

Acts 13:21-22

DAVID

A MAN AFTER GOD'S OWN HEART

Introduction:

1. In Antioch of Pisidia, Paul preached a sermon in the synagogue of the Jews, in which he made the statement that is the subject of this lesson.
2. Paul declared that God gave testimony as a witness about David, stating: "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will."
3. As one studies the life of David, questions arise concerning the meaning of this statement.
4. How could David be called a man after God's heart when he was guilty of terrible sins?
5. What does this statement mean and how can it be harmonized with the character of God and the teaching of Scripture?

I. The Meaning of the Statement

- A. Note an important lesson about the principle of implication.
 1. The statement made by Paul cannot be found in the Old Testament.
 2. In 1 Samuel 13:14, Samuel declared that the Lord "sought Him a man after His own heart" to be king over Israel.
 3. In Psalm 89:20, the Psalmist records God as saying, "I have found David my servant; with my holy oil have I anointed him."
 4. Because God sought a man after His own heart and found David, it is implied that David was a man after God's own heart.
 5. Thus, what Paul said is true and was stated by God – but implicitly, not explicitly.
 6. Still, this implicit truth is just as authoritative and binding as any explicit statement or command of Scripture.
- B. The Greek word for 'after' is *kata* (κατα) and here means, "Throughout" (cf. Luke 8:39; Acts 8:1; 24:5).
- C. Thus, the phrase means, "A man who is, throughout, one with God's own heart."

II. The Example of David

- A. At the time he was anointed king, David was a man after God's own heart.
 1. Remember that Saul was the kind of king that appealed to man's standard (1 Sam. 9:2).
 2. When God chose David, He did not look at his outward appearance, but at his heart (1 Sam. 16:7)
 3. In David, God saw a heart aligned with His own heart.
 - a. Acts 7:46 – David found favor (grace) in the sight of God.
 - b. 2 Chron. 16:9 – God seeks a heart that is completely His.
 - c. Psalm 139 – David's heart belonged entirely to the Lord.
- B. There are three characteristics of David that show him to be a man after God's own heart.
 1. **Spirituality**
 - a. David sought to live his life in harmony with God and His will.
 - b. He loved what God loved, hated what God hated, and desired what God desired (cf. Psalm 89:26).
 - c. He sought to obey God completely (cf. 1 Kings 14:8; 15:3-5).

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2. **Humility**
 - a. From a human perspective, David was a nobody.
 - b. He was a shepherd of his father's flock – the youngest of eight sons, practically overlooked by his family (1 Sam. 16:11).
 - c. Yet, David never forgot where he came from and what God did for him (2 Sam. 7:8-9, 18-22).
 - d. God saw that David was a servant – of God and man (Psalm 78:70; 89:3, 20).
 3. **Integrity**
 - a. David demonstrated integrity in every aspect of his life (Psalm 78:70-72).
 - b. The Hebrew word for 'integrity' refers to "completeness, innocence, simplicity, or uprightness."
 - c. It is a person who is the same in all company, in all aspects of life, and even when alone (cf. 1 Sam. 16:19; 17:15, 20, 34-37).
 - C. As a king, David served the people as a servant of God – recognizing that God was the true King of Israel.
 - D. Yet, in spite of these good things, David committed grave sins.
 1. Obviously, his sins were not "after God's own heart."
 2. When David violated God's will, he was not seeking that which was in the heart of God.
 3. Like all men, David faced his own weaknesses and temptations.
 4. Yet, even when he sinned, David never lost his love for God, nor his desire to be in harmony with him.
 5. When he sinned, David repented, acknowledged his transgression, and sought God's forgiveness – every time (cf. 2 Sam. 12:13; 24:10, 17).
 - a. Contrast Saul's "repentance" (1 Sam. 15:13-31)
 - b. With David's true repentance (Psalm 51)
 6. David was not perfect, but he always found his way back to God.
- III. The Application for the Christian
- A. God knows the heart of every individual and seeks for pure motives and genuine submission.
 - B. Spirituality, humility, and integrity are necessary to have a heart that is pleasing to God.
 - C. Faithfulness to God requires self-examination, self-control, study, and prayer.
 - D. All men stumble and sin; yet, those after God's own heart are quick to repent, confess, and pray (1 John 1:9).
 - E. The Christian must learn to look on the hearts of others, rather than judging by appearance.
 - F. The focus of the child of God should be on walking by faith, not living by the sight of human reasoning.