

## What Are You After?

### 1 Samuel 13:14 (ESV)

**<sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought out a man after his own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be prince over his people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."**

### Acts 13:22 (ESV, explanation added, PMG)

**<sup>22</sup>And when he had removed him [i.e., King Saul], he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, 'I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.'**

The human heart weighs less than a pound. It beats about 100,000 times a day. Without your heart your body would quickly die. In the Bible, the heart is the seat of emotions. It is the mind. It is the very essence and moral character of a person. So, when God says to love Him with all of our hearts, He is saying to love Him with the full capacity of everything we are.

Vance Havner wrote this on the importance of the heart:

**"You may belittle experience and speak of the dangers of emotion, but we are suffering today from a species of Christianity as dry as dust, as cold as ice, as pale as a corpse, and as dead as King Tut. We are suffering, not from a lack of correct heads but of consumed hearts."**

In our verses today we see that David tried to be like God. He went after God's heart in his heart. He wanted the character of God within himself. We know that David was imperfect, but the heart of David was such that even in his wrong doings he wanted to make the course corrections so that he would not only please God, but that he would be like Him in his character.

This is one of the reasons that God chose David to be king of Israel. David had some great attributes. He was handsome (**1 Samuel 16:12**). He was a courageous warrior (**1 Samuel 17**). He was a protective shepherd (**1 Samuel 17:34**). So, while the sons of Jesse paraded by, Samuel looked on the outside while God looked within. God told Samuel in **1 Samuel 16:7** (ESV):

**... For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart."**

God has always worked this way. Whether it was choosing the most beloved king of Israel or the young virgin through whom His Son would come, God chooses the humble heart, not the superficially appealing. Mary sang Hannah's words in **Luke 1:46-48** (ESV):

**"My soul magnifies the Lord,**

**<sup>47</sup> and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,**

**<sup>48</sup> for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.**

**For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;**

Let's go back to David. David pursued God during his lifetime. He went after the heart of God and was rewarded for it. Many people think that to follow God is to give up any kind of exciting, meaningful life. If you look at the life of David you know that is not true. What an adventure he had by seeking and following God. It was no life of ease. It was not free of danger, trial, or challenge. It was filled with excitement and achievement!

Think of some key points of his life. For instance, he was promised the throne of Israel – even while Saul was king. He was finally given the throne. He had his throne stolen by his own son, Absalom. He was exiled. Eventually, he returned to reclaim the throne.

There are some parallels to Jesus for us. For eternity and through the prophets Jesus has been promised the throne. There is a literal, eternal throne as we see in the Revelation.

There is also a throne of each of our hearts. In some ways the throne has been stolen from Him. During the era of the American Revolution, Americans cried, “No King but King Jesus!” They wanted Him as king of their lives and nation.

Too many Americans have relinquished their allegiance to King Jesus. The evil one has stolen the hearts of many. Instead of Jesus, the adversary reigns in their lives. In a sense, they have exiled Jesus from themselves just like Absalom had done to David. Instead of honoring Jesus, they honor evil. We see it more and more today.

However, one day Jesus will return. He will reestablish His dominion and His kingdom forever. Everyone will see Him and confess Him as Lord and King (**Philippians 2:10**). Can you imagine what that will be like? Can you imagine the end of the adversary and his followers? That day is coming.

The question in the meantime is, what are we seeking? What kind of hearts do we want? We sometimes talk of giving someone, even God, our hearts. Maybe we should be asking for God to give us His.

Keep the Light of His Heart Burning!