

LIVING TRUTH



MESSAGE GUIDE

LIVING TRUTH



MESSAGE GUIDE

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This Message Guide may be a little different from those that you have used before.

The purpose of these Notes is not an in-depth study of the scriptures used, but rather to assist you or your Study Group as you reflect on this message given by Charles Price.

We present questions in order to stimulate discussion. Sometimes we will give you the answer ... sometimes not. At other times a statement or a theme is presented for your consideration.

As you allow the Holy Spirit to guide the direction of your study and discussions we pray the flexibility of this Message Guide will help you as you delve more deeply into Charles' message, and that you will unearth more lessons from the Lord that may not have been immediately obvious.

MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 1 – A COMPLEX HEART

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. Please read and consider 1 Samuel 16:1-13
How does David compare with other Old Testament significant characters such as Moses and Abraham?

2. What is one of the common criticisms of Christianity?
And why do you suppose that is?

3. What significant fact is true about the Bible?

4. What was wrong with the reign of King Saul over Israel? Read and consider 1 Samuel 13:4. What is the Lord now seeking?

5. As it is mentioned 570 times in the Bible; discuss briefly what is a 'heart'?

6. Read and consider Luke 6:45

7. How does Charles identify the two journeys of every life?

8. In the life of David his External Life was both beautiful and broken – why?

9. Discuss and consider what you think David's Internal World was like?

10. It is encouraging to know that God KNOWS our hearts – even though we fail him continually. Read and consider 1 Samuel 9:19

11. Why can God still love us when we fail Him so much?
Read and consider 1 Samuel 16:7

12. And look at some of the things that David said later in life:
Psalm 17:3, Psalm 51:10, Psalm 139:23-24

Final Thoughts

Our psychological, emotional and spiritual 'heart' is about our attitude, disposition, feelings and intentions.
It is where we feel – dream – desire and decide.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 2 – A COURAGEOUS HEART

1 Samuel 17

1. Read and consider 1 Samuel 17:1-11

2. Read and consider the promise God had made to Saul in 1 Samuel 9:16.

3. Why was it so important to defeat the Philistines?
Read and consider Exodus 13:17-18

4. In each of Saul's major battles against the Philistines, Saul displayed one constant characteristic. What was that? Read and consider: 1 Samuel 13:5-7, 1 Samuel 17:11, 1 Samuel 28:5

5. **What is fear?**

6. Why is it a problem that Saul is showing fear?
Surely it was normal in the circumstances?

Final Thoughts

You can live as a Saul or as a David.

As a Saul:

Called by God. Having a history of experience with God. The Spirit of God has been with you. But now you are living by your own wits and resources. You speak the language, but you have stopped believing what you are saying.

As a David:

Take risks. Step out in confidence knowing that God is bigger than every obstacle. Trust Him all the time.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 3 – A CONSCIENTIOUS HEART

1 Samuel 19, 23:15 & 24:1-7

1. Read and consider 1 Samuel 24:1-20

2. What was the promise that God had made concerning the reign of King Saul? Read and consider 1 Samuel 9:16

3. But what did Saul do?

Instead of F _____, Saul was characterized by F _____

Instead of T _____, Saul was characterized by T _____

Instead of O _____, Saul was characterized by O _____

4. What was Saul's reaction to David's offer to Saul in 1 Samuel 17:32 & 37?

5. You would think that Saul would have been grateful that David had stepped forward in this dire situation, but check out the

following verses in 1 Samuel 18 & 19 to see how Saul reacted:
I Samuel 18:8, 9, 15, 29 and I Samuel 19:1

6. To understand the root of Saul's antagonism, read and consider
Genesis 5:17

7. Let's jump now to the crucially important aspect of David's
heart, and the tenderness of his conscience.
Read and consider 1 Samuel 24:5

8. What is a **good conscience**?

9. Read and consider Romans 2:14

10. Our conscience needs to be C _____

M _____. Because it can be V _____,

D _____ and D _____

11. The first symptoms of this are: D _____,
C _____ and L _____

12. How sensitive is YOUR conscience?
Read and consider: Psalm 51:10-12

Final Thoughts

No matter what calling on our life we may have from God, if we are only operating and functioning by our own human resources, human ingenuity and human wisdom, we will be no match for whatever difficulties and challenges that we may face.

