

After God's Own Heart

"A Man After God's Own Heart Shares God's Kindness"

May 31, 2015 – 2 Samuel 9

Our Sermon Series

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART		
A 13-Week Study of the Life of David from 1 and 2 Samuel		
Date	Message Title	Bible Text
Apr 4/5	A Man After God's Own Heart	1 Samuel 16
Apr 12	A Man After God's Own Heart Faces Giants	1 Samuel 17
Apr 19	A Man After God's Own Heart Develops Friendships	1 Samuel 18-20
Apr 26	A Man After God's Own Heart Respects God	1 Samuel 24-26
May 3	A Man After God's Own Heart Turns to God in Hard Times	1 Samuel 30
May 10	A Man After God's Own Heart Is Patient	2 Samuel 1-5
May 17	A Man After God's Own Heart Worships Passionately	2 Samuel 5-6
May 24	A Man After God's Own Heart Receives God's Kindness	2 Samuel 7
May 31	A Man After God's Own Heart Shares God's Kindness	2 Samuel 9
June 7	A Man After God's Own Heart Repents of Sin	2 Samuel 11-12
June 14	A Man After God's Own Heart Humbles Himself	2 Samuel 13-19
June 21	A Man After God's Own Heart Multiplies Himself	2 Samuel 23
June 28	A Man After God's Own Heart Submits to God's Mercy	2 Samuel 24

A Recap of Last Week's Message

Through the Davidic Covenant of 2 Samuel 7, God communicates (among other promises) that His love for David was steadfast. That love is still extended to us today. God loves you without condition! Open yourself to receiving God's love, refer to yourself as "loved", learn to love yourself and love others. The only way to show God's kindness to others (2 Sam 9) is to first receive God's kindness as David did (2 Sam 7).

CAUTION: We must not discount the impact of this old fashioned, fruit of the Spirit, organic, simple, family-altering, conflict-diffusing, workplace-shaping, foundational, Bible-taught, Jesus-modeled, God-instructed, powerful attribute called kindness. If we follow Jesus, we are called to outrageous kindness. No exceptions. No excuses.

- Who is the most difficult person for you to show kindness to?
- What setting/time of day is most challenging for you to show kindness?
- Is there anywhere in my life that I have given up on showing kindness?

Five Dimensions of Kindness in 2 Samuel 9

1. Theological: We are born with an **unkind**, sinful nature.

- **Psalm 51:3, 5a** – *For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me...Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity*
- **Ephesians 2:3** – *[We] all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind, and were **by nature** children of wrath...*
- George Barna: "Given the choice between holiness or depravity, our natural inclination is toward the latter. Is there any hope for humankind, sinners that we are? Absolutely! Of our own strength we cannot change our nature, but the power of God is able and willing to bring about a 180-degree transformation in who we are...Through God's grace we can become people characterized by what the Bible calls the 'fruit' of the Spirit: 'love, joy, peace, patience, **kindness**, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.' Without the transforming presence of Christ in us, we remain obnoxious, selfish, evil-inclined adversaries of God, whether we think of ourselves in that manner or not."
- King David (the man after God's own heart) was not kind by nature. We are also not kind by nature. Christ's work on the cross is the only thing sufficient for salvation, right standing with God, pardon from sin and eternal life. His redeeming work forever alters the trajectory of a cruel, harsh, and mean-spirited heart towards kindness.
- **Important Challenge to this Point: What difference does it make if I believe man is essentially good?** J.C. Ryle writes "Wrong views of the disease will always bring with them wrong views of the remedy. Wrong views of the corruption of human nature will always carry with them wrong views of the grand antidote and cure of that corruption: Christ."
- **Application #1** – With God's help, I will re-orient my life to God's best for me and I declare war against sin wherever it is present in my life. I will choose honesty, accountability, and vow to make courageous changes to honor God privately and in my relationships.
- **Romans 13:13-14** – *"Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires."*

2. Historical: Biblical kindness is expressed to **enemies**.

- When a new king came to power in David's day, one of the first tasks was to eliminate any threats to the new throne/dynasty. Historically the former king, their families, their servants, and soldiers would have all been executed. (Saul, Jonathon, Ziba, Mephibosheth, and more)

- **Luke 6:35** – *But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return, and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, for he is kind to the ungrateful and the evil.*
- Max Lucado quote from “The Applause of Heaven”
- **Application #2** – Show kindness by praying for your enemies, those who have harmed you, or taken advantage of you.

