

After God's Own Heart

"A Man After God's Own Heart Submits to God's Mercy"

June 28, 2015 – 2 Samuel 24

Our Sermon Series

AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART		
A 13-Week Study of the Life of David from 1 and 2 Samuel		
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Five Big Takeaways from 2 Samuel 24

1. **Bible:** I'm going to keep studying God's Word, even when I don't understand it all, in order to get glimpses of Him (v.1)

- The Problem: It appears that God moves David to take the census (vv.1-2). And yet it is clear later that taking the census was a sin (v.10). Why would God "incite" David to sin? God does not tempt us to sin (James 1:13-15). To make matters worse, the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 21:1 says that "satan incited David to number Israel." Which one is it – God or satan?"
- It's at moments like these that you put a question mark in the margin of your Bible and make a decision to believe in God's Word even if you don't have all the answers. Seek answers! But choose to believe even if you don't have all the answers.
- Philip Yancey: "Doubt always coexists with faith, for in the presence of certainty who would need faith at all?"
- Faith is not the absence of doubt, but rather believing in spite of doubts.
- Mark 9:24** – "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief."
- John 20:29** – Jesus said to Thomas, "Have you believed because you have seen Me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

- Possible explanation: Satan is the one who incited David to take the census and sin (1 Chron 21:1). However, nothing happens without God's permission. Thus, God gave His permission for satan to incite David in the same way that he gave satan permission to test Job (Job 1-2). Thus, in one sense, you could say that God incited David by allowing satan to incite him. Here is the glimpse of God: He is holy and sovereign. He loves us and allows us to be tested. He is wild like a lion (Aslan) but always good. You cannot put God into a box. He is mysterious and yet personal.
- Eugene Peterson quote (First and Second Samuel, Westminster Bible Companion, p.262)
- Video: "God Wrote a Book" [5:02] found at YouTube
- Application #1** – I choose to pursue knowing the God whose name is the Lion of Judah (Revelation 5:5). I will get out of bed and read His Word and seek to catch life-changing glimpses of Him.

2. **Pride:** I'm going to yield to God's Spirit in order to avoid this granddaddy of all sins (vv.2-10)

- Counting and taking a census are not a sin in and of themselves. God provided biblical guidelines for taking a census in Exodus 30:11-16 and commanded the taking of a specific census in Numbers 1. The early church counted the number of people who were baptized and joined the church (Acts 2:41; 4:4).
- David's sin here appears to be that of pride (the size of his kingdom) and placing his trust in the size of his army (rather than trusting in God).
- Psalms 20:7** – *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.*
- Moreover, David ignored counsel (Proverbs 15:22). Even, the ungodly Joab could see that taking a census was wrong (sin), but David was too prideful to listen to Joab (2 Samuel 24:3-4).
- Proverbs 16:18** – *Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.*
- Proverbs 6:16-19 list seven things the Lord hates: #1 on the list is pride!
- You could make a case for pride being the worst sin of all:

The Sin	The Consequence	The Confession
Adultery w/ Bathsheba and murder of Uriah	5 additional people die	"I have sinned" (2 Samuel 12:13)
The pride of David's census	70,000 additional people die	"I have sinned greatly" (2 Samuel 24:10)

- William Barclay: "Pride is the ground in which all the other sins grow and the parent from which all the other sins come."
- Chuck Swindoll: "Every spiritual leader would do well to read this story once per year! There were 70,000 fresh graves in Israel, 70,000 grieving families whose lives were marked by David's compromise with pride."
- Video: "Humilify" [1:27] found at sermonspice.com

- Application #2 – With God’s help and power, I am going to seek to kill pride in my life by...
 - ☐ Surrendering the driver’s seat of my life to Christ’s Spirit (Eph 5:18);
 - ☐ Humbling myself before God in prayer, confession, declarations of need, fasting, worship, and acts of obedience (James 4:10);
 - ☐ Engaging in friendships and relationships and truly listening to the counsel of those around me (Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 15:22).
 - ☐ Being accountable to others (Proverbs 27:17).

