

David's Life - A Warning to Christians

I. The importance of this study.

1. David was a man after God's own heart.
 - A. David was abundantly blessed by God.
 - B. We can learn from good examples in David's life.
2. But David made some very poor choices and was chastened by God for them.
 - A. As a result, David experienced a lot of pain and heartache that wouldn't have had to be.
 - B. "Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition..." (**1Co 10:11**).
 - C. "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." (**1Co 10:12**).

II. David started off well, but remember **Ecc 7:8**).

1. David was a man after God's own heart (**1Sa 13:14 c/w Act 13:22**).
2. David was good looking (**1Sa 16:12**).
 - A. But that is not why God chose him to be king; God looked upon his heart (**1Sa 16:7**).
 - B. This is a good lesson for us, that we should judge not according to appearance, but rather judge righteous judgment (**Joh 7:24; 2Co 10:7**).
 - C. God is not impressed with good looks or big muscles, but with them that fear Him and hope in His mercy (**Psa 147:10-11**).
3. David started off as a lowly shepherd, the youngest brother in his family (**1Sa 16:11**).
 - A. Even as a shepherd, David took his job very seriously (**1Sa 17:34-35**).
 - B. David's son Solomon later penned this good work ethic in scripture (**Ecc 9:10**).
4. David was courageous and volunteered to fight Goliath, a huge enemy of Israel (**1Sa 17:32**).
 - A. David's brother Eliab despised him when he enquired about slaying Goliath (**1Sa 17:26-28**).
 - i. In this respect, David was a presage of his son, Jesus Christ, who "came unto his own, and his own received him not" (**Joh 1:11**).
 - ii. Jesus' brethren didn't believe in him either (**Joh 7:5**).
 - iii. A prophet is not without honor except in his own country and in his own house (**Mat 13:55-58**).
 - B. Saul didn't take David seriously because of his youth (**1Sa 17:33**) and neither did Goliath (**1Sa 17:42**).
 - i. Ministers should follow the example of David and "let no man despise thy youth" (**1Ti 4:12**).
 - ii. If God doesn't despise youth, then neither should we (**Jer 1:6-10**).
 - iii. If a young man (or any man) has an opportunity to take a leadership role, then he should *take it*, not wait for it to be given him (**1Pe 5:2**).
 - a. If you wait for it to be given to you, you'll never get it.
 - b. If you step into a leadership position, walk in there like you own the place (with humility) and act the part, and people will follow.
 - c. It's important in that situation for you to not only act the part, but to be the part, because people will sense when you are not confident in your position.
 - d. The trumpet must make a *certain sound* in order to call men unto the battle (**1Co 14:8**).

- iv. Don't be intimidated by age *alone* because age doesn't always convey with it wisdom, although it should and often does (**Job 32:4-10**).
- C. David experienced past deliverances from God and he was confident that the God Who delivered him before would do it again (**1Sa 17:34-37**).
 - i. We would be wise to follow David's faith in this, just as the apostles did (**2Co 1:8-10**).
 - ii. Paul experienced this on more than one occasion (**2Ti 4:16-18**).
 - iii. Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers them out of them all (**Psa 34:19; Psa 129:1-2**).
- D. Because of David's courage and confidence he convinced King Saul to allow him to fight Goliath (**1Sa 17:37**).
- 5. David experienced great victory early in his life.
 - A. David had a great victory over Goliath.
 - i. Before going in to battle, David was offered armour to protect himself, but he rejected it, not having proved it (**1Sa 17:38-39**).
 - a. We would do well to follow David's example and "prove all things" (**1Th 5:21; Eph 5:10**).
 - b. We should prepare to defend ourselves, but safety is ultimately from the Lord (**Pro 21:31**).
 - 1) We shouldn't trust in our military for safety, but in God (**Psa 20:7; Psa 44:6-7**).
 - 2) It is a vain thing to trust in our advanced weaponry or our military might for deliverance if we fear not God nor hope in His mercy (**Psa 33:16-19**).
 - 3) Pray to God, and then take reasonable measures (**Neh 4:9**).
 - 4) God has promised us that he will protect us from the assaults of our enemies (**Isa 54:17**).
 - ii. David rather stuck with what he knew and took five smooth stones and his sling to meet the giant who was vastly more powerful than he (**1Sa 17:40-41**).
 - a. God is able to save by many or few, by much or by little (**1Sa 14:6**).
 - b. Gideon and his little army of 300 were used of God to destroy an army many times their size.
 - c. God's faithful followers through weakness are made strong (**Heb 11:34**).
 - d. God's strength is made perfect in our weakness (**2Co 12:9**).
 - e. God makes preachers out of earthen vessels so that all will know that the power is of God and not of them (**2Co 4:7**).
 - f. God hath chosen the weak to show forth His strength (**1Co 1:25-27; Psa 119:141**).
 - g. The Lord gives power unto the faint and increases the strength of them that have no might and gives them the strength to continue on (**Isa 40:28-31**).
 - iii. Goliath reviled David because of his youth, looks, and his equipment and he cursed him in the name of his gods (**1Sa 17:42-44**).
 - iv. Though David was outgunned, he didn't fear (**Psa 27:3**), but was confident in his God and told the giant he would take his head from him, that all Israel would know that God gives the victory (**1Sa 17:45-47**).