3. Geographical: Open your heart to people around the **world** and the people living next door.

- Lo-Debar (where Mephibosheth was living) means “nowhere” and “nothing” in Hebrew. The village was east of the Jordan River and was seen as “the other side of the tracks” – an impoverished place of drugs, sex, criminals, vandals, and thugs.
- **Biggest takeaway from this message:** The people who need you the most might not have the ability or the opportunity to tell you.
- **Psalm 68:5a** – *Father of the fatherless and protector of widows...*
- **Psalm 146:9a** – *He protects the immigrants and cares for the orphans and widows...*
- **Proverbs 21:13** – *Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered.*
- Tony Merida: Those who want to alleviate suffering should want to alleviate more than just temporary suffering. They should also want to alleviate eternal suffering which can only come through faith in Christ...The Gospel is the cure for the worst of all diseases. If we really care about suffering, poverty, and injustice in our world, we will really care about taking the cure (the name of Jesus) to the ends of the earth. And for the record, nearly half of the world’s people groups live where there is no Gospel access. Half. Let that sink in. We need to make this our problem. We need to pray. And we need to go.
- **Psalm 22:27-28** – *All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For kingship belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.*
- **Application #3a** – Join the prayer gathering for our field workers who are sacrificially taking the name of Jesus to unreached places. The next prayer gathering will be held in the Mansion (Rm 207) following second service on June 7 (Next Sunday).
- **Application #3b** – As a small group, adopt a fieldworker or a family in the field. Contact Kristen at kkershner@whatisgrace.org to get started.
- **Application #3c** – Taking Christ to every corner of the earth is possible in our lifetime! Take Perspectives on the World Christian Movement on Tuesday nights starting August 18. Register at www.whatisgrace.org
- **Application #3d** – Invite someone of a different religion to share a meal with you or to join your work group for lunch. Hear their story!

- **Question: What is a wealthy man (Machir) doing in the slums of Lo-Debar?** Machir realized that it would cost more than his money to change the world. It would cost him time, comfort, future plans, “me time”, and so much more. Note: This isn’t the last time that we hear about Machir. God is aligning a plan for His glory later in David’s life. In a time when David needed help the most, a group of men (including Machir) come to his aide (2 Samuel 17).

4. Contextual: **Random** acts of kindness are nice, **regular** acts of kindness become a lifestyle!

- David was obedient to God in finding a new **daily** routine that bursts with practical kindness and forever changed the life of Mephibosheth – not to mention Ziba, his large family, and all of his servants.
- “A Dummies Guide to Being Kind”
 - **DON’T** speak unkindly of anyone. **DON’T** speak unkindly to anyone. **DON’T** act unkindly towards anyone.
 - **DO** speak kindly of someone, think kindly of someone, and act kindly towards someone at least once a day.
 - **Let others speak. Be a good listener.**
 - **Learn to say “Thank you”**
- **Application #4a** – Ask a dangerous question (maybe as a family): Is there anything about my daily routine that shows kindness to others?
- **Application #4b** – Pray a dangerous prayer (maybe as a family): “Lord, what adjustments would You make to my/our daily life in order to show Your kindness to others?”

5. Christological: An invitation to Christ’s **eternal** kindness.

- Mephibosheth and David: A picture of you and Christ!
- **Revelation 3:20** – *Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.*

Recommended Resources from this Message...

*“Ordinary: How to Turn the World Upside Down”
Tony Merida – LifeWay Christian Resources (2015)*

*Family Devotion: “The Flavor of Kindness”
Bridgette Booth – thrivingfamily.com*

“Carried to the Table” – Song by Leeland