We can learn all the ‘spiritual jargon’ in Sunday School, and as we grow up in church we can develop spiritual vocabulary that trots off the end of our tongues in certain situations, but if it has no bearing on the realities of our faith – then we are just like Saul.

Not only do we never accomplish great things for God, but we mock those who are willing to step out in faith for Him.

We are all vulnerable, and we are all nearing to falling than we think.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 4 – A CROWNED HEART

2 Samuel 5:1-5

1. Please read and consider 2 Samuel 5:1 – 5 and 2 Timothy 3:16

2. Today we are going to take a closer look at 3 things that may help us:

- i. David's Kingship is C _____
- ii. David's Kingship is C _____
- iii. David's Kingship is C _____

3. i. **David's Kingship is Confirmed.** Read and consider 2 Corinthians 5:3. What qualified David for this?

4. ii. **David's Kingship is Consolidated**
Read and consider 1 Corinthians 5:9

5. iii. **David's Kingship is Challenged**
Read and consider 2 Corinthians 5:17

6. So how does David respond?
Read and consider 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

7. We should learn from David's habitual lifestyle;
Before he was on the throne:
1 Samuel 23:1, 1 Samuel 23:4, 1 Samuel 30:1

When David is now on the throne, he continues...

2 Samuel 2:1, 2 Samuel 5:19, 2 Samuel 5:23

Final Thoughts

As we have looked through this **window** into David's life, perhaps we have also been looking into a **mirror** of our own lives.

If God has shown you something, don't force it into being.

Just wait and keep a healthy distance from it and a healthy disinterest in it. Wait with what God has shown you... until all the pieces come together.

There will come a time when the inner conviction comes together with the outward circumstances.

The waiting time is a **testing time** and a **deepening time**; so therefore a **necessary time**. —Psalm 40:1

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 5 – A CONVICTED HEART

2 Samuel 12:1-7a

1. Please read and consider 2 Samuel 12:1-7a

2. Now read and consider the following verses:
Psalm 18:23, Psalm 23:1, Psalm 119:9, Psalm 36:2

3. We are going to quickly look at three things today.
- i. The C_____ of David's sin.
 - ii. The C_____ P_____ of David's sin.
 - iii. The C_____ of David's sin.

4. i. **The Cause of David's Sin**
Please read and consider 2 Samuel 12:1-3
How does a good man fall so heavily?

5. What do we learn from 2 Samuel 11:2?

6. Read and consider 2 Samuel 11:4

7. ii. **The Corrupting Power of Sin.** Proverbs 28:13

8. What did this sin lead David into doing?

9. iii. **The Consequences of his sin**

10. Now read and consider 2 Samuel 12:13

11. Read and consider the following scriptures:

2 Samuel 12:10. This is going to come back and haunt you.

2 Samuel 12:13. His son dies.

2 Samuel 13. David's son Amnon raped his own sister, Tamar.

2 Samuel 16. Humiliated by his son Absalom who tries to become king.

12. What should we always consider concerning 'sin'?

Final Thoughts

We need to be careful to not join in the condemnation of someone else's sins, mistakes and shortcomings. In fact, condemnation of others may be a convenient way to cover up our own sins. We should never forget what Jesus said in Matthew 7:3-5.

**Never forget that sin is NEVER your friend.
Sin has corrupting Power over those who give in to it!**

Read and consider **James 1:14**

Forgiven sin still has consequences!

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 6 – A CHASTENED HEART

2 Samuel 12-18

1. Today's scripture is 2 Samuel Chapters 12 to 18

2. We are going to look at 2 things in these chapters.
 - i. A S _____ R _____ to Sin.
 - ii. A S _____ R _____ to Sin.

3. i. **A Serious Response to Sin**

After David had committed adultery with Bathsheba and then had her husband, Uriah, killed, the prophet Nathan came to David with a parable that led David into a deep conviction of

his sin. Read and consider 2 Samuel 12:10, and then 12:13.
What are the two important statements made here?