- v. When Goliath came to meet David, he didn't wait for him, he ran to face him and slung a stone into his forehead and killed him and took off his head (**1Sa 17:48-51**).
 - a. Don't go looking for battles, but when they come, don't run from them, but rather run to meet them.
 - b. Use the weapons and the armor which God has given us (**Eph 6:13-17**), even though the enemy might make fun of us for it.
 - c. God will give the victory in the battle to his servants (**Isa 54:17**).
 - d. In our battle with sin, stop short of nothing but killing and dismembering it (**Col 3:5**).
 - e. Use your enemy's weapons against them like David did with Goliath's sword.
- B. David also had great victories in war.
 - i. Saul made David a commander in his army (**1Sa 18:5**).
 - ii. David was ascribed a greater warrior than Saul by the people (**1Sa 18:6-7**).
 - iii. This made Saul envious of David to point he tried to kill him (**1Sa 18:8-11**).
 - iv. The Lord was with David and he behaved himself wisely and the people loved him (**1Sa 18:12-16**).
- C. David was eventually made king over all of Israel.
 - i. David began to reign at the age of 30 and he reigned 40 years (**2Sa 5:4**).
 - ii. He reigned 7.5 years over Judah in Hebron and he reigned 33 years over all Israel and Judah in Jerusalem (**2Sa 5:5**).
- 6. David's failures.
 - A. David multiplied wives unto himself.
 - i. Kings were forbidden to multiply wives unto themselves (**Deu 17:17**).
 - ii. Multiply - 1. *trans.* To cause to become much, many, or more; to make many or manifold; to augment the number, amount, or quantity of.
 - iii. David had at least 10 wives and 10 concubines.
 - a. Michal - (**1Sa 18:27**)
 - b. Abigail - (**1Sa 25:40-42**)
 - c. Ahinoam - (**1Sa 27:3**)
 - d. Maacha - (**2Sa 3:3**)
 - e. Haggith - (**2Sa 3:4**)
 - f. Abital - (**2Sa 3:4**)
 - g. Eglah - (**2Sa 3:5**)
 - h. Bathsheba - (**2Sa 12:24**)
 - i. David then took more concubines and wives (**2Sa 5:13**).
 - 1) Since he took more *wives*, that necessarily means he took at least two (2) more in addition to the eight (8) he already had.
 - 2) Since he took *more concubines*, that necessarily means he already had at least one (1) concubine and took at least two (2) more.
 - 3) David had at least ten (10) concubines (**2Sa 20:3**).
 - 4) Concubine - 1. A woman who cohabits with a man without being his wife; a kept mistress. In reference to polygamous peoples, as the ancient Hebrews and the Muslims: A 'secondary wife' whose position

is recognized by law, but is inferior to that of a wife.

