Humble hear and be glad

c. Sought Lord and heard me – delivered from fears

i) Coming up from emotional valley

d. Radiant faces...no shame

e. Call to you – taste and see how good God is

i) Not telling you from a perfect life

ii) But a life that has pushed God's faithfulness

Conclusion

What is God doing

David is in training – preparation

Perhaps David learning...compassion

Perhaps learning he too can be afraid –

- scary to see power & control it can have over you

David is learning through mistakes

- Sad...seems so often the way it has to be
- Story of young man seeking advice from CEO
- Experience – learned by failure, by mistakes
- No experience is a complete failure in life, if we have learned from it