4. There is a text today that was not written by David, but by his son Solomon [whose mother was Bathsheba]. Please read and consider Proverbs 3:11-12
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-

5. Read and consider Psalm 51:1-2 and then verse 6.
-
-

6. ii. But what about the

Superficial Response to Sin?

There is a complex story concerning David's son Absalom which you can read and consider at your leisure:

2 Samuel 13:38-39, 2 Samuel 14

7. Read and consider Psalm 51:17
-
-

8. Here is a very important statement by William Booth, founder of the Salvation, some 150 years ago he said:

“The chief dangers that confronts the coming century will be Religion without the Holy Spirit; Christianity without Christ, Forgiveness without Repentance; Salvation without Regeneration; Politics without God, and Heaven without Hell”

9. Do we:
Want to be forgiven – but not expect to change?
Want to be forgiven – but keep our favorite sin?
Want to be forgiven – but still be in control of our own life?
-
-

Final Thoughts

A superficial response to sin leads to only a superficial repentance, with no brokenness, no humility, no restoration and fellowship with God.

What is the nature of **your battle** with sin?
Is it **serious** or is it **superficial**.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 7 – A COMPROMISED HEART

2 Samuel 24

1. Read and consider 2 Samuel 24
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-

2. We will ask 4 questions:

- i. Who I _____ this?
ii. W _ _ was it?
iii. W _ _ _ H _ _ _ _ _ ?
iv. W _ _ _ R _ _ _ _ _ ?
-
-

3. i. **Who Instigated this?**

Read and consider 2 Samuel 24:1 and 1 Chronicles 21:1

4. What do we learn from 1 Corinthians 10:13?
What do we learn from James 1:13?
-
-

5. ii. **Why is it a problem?** Why had David been forbidden by the Lord to take a census? Read and consider 2 Samuel 22:2-4
-
-

6. But surely we should be practical and live within our resources; after all, look at what the following scriptures tell us:
Luke 14:29 and Luke 14: 31-32
-
-

7. iii. **What Happened.** Read and consider 2 Samuel 24:10
-
-

8. Which of the 3 choices did David choose; and what impact did that choice have?
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-

9. Quite apart from the human calamity, do you know what else that 3 day plague did?
-
-

10. What does this tell us about the way God disciplined David in this situation?

11. iv. **Where was it rectified?**

Read and consider 2 Samuel 24:14 and 18-19

Final Thoughts

Everything Satan tempts us with is to weaken us.

Everything God tests us with is to strengthen us.

**The very thing Satan uses to destroy us,
is the very thing God uses to build us.**

The key is in our response to the situation.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 8 – A CONTINUING HEART

1 Chronicles 28

1. We now go to the end of David's life.

Read and consider 1 Chronicles 28

2. Charles highlights 4 parallels between that situation in the Old Testament and The Peoples Church in Toronto.

3. Referring in this first instance to David:

i. He is A _____ by God.

ii. He is U _____ A _____ of God

iii. He O _____ the A _____ of God.

iv. He S _____ A _____ from God.

4. i. **Solomon is Appointed by God.**

Read and consider 1 Chronicles 28:4-7

5. ii. **Solomon is Under the Authority of God.**

Read and consider 1 Chronicles 28:5b

Notice something about what is said here?

6. iii. **Solomon is to Obey the Agenda of God.** Read and consider 1 Chronicles 28:8-10 & 28. How do we 'follow all the commands of the Lord your God'?

7. The first aspect of this is to understand that our first responsibility is towards God. **We are serving HIM.**

8. The second aspect is found in 1 Chronicles 28:8 b

9. Read and consider this verse: 2 Chronicles 15:1

10. iv. **Solomon Seeks the Astuteness of God.**

Read and consider all of 2 Chronicles Chapter 1

11. So how then did God respond to Solomon's response to God's open offer? Read and consider 2 Chronicles 1:11-12

Final Thoughts

The best people in leadership are those who have no ambition to be there! Their identity is not tied up with what they are doing, and they can pick it up and put it down without any crisis of identity.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE

This Leader's Guide is prepared to help the Study Group Leader to keep the discussions moving along. Maybe your people will come up with different answers, or perhaps they will need a little prompting from you.