- B. David didn't keep his eyes and his lust under control.
- i. Though David's wives were no doubt beautiful (**1Sa 25:3**), the eyes of man are never satisfied (**Pro 27:20**).
 - a. Marriage is a covenant of the eyes in which a man should not look or think on another woman (**Job 31:1**).
 - b. A spouse is a covering for the eyes which should prohibit a person from looking at another (**Gen 20:16**).
 - c. A man should be satisfied only by the body of his wife and no other (**Pro 5:15-20**).
 - d. Adultery begins by *looking* on a woman (**Mat 5:28**).
 - ii. David was walking on his roof one evening and he saw Bathsheba bathing herself (**2Sa 11:2**).
 - iii. Sin begins with lust (**Jam 1:14**).
 - a. When a lust first rears its ugly head it should be fled (**2Ti 2:22**).
 - 1) Youthful - *adj.* 1. Having or characterized by youth; that is still young.
 - 2) Flee the lust while it is still young before it grows stronger and you can't escape it.
 - 3) David should have fled fornication (**1Co 6:18**).
 - 4) This is what Joseph did (**Gen 39:12**).
 - 5) When we are tempted by a sexual lust, we must avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away (**Pro 4:14-15**).
 - 6) We must put sin far away from us (**Job 11:14**).
 - b. Lust is a powerful force which *tempts, draws away, and entices* us (**Jam 1:14**).
 - 1) Tempt - *v.* II. To try to attract, allure, incite, induce. 4. *trans.* To try to attract, to entice (a person) to do evil; to present attractions to the passions or frailties of; to allure or incite to evil with the prospect of some pleasure or advantage.
 - 2) Drawn - 1. a. Moved by traction; dragged, hauled, pulled; attracted; extracted; protracted; strained, stretched, made thin by tension.
 - 3) Entice - *v.* 1. *trans.* To stir up, incite, instigate (to a course of action); also to provoke (to anger). *Obs.* 2. To allure, attract by the offer of pleasure or advantage; esp. to allure insidiously or adroitly. Often const. from, to (a course of conduct, a place). Also with away, in.
 - c. Lust will *lead* us away (**2Ti 3:6**).
 - 1) Lead - *v.* 1. *trans.* To cause to go along with oneself. †a. To bring or take (a person or animal) to a place. Also with away, down, etc.
 - 2) Lust has power; when someone is *led away* they are *caused* to go along.
 - d. Sexual lust is especially strong and will *ravish* you (**Pro 5:20; Pro 7:22**).

- 1) Ravish - 1. a. *trans.* To seize and carry off (a person); to take by violence, to tear or drag away from (a place or person). Now somewhat rare. †Also, to sweep or carry away; to drag off (to or into a place).
 - 2) Sexual lust will cause you to *get carried away*.
 - 3) That's exactly how people describe it: "We just got carried away."
- iv. Rather than turning from his lust and avoiding it, David inquired about who this woman was (**2Sa 11:3**).
- a. This is called making provision for the flesh to fulfill the lust thereof, which we are not to do (**Rom 13:14**).
 - b. Provision - 1. Foresight, prevision; esp. (with trace of sense 2) foresight carefully exercised; looking ahead. (Went out of use in 1530)
 2. a. The action of providing; seeing to things beforehand; preparing, or arranging in advance; the fact or condition of being prepared or made ready beforehand.
 - c. By enquiring about Bathsheba, David was preparing to fulfill his lust.
- v. David then acted on his lust and summoned Bathsheba and laid with her (**2Sa 11:4**).
- a. Lust had conceived and become sin (**Jam 1:15**).
 - b. Lust wasn't the only thing which had conceived; Bathsheba had too (**2Sa 11:5**).
 - c. Let's bring it home.
 - 1) You're looking innocently at videos on YouTube (walking on the roof).
 - 2) You happen to see a video on the side bar with an enticing picture or title (Bathsheba bathing).
 - 3) Rather than immediately looking away or covering it up with your hand so you can't see it, you stare at it for a while and think to yourself, "Hmmm, I wonder what that video's about?" (enquiring about Bathsheba).
 - 4) You know it's off-limits based on the title and picture, but you click on it anyway (sending for Bathsheba).
 - 5) Once the video starts playing, the temptation is too strong to close it and you watch the whole thing (laying with Bathsheba when she gets there).
 - 6) Now you have to live with the consequences, which are the images in your mind and the feeling of guilt for looking at it (getting Bathsheba pregnant).
- vi. Once David found out Bathsheba was pregnant, he then tried to cover his sin.
- a. He first tried to get Uriah to lie with his wife (**2Sa 11:6-9**).
 - b. Even after being out at war and away from his wife, Uriah still had more self-control and better morals than David (**2Sa 11:10-11**).
 - c. Next he got him drunk in order to get him to go in unto her (**2Sa 11:12-13**).