3. **Repentance:** I’m going to seek to have a responsive heart in order to quickly restore fellowship with God (v.10)

- Although it took him almost 10 months (v.8), David’s heart was open to the Lord enough to feel His conviction and respond.
- Once again, it is this quality of repentance that results in David being recorded in the eternal Word of God as a “man after God’s own heart” (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 17:22). This is the quality God most cares about!
- ***Psalm 51:17**- The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*
- Application #3 – Are there any unconfessed sins in my life that I need to repent of before God? Is God convicting my heart about any activities, habits, thoughts, actions, words, or motives in my life? (Confess these before God.)

4. **Atonement:** I’m going to place all of my hope in Jesus Christ’s substitutionary atonement for me (vv.11-25)

- This account is a powerful picture of two things:
 - (1) God’s holiness and wrath – sin has consequences
 - (2) God’s forgiveness and love – God ultimately takes those consequences upon Himself out of love for us
- Sin has consequences: 70,000 die because of David’s sin (v.15)
- David throws himself on God’s mercy (v.14).
- The biblical principle is this: There is no forgiveness of sins without the shedding of blood (Hebrews 9:22). The animal sacrifices of v.25 were a temporary atonement for David’s sin, but pointed to the ultimate atonement of David’s descendant (Messiah – Son of David – Son of God) who would be the substitutionary atonement for the sins of the whole world (John 1:29).
- The location of this sacrifice (the threshing floor of Araunah on Mount Moriah) has two profound implications:
 - (1) This is the exact site where Abraham offered up his only son Isaac whom God spared and provided a substitute lamb (Genesis 22).
 - (2) This is the exact site where Solomon will build a temple and exactly where the Holy of Holies will reside where God will dwell and where the yearly sacrifice will occur on the Day of Atonement.

- Warren Wiersbe: “If you were asked to name David’s two greatest sins, you would probably reply, ‘His adultery with Bathsheba and his numbering of the people,’ and you would be right. But out of those two great sins, God built a temple! Bathsheba gave birth to Solomon, and God chose him to succeed David on the throne. On the property David purchased and on which he erected an altar, Solomon built the temple and dedicated it to the glory of God. What God did for David is certainly not an excuse for sin (Romans 6:1-2), because David paid dearly for committing those sins. However, knowing what God did for David does encourage us to seek His face and trust His grace when we have disobeyed him. ‘But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more’ (Romans 5:20). What a merciful God we serve!”
- Video: “Jesus is Enough” [8:25] found at YesHels.com
- Application #4 – Jesus, thank You for being my substitute – atoning for my sins. I receive Your atonement on my behalf. I place my faith in You and You alone for the forgiveness of my sins and for eternal life.

5. **Worship:** I’m going to offer my all in worship of my God! (v.24)

- This is the point of the widow’s mites account in Luke 21:1-4.
- This is the point of Mary of Bethany’s offering in John 12:1-7 giving up what many to believe to have been her dowry.
- David: “I will not offer burnt offerings to the Lord my God that cost me nothing.” (2 Samuel 24:24)
- Carl Robbins: “David pays full price for Araunah’s plot of land because David is honorable in his financial dealings and because David repudiates cheap religion. God is to get our best. God is to get the first day of our week and the first part of our paycheck. God is to get our best!”
- This is NOT about trying to win God’s approval or favor by impressing Him with our sacrificial giving. God already fully accepts us in Christ (with or without sacrificial worship). This is about a passionate expression of gratefulness to God for what He has done for us.
- This is the point of Luke 7:36-50.
- ***Luke 7:47** – Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven — for she loved much. But he who has been forgiven little loves little.*
- Application #5 – Because I have already been forgiven much and because I have already been loved much, therefore I choose to offer my God my everything in my worship of Him! Specifically, I’m going to...
 - ☐ Worship my God with passionate singing
 - ☐ Worship my God with passionate giving
 - ☐ Worship my God with passionate obedience
 - ☐ Worship my God with passionate outreach to others
 - ☐ Worship my God with...