Remember, you want to encourage your people to fully participate. This is not a 'teaching session' by the Group Leader, but rather a discussion group. This may at first seem like a contradiction, but you will need for the Lord to give you wisdom to keep the discussions 'on track' whilst also allowing the Holy Spirit to direct your path.

LEADER'S MESSAGE GUIDE & QUESTIONS

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 1 – A COMPLEX HEART

1 Samuel 16:1-13

1. The name of Abraham appears in the Bible 290 times; the name of Moses appears in the Bible 847 times; whereas the name of David appears in the Bible over 1,004 times.
2. Christians are routinely accused of being hypocrites. What we say we believe does not appear to work out in practice. Indeed, the confession of Paul in Romans 7:18-19 [*please read*] is true of most, if not all of us.
3. The Bible ALWAYS tells the truth about its 'hero's'. It does not 'sugar-coat' anything; it is sometimes brutally honest.
4. Saul had turned from trusting God to belief in himself and his own abilities, and this led to arrogance and disobedience. This is a lesson for us all to beware of. So now the Lord is seeking a man 'after His own heart'.
5. What the Bible is NOT speaking of here is that pump in our chest made up of ventricles, valves, veins and arteries.

It is the **inner core and action centre** of our lives.

6. Our heart is the key to our lives, and what is stored in the heart [in secret] **WILL** come out eventually.

7. Every life has two journeys:
 - i. The External Journey – what happens TO us.
 - ii. The Internal Journey – what happens IN us.

8. David is introduced as a ‘man after God’s own heart’, and yet he came to God after a series of sins.
 - He wrote about ‘delighting in the law of God’, and yet he violated the law of God in key areas of his life.
 - He was sometime full of faith; yet sometimes full of fear.
 - He was sometimes confident, but sometimes crushed.
 - He could be loving and compassionate, yet he was a murderer.
 - David certainly displayed, in his external life, a ‘Jekyll & Hyde’ syndrome.

9. Well, the Book of Psalms – mostly written by David – reveal a life of loneliness, sorrow, regret, contrition, discouragement, turmoil, shame, fear, anger, grief, pain and broken heartedness.

It would be terrible if we left it there.

Balanced against all that negativity are positive emotions; such as: **Awe, wonder, marvel, delight, joy, hope, gratitude confidence and love.**

The Christian life is not always about Celebration; it is about the real-life experiences of mourning, weeping and grieving; and how do we handle that? Where do we get our strength to cope?

10. The Lord knows ALL that is in our hearts – and yet He can still love us.

11. It was having a ‘heart towards God’.

12. J. Edwin Orr has written a hymn based on those last verses in which he writes:

Search me O God, and know my heart today
Try me O Lord, and know my thoughts I pray
See if there be some wicked way in me
Cleanse me from every sin, and set me free

Will you make this your prayer too?

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 2 – A COURAGEOUS HEART

1 Samuel 17

1. Two parallel stories are being brought into focus in this chapter.
 - i. The demise of King Saul
 - ii. The rise of King David

Both – were chosen by God for leadership.

Both – were anointed by the Holy Spirit.

Both – experienced intimacy with God.

Both – experienced the power of God.

But then the comparisons stop and the contrasts begin.

We see the sun rise on David with the steady growth in knowledge & experience of God. We see the sun set on Saul with his steady decline into disobedience & darkness.

2. Saul had been on the throne for 40 years, yet despite having plenty of opportunities to end this ongoing conflict, he was still in battle with the Philistines.