- d. Even while drunk, Uriah still had more self-control and better morals than David (**2Sa 11:13**).
 - e. Next he devised a plan to have him killed (**2Sa 11:14-16**).
 - f. Lust had conceived and brought forth sin which eventually brought forth death (**Jam 1:15**).
 - 1) David's sin resulted in Uriah's death (**2Sa 11:17**).
 - 2) His sin also resulted in his baby's death (**2Sa 12:14,18**).
- C. David didn't restrain and discipline his children.
- i. David never displeased his son Adonijah at any time (**1Ki 1:6**).
 - a. In other words, David never told him "no".
 - b. Fathers, it is your job to displease your children often.
 - c. Your job it to first make them holy, and then happy.
 - d. Foolishness is bound in their hearts and they will naturally make the wrong decision nearly every time if left to themselves (**Pro 22:15**).
 - e. You must be like Abraham who commanded his children, not left them do whatever they wanted (**Gen 18:19**).
 - f. This was not just a failure of David, but of other great men of God too. Consider the pillars of faith who failed in this most basic duty:
 - 1) Eli did not restrain his sons (**1Sa 3:13**).
 - A. Eli knew of the iniquity of his sons and still did nothing.
 - B. God judged his house *forever* because of that (**1Sa 3:14**).
 - C. God only gives a limited time of repentance and then judgment comes *without remedy* (**Pro 29:1**).
 - 2) Samuel's sons did not walk in his ways either (**1Sa 8:3-5**).
 - A. It's not stated specifically that Samuel didn't train up his kids correctly, but if he did, it would be the exception that they departed from it (**Pro 22:6**).
 - B. Samuel should have learned from his teacher Eli's mistakes.
 - 3) Ministers must have their children in subjection (**1Ti 3:4-5**).
 - 4) A minister's children must be faithful and not unruly (**Tit 1:6**).
 - ii. Adonijah apparently wasn't the only son whom David didn't restrain.
 - a. Amnon raped his sister Tamar (**2Sa 13:10-14**).
 - 1) When David found out about it, he was very wroth, but did nothing about it (**2Sa 13:21**).
 - 2) The law of Moses demanded death for rape (**Deu 22:25**).
 - 3) A good king must judge righteously, even if it is family (**Pro 20:26**).
 - 4) A pastor likewise cannot show favoritism (**1Ti 5:21**).
 - 5) All Christians must not show favoritism, even if it's their own children who have sinned (**Jam 2:1,9; Deu 13:6-11**).
 - 6) If your children are church members and they commit sins which merit exclusion, you must choose between them and God. Choose wisely.
 - b. Because of that, Absalom killed Amnon (**2Sa 13:23-29**).

- iii. Because of this poor parenting, two of his sons, Absalom and Adonijah, committed sedition and tried to take the kingdom from him.
 - a. Absalom stole the hearts of Israel and attempted to steal the kingdom from David (**2Sa 15:1-12**).
 - 1) Absalom was killed because of his rebellion (**2Sa 18:9-15**).
 - 2) The news of Absalom's death broke David's heart (**2Sa 18:31-33**).
 - 3) Once again, David was putting his rebellious children before justice and his duty as king, for which Joab rebuked him (**2Sa 19:5-8**).
 - 4) David's deep sorrow for the loss of his son could very well have been due to the fact that he was taking responsibility for it for not training and restraining him as he should have.
 - 5) Death of children can be the result of poor parenting and the consequential rebellion of children (**Pro 30:17**).
 - 6) How many children have died due to drug use, drunk driving, gang violence, or AIDS because their parents failed to train them up properly and restrain them?
 - b. Adonijah, another one of David's sons, tried to usurp the kingdom from him at the end of his life (**1Ki 1:5**).
 - 1) This also was the result of poor parenting (**1Ki 1:6**).
 - 2) David was able to install Solomon on the throne before he died (**1Ki 1:28-39**).
 - 3) Though spared by Solomon for a while, Adonijah was eventually killed (**1Ki 2:21-25**).
 - c. Three of David's sons were killed because of their wickedness which could all be reasonably traced back to David's poor fathering of them.
- D. These things were written for our learning and admonition (**Rom 15:4; 1Co 10:11**).
 - i. Though David was a man after God's own heart and was abundantly blessed by God, he also suffered a lot of pain and sorrow for the poor decisions he made.
 - ii. David never lost his eternal blessings from God, but he lost a lot of temporal ones (**2Sa 23:5**).
 - iii. We should take heed to the failures of David and other great men of faith so that we don't repeat their mistakes and sins and pay dearly for it (**1Co 10:12**).