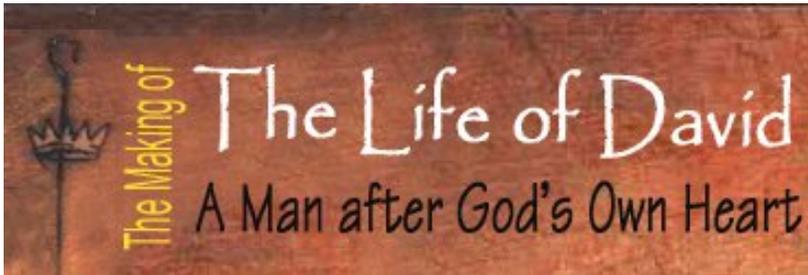




1 Samuel 22

Returning to God Sunday, Apr 2nd 2006



There are messages – I wish I never had to give

- Not because they are not real
- Not because they are not necessary
- Not because they are not helpful
- Wish were some situations that never happened

What kind of situation am I talking about?

- Returning to God – Rededication to God
- Wish it never happened
 - Wish Christians never walked away
 - Bible shows they can
 - History is replete with examples
- Today we are watching David return from an episode of running from God
 - Wish I could tell you only happens once in a life – once in David – but

What does being away from God look like?

- **For David – being in Philistine territory**
 - Philistines always Usurping what belongs to God
- **Often rebelling, running from God's call on life**
 - Time of “doing own thing” – charge of own life
- **Depending on self for success**
 - Often lies, manipulation

How does one get away from God?

- Some wander, some walk, many run away

Why does one run from God?

- Variety - Issues with self, with God, with others
- But if I had to be overly simplistic – I would sum it up with – unfulfilled expectations
 - Expectations of self, others, God–disappointed
- For David–lost job, wife, best friend, mentor – not his fault – runs from God

Are you running from God today? – this is for you

- Perhaps one who loves you has gotten you CD
- Perhaps here in church – running
 - Funny...but it happens...often
 - Going through motions of church
 - But in truth – doing own thing, depending on self

Tell you this – there is a way back – is a return to God

- God is the God of the second chance...and more
- Today, invite you to watch a return to God

I. Return to “Walking”

1. Notice in v.1 – word “departed” (NIV – left)

- a. Interesting – actually the Heb word for walk

2. Like it – the Christian life is a walk

- a. Part of the problem – want instantaneous change
- b. Walk is a slow, steady, upwards progress

3. Coming back to the Lord? Walk from where you are

- a. Sometimes wish to go back – can't
- b. Often wish to fast forward, instant change – can't
- c. Walk from where you are

II. Accepting God's “Way” for us

1. As David comes back...comes to a cave

- a. Far different than what has known before
 - i) Life in a family...then serving in palace

2. To come back to God...is to accept His plan, His way

- a. David writes two Psalms at this time
- b. Look at a couple verses – Ps 57:1, 142:3

3. Jesus spoke of this to one seeking to follow

- a. Luke 9:57-58

III. Accepting Service before us

- 1. One of the things David ran from – serving God**
 - a. Often the case with us as well....Jonah
- 2. But back in God's "Way" – begins to serve**
 - a. Fascinating...new beginning for him...small
 - b. His first real leadership...do this for 10 years
- 3. While here...David develops his first followers**
 - a. His family comes – knew him...trouble because
- 4. But others come too- distressed, debt, discontent**
 - a. Distressed – stressed, pressure – squeezed
 - b. Debt – lit from usury – wrong, abused
 - c. Discontent – lit discontent souls – in soul
 - d. Great thoughts to consider, seeing us in that lot – will pursue hopefully later. For us, we are watching David be trained, what he is going thru
 - i) Imagine– looking at this motley crew – exciting?
 - ii) Sure Saul was not worried, bummed out
 - iii) But David served these – became leader
 - iv) Under David – these become mighty men
- 5. The thought is – accepting service God puts before us**
 - a. This is often what is discouraging
 - b. In our imagination, see perfect world. Then the service that is before us...find self wanting something else...another option, another door

IV. Accepting God's Timing

- 1. Notice David's words – till I know what God will do**
 - a. See in those words a right submission, waiting
 - b. This perhaps is part of why he ran
- 2. Waiting on God...key...heart...hard**

V. Accepting God's Guidance

- 1. Wonderful – notice God is guiding**
 - a. Simply...has not happened for some time
 - b. Wasn't guided to Gath, in Nob, to Nob, to run
- 2. Back to a place – of letting God guide**

VI. Accepting Cost of following

1. Again, David's family comes to him

- a. Then takes parents to Moab
- b. Probably too old...to hard to be traveling like this

2. Bible students struggle with this

- a. Some see as wrong – Moab, bad alliance,
- b. Some see as right – family connections, caring for family
- c. What do we do with this? I don't know
- d. This I do know – David writes about his struggle with his family – Psalm 27
- e. Never hear from again...may have rejected him

3. Jesus spoke of this struggle

4. Truth is that this is one of the greatest struggles

- a. True around world...history – even today
- b. There is a cost to following Jesus – everything
- c. Family, friends, connections that hold us back

VII. Accepting our Consequences

1. Covered a few weeks ago – just touch on
2. His time of running from God – hurt others
 - a. Priests of Nob killed – his fault
3. David accepts responsibility
4. David cares for those now that he can

Conclusion

Call you back to the Lord

- I will follow

Is a submission to the Lord, trusting Him, glorifying Him

Gospel

Turn this for a moment

Types in this passage

David anointed king – not yet reigning

- Jesus is the anointed one
 - Satan is usurping, sitting on throne
-

- Now...those who see Jesus reign, going out to him
- Descends into cave – Jesus into tomb
- Come to Him
- Some come – because of family feel
- Some distressed – hemmed in
- Some debt – abused by life
- Some discouraged souls – hungry
- Blessed are the circumstances that bring us to God