3. Simply put: The Philistines were out to remove Israel from the inheritance that God had given them [*the Israelites*]. Thus, as enemies of Israel, the Philistines were enemies of God's purpose.
4. In each situation Saul was consumed by fear.
5. 'Fear; is an emotion you feel when you are faced with something threatening, that is bigger, more powerful than you or your resources
6. God had made a promise to Saul concerning the Philistines – see 1 Samuel 10:6-7 – and yet Saul was consistently disregarding that promise. **Saul was now living by his own wits, and by his own resources.**

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 3 – A CONSCIENTIOUS HEART

1 Samuel 19, 23:15 & 24:1-7

1. In this study we continue to compare Saul and David as we learn more about our 'conscience'.
2. Victory over the Philistines was assured because God had promised it. All that was needed was for Saul to cooperate with God.
3. Instead of **Faith**, Saul was characterized by **Fear**
Instead of **Trust**, Saul was characterized by **Terror**
Instead of **Obedience**, Saul was characterized by **Oppression**
Instead of operating by the Spirit of God, **Saul was operating only by human resources, human ingenuity, human wisdom.**
Therefore he was no match at all for Goliath.

4. Saul did not believe for one minute that David could be successful. If he had believed that, he would have gone himself. Saul, in offering David the use of his armor [knowing full well that it was way too big and too heavy for David], Saul was mocking David's assertion that God would give him [David] victory. Remember, God had promised this victory over the Philistines to Saul. In mocking David, Saul was mocking God. Not a smart thing to do.

5. Saul's reaction:

- I Samuel 18 Verse 8 Saul was very angry.
Verse 9 Saul kept a jealous eye on David.
Verse 15 Saul was afraid of David.
Verse 29 Saul remained an enemy of David for the rest of his days.
- I Samuel 19 Verse 1 Saul sent out the order for David to be killed.

Saul's hatred towards David was because David was doing what Saul knew he [Saul] should have done

6. The 'flesh' – all that we are in ourselves apart from God: our self-sufficiency, our need to be recognized, our human prowess – the 'Spirit' – with its dependence on Him and His active presence in our lives.

The 'flesh' is uncomfortable and angry around those who operate in 'the Spirit', and will find every reason to accuse, criticize and dismiss them.

Because Saul had **deserted his dependence on God while David had demonstrated his dependence on God**, David became Saul's enemy.

7. If you have preceded this study by watching the DVD of Charles preaching the message of the same title, this will make sense to you. Later in 2 Samuel 24:10 we see again David's conscience troubling him because he had done something against God's specific instructions.

8. A good conscience is vital to wholesome living.

There is the mental part of our minds that know facts [intellect]. And there is the moral part of our minds that knows right from wrong.

It is one thing to know facts, but an entirely different thing to know right from wrong concerning those facts.

Before we engage in any action we make a moral choice.

We determine what is right or wrong!

9. We are born with a 'conscience'.

It is an inherent capacity with which we were born.

10. Our conscience needs to be **carefully maintained**.

Because it can be **violated, distorted** and **desensitized**.

Read and consider 1 Timothy 1:18

If we begin to ignore our conscience – even in a small way – we open the door to our faith being shipwrecked.

Once we desensitize our conscience we are no longer driven by a moral guide, but driven by our perceived ability to manage the consequences – for example, if I can get away with it, I have won.

11. The first symptoms of this are: **deceit, cover-up** and **lies**.

And the more you do it – the easier it becomes.

12. We are all vulnerable, and we are all nearer to falling than we think.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 4 – A CROWNED HEART

2 Samuel 5:1-5

1. As we have been looking at the life of David it includes teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness.
2. **David's Kingship is Confirmed.**
David's Kingship is Consolidated.
David's Kingship is Challenged.
3. This had been a long time coming as David had been waiting in the wings for 14 or 15 years.
 - He was their own flesh and blood. v.1
 - He had proven himself in leading Israel on military campaigns. v.2
 - The Lord had set him apart for this... and the people recognized that. v.3

David was patient to wait for God's perfect timing. He knew God had called him to this, and he knew that God would bring it about in **HIS** time, without the need for any manipulation from David.

