

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

THE EXAMPLE OF DAVID

1 Sam. 17

INTRODUCTION: Personally, when I look back on those who have been there, done that, whose lives serve as examples to us and whose successes and failures offer admonitions and warnings to me, my mind often turns to David.

DAVID WAS COURAGEOUS.

- David put his life on the line with God in the battle with Goliath who was nearly 10 ft. tall.
- David's confidence was not in himself, but in the Lord

1 Samuel 17:37 NKJV Moreover David said, "The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."

- Has God ever delivered, rescued you? Remember that often. Let it boost your faith when it begins to waver. Trust in the Lord – again!
- Godly courage, confidence in the Lord
 - causes people to risk all to follow and obey the Lord.
 - causes people to stand boldly for what is biblical but not culturally popular.
 - causes people to leave the comfortable and the familiar to go serve God in the very uncomfortable and unfamiliar.
 - causes people to leave jobs, family, and safety to go to lands where the gospel message is forbidden and where to proclaim it puts one's life at risk.

There is probably more opportunity for exercising of courageous faith now than ever before in the history of the world.

DAVID WAS AN AUTHENTIC WORSHIPER.

David's worship was personal. - my David's worship was God centered.- You	Psalm 63:1–4 (A Psalm of David) 1 O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You;
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<p>David's worship was real – dry land He may have written this psalm while fleeing from Saul out in the barren hillsides.</p> <p>David's worship expressed longing to know the Lord more and more.</p> <p>David's worship was filled with thanksgiving and praise.</p> <p>Do you use the words of our praise songs to become your expressions to the Lord?</p> <p>David's worship was uninhibited.</p>	<p>My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land Where there is no water.</p> <p>2 So I have looked for You in the sanctuary, To see Your power and Your glory.</p> <p>3 Because Your lovingkindness is better than life, My lips shall praise You.</p> <p>4 Thus I will bless You while I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name.</p>
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Have you ever asked the question, "How pleased is God with my worship?" I often pray on Sunday mornings that when the day is over that God would smile because of what happened here at SABC.

DAVID WAS WILLING TO REPENT.

- David is a helpful example to us because we clearly see his imperfection. He was a sinner like each of us.
- But David did not linger in his sin.
- David did not excuse his sin – "Everybody is a sinner."
- David's expression of repentance in Psalm 51 is a very practical guide for each of us when we truly desire to repent of sin.

Psalm 51 NKJV A Psalm of David After He Had Gone in to Bathsheba.

- Bow your head (It's not end of service), but if there is sin in your life of which you genuinely desire to repent and to abandon, pray David's prayer with me right now.)

1 Have mercy upon me, O God,

According to Your lovingkindness;

According to the multitude of Your tender mercies,

Blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

And cleanse me from my sin.

3 For I acknowledge my transgressions,

And my sin is always before me.

4 Against You, You only, have I sinned,

And done this evil in Your sight—...

7 Purge me with hyssop (Hyssop was the brush used to apply the blood of the Passover lamb to the doorposts of the home. – Apply the blood of the cross to my sin!), and I shall be clean;

Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow....

9 Hide Your face from my sins,

And blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God,

And renew a steadfast spirit within me....

12 Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

And uphold me by Your generous Spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors Your ways,

And sinners shall be converted to You.

17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit,

A broken and a contrite heart—

These, O God, You will not despise.

1 John 1:9 – If we confess... Amen!

DAVID'S FAITH WAS AN EXAMPLE OF PERSEVERING FAITH.

- David was a man who knew what tough times are like. Listen ...
 - There were years in David's life that he owned no more than the clothes on his back.
 - He was so hungry he had to beg bread from the priests of the tabernacle.

- He was being hunted like a fox although he had never raided the hen house.
- He had to roam the country like a mongrel dog, not knowing where the next kick would come from.
- But if David were here with us this morning and we asked him about those days when he could not even go to the home of his parents for fear of bringing death to their door, he would say to us, "Oh yes, those were some difficult days, but not the worst. No, there were days, there were months, there were years worse than that by far."
- David's most difficult and pain filled years came in the years of his life as the King of Israel.
 - The years that David reigned as King over God's Chosen People, we would expect to be good years, pleasant years. This is especially true when we think of all that God gave to David, a man the Lord described as a man after His own heart.
 - Both David and his nation were tremendously wealthy.
 - Israel was victorious in war and in the latter years of his kingship, David ruled over a victorious kingdom.
 - David's health was good until the very last years of his long life.

Health, Wealth, Power, Peace

What more could a man desire?

But during these years,

- David's infant son died.
- His daughter was raped by his son.
- That son was murdered by his half-brother.
- His favorite son rebelled against him, stole the hearts of the people of Israel from their king, and then was killed.
- **David learned the blessing of persevering faith through his years of trial and tragedy.**
 - Rather than grow angry with God, he continued to worship and pray.
 - Rather than be bitter with enemies, he chose to forgive and move on.

- David bore the trials of his life with the same kind of courageous faith with which he began his rise to power.
- And in the last moments of his life, he said to Solomon, his son, whom he anointed king in his stead,

1 Kings 2:2–3 NKJV 2 “I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. 3 And keep the charge of the Lord your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn;

And I can tell you, in the course of our lives together, Karen and I are right at 50 years in ministry, God has showered a multitude of blessings and victories upon our lives. But it was in the tough times

- Loss of loved ones
- Health crises
- Family crises
- Betrayal by friends in ministry

That God taught us the blessing of having a faith that perseveres.

- Many of you have been there also, or are there now. Those who know nothing of what I am talking about just need to live a little longer.
- But I don't say this so we can wallow in the mire together moaning “Poor me and poor you” in unison. I tell you because the time tragedy rumbles into your life is the time you learn the value of persevering faith.
- That is the time that you discover or you rediscover that if you will simply keep trusting in God when the times are bad, when the days cannot grow any darker, when you cannot sink any deeper, that
 - God is very, very real.
 - Nothing is impossible with Him.
 - The Lord is My Shepherd, I shall not want. ... Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, You are with me.
 - I can cast my cares upon Jesus, because He cares for me.
 - I can come to Him when I am tired and over-burdened and He will give me rest.

Folks persevering faith is not mysterious.

Persevering faith is just continuing to trust God and walking with Him, no matter what happens.

CONCLUSION: What part of David's example do you need right now?

- Do you need to be more courageous in your faith and walk? Trust God's power instead of your own as David did.
- Do you want God to smile when you worship Him? Make your worship personal, focused upon Him, unhindered by the presence or thoughts of other people.
- Do you want to be restored after you break fellowship with God through sin? Humble yourself before the Lord as David did. Repent. Pray Ps. 51.
- Do you want a faith that perseveres? When the tough times come, keep trusting; keep walking with the Lord no matter what, just like David!

Join me in prayer. "God, You are too wise to be mistaken. You are too good to be unkind. When we don't understand, when we can't see Your plan, when we can't trace Your hand, we trust Your heart. – Amen"