4. David's Kingship, once confirmed in a day, took many years to consolidate. Again: more and more patience and trust in God is needed. Finally: read and consider 2 Samuel 5:9-10
5. The moment God does something in our life, Satan counteracts. He always has, and he always will – it is a pattern throughout the Bible. Don't be surprised by it – expect it... be on guard for it!

6. David got on his knees and asked God. David's strength, strategies and tactics were not human, but divine. They were derived from his consistently close relationship with God.

Compare this with Saul, who had initially been close to God, but who had come to rely on his own human wisdom, tactics and strength.

We can slip into this as individuals and as a church; we start well but then fall into just oiling the machinery and repeating what we already know.

There are churches all around where the life has gone out of them because they are just repeating the pattern that God blessed years ago, but they are not enquiring of God and seeking His direction for NOW and the FUTURE.

7. In order to let God be God we must not try to place Him in a box. The strategy of yesterday is not enough to navigate today. The victory of yesterday is not enough for today.

Let's do **fresh** business with Him... **walk humbly** with Him... **Acknowledge Him** in all our ways **and He will direct our paths.**

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 5 – A CONVICTED HEART

2 Samuel 12:1-7a

1. We now see another side of David's character. In this we see that the Bible never flatters its hero's. It always tell us the truth, and the truth is usually a mixture of **Faith and Frailty.**

2. At this time David was close to 50 years old, and as a man rich in experience of God. But now look at him! Fallen into the same trap. He neither detects nor hates his sin.

But remember this: We are all capable of sins that would shock us. Read 1 Chronicles 10:12.

If you ever say “I would never do that!”, you have probably taken the first step to your own fall.

3. We are going to quickly look at three things today.

- i. The **CAUSE** of David’s sin.
- ii. The **CORRUPTING POWER** of David’s sin.
- iii. The **CONSEQUENCES** of David’s sin.

4. First of all we learn from 2 Samuel 11:1 that David should have been out at war; but he stayed at home.

Was he becoming lazy; after all he was a **‘leader’**. Read and consider 1 Samuel 18:13, 1 Samuel 18:16, 2 Samuel 5:2

Previously David **led** his men into battle, but now he **sent** them into battle; He had exempted himself from the battle; he was becoming comfortable and complacent... His defenses were down.

5. Why was David getting up from his bed **in the evening?**

6. David initiated the contact with Bathsheba, and she could hardly have refused David, the King of Israel. David used – and therefore abused – his power and position.

Sin offers us the pleasure of the moment, and David probably thought he could just cut it off at any time... But no!

Sin has corrupting Power over those who give in to it!

7. We may think that sins comes cheaply – and it may appear to do so at first – but sin carries with it a **massive price tag** – the cost is **HIGH!**

David started by **looking**... Then lusting...
And this **led to Adultery**.

8. In an attempt to cover up his sin, David plunged into cover up, lies and deception.
- He tries the get rid of the evidence.
 - Next, he had Bathsheba's husband killed.
 - And then he took her for himself. [2 Samuel 11:27]
9. Along comes Nathan who courageously exposes David's sin, and draws David unwittingly into condemnation of his own sin. **And David is convicted!**
10. Oh! So now it's all good again. Right? **WRONG!**

**There is more to dealing with sin than just being sorry for it!
Forgiven sin still has consequences!**

11. There can be some heavy consequence to sin – even after having been forgiven.
Sometimes retribution needs to be made.
12. 1) Sin cannot be hidden.
2) Sin always hurts other people.
3) It may seem to lie silent, but it will always reveal itself.
4) Being 'forgiven' doesn't just clean up the mess of sin – there are consequences.

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 6 – A CHASTENED HEART

2 Samuel 12-18

1. That is a lot to read, so you may chose to check just the scriptures suggested as we go along. Today we are going to talk about SIN. How we respond to sin is crucial to our well-being.
2.
 - i. A **Serious Response** to Sin.
 - ii. A **Superficial Response** to Sin.
3. The two important statements are:
 - i. The Lord has taken away your sin.
 - ii. But the sword will never depart from your house.

Either: Sin is **under the judgment of God** when it is **NOT** confessed. Or: Sin is **under the discipline of God** when it **IS** confessed.

The person God forgives sometimes has to drink from the well he has tapped. There is **collateral damage** from sin – usually to those you love most.

David has sown something into **his life**, into **his family**, and into **his nation** that will continue in its effect.

Events that followed in David's life were not because God had **NOT** forgiven David, but because God **HAD** forgiven him.

David has sown a wind, and is reaping a whirlwind; but **it is a whirlwind that will discipline, correct and train him in righteousness.**

4. The discipline of God can be painful; and we are prone to despise and resent it. **But God's discipline is an act of love.**

5. 'The Innermost Place'

David realized that if he was going to deal seriously with his sin he had to go to that innermost place. And that is where WE have to go if we are serious about our own sin.

David had to be willing to go down to the root, the cause, the inmost place, the inner parts, the heart; and to help him get there was the chastening hand of God, to humble him, to correct him... or his heart would have become hard.

It is there we can genuinely call out to God. "Create in me a pure heart Oh God, and renew a steadfast spirit in me"
Psalm 51:10

6. The bottom line is, when Absalom returned to his Father, King David, Absalom's heart had not changed, and his relationship with David was never restored.

Many of us want forgiveness because we want our guilty conscience to be eased. We say the 'sinner's prayer' and enter into a technical relationship with God where we feel we are legally 'off the hook', and 'over the line' of salvation, but not in active fellowship with God, there is no growing relationship.

7. True repentance breaks our will, and breaks our opposition to God. There are some people who will settle for reconciliation to God, but NOT brokenness before God.

Forgiveness without brokenness permits us to sin again; because a cheap, easy sense of forgiveness may actually foster sin. **Unless we learn to hate sin** we will be crawling back to God again and again over the same sin.

8. Those prophetic words carry the same weight of warning as they did when William Booth first spoke them.

9. If that is what you want, then your response to sin is not serious – it is superficial.

**A SERIOUS response to sin
leads to Serious Repentance;
which leads to brokenness and contrition,
which in turn leads to true restoration and fellowship with God.
And that requires doing business ALONE with God!**

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 7 – A COMPROMISED HEART *2 Samuel 24*

1. This is a story about David counting his people – taking a census – but that went very wrong.
2. We will ask 4 questions:
 - i. Who **Instigated** this?
 - ii. **Why** was it?
 - iii. **What Happened**
 - iv. **Where Rectified?**
3. So, 2 Samuel tells us that the Lord incited David to take a census; While 1 Chronicles tells us that it was Satan who incited David to take the census.

Confusing what God does with what Satan does is a big mistake, so why do we have these two conflicting statements?

2 Samuel 24 is recording the event from a **Human Perspective**; whereas 1 Chronicles gives us a deeper **Divine Perspective**.

There are times in the Bible when God and Satan have a vested interest in the same event. Please read and consider Luke 4:1 Who was behind this wilderness experience; God or Satan?

4. What do we learn from 1 Corinthians 10:13?

Everything Satan does is ultimately by permission of God. But he has perimeters set by God.

What do we learn from James 1:13?

Though God **permits**, He **does not originate** temptation.

5. Throughout his entire life David had relied upon the Lord; but now as he has become older he is seeking security before moving forward.

To most people that seems reasonable – but not to God. Why, after all these years of trusting God, would David now seek to know his resources, his strengths, his capabilities, and to now rely of those things rather than trusting God?

We have known Christian Ministries, Missionaries, and Churches that start with nothing but God and dependence on Him; but when they get big they accumulate assets, they build a large staff, they have big budgets – they become secure, predictable, with no more of the reckless risk taking of their earlier days when they experienced God supernaturally at work.

6. The danger comes:

...when business sense gets separated from spiritual dependency.

...when military strategy becomes separated from spiritual dependency.

...when we lose the freshness of the Lord's presence.

We should never forget the truth of Zechariah 4:6

**'Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit.
Says the Lord Almighty'**

7. David's conscience – which had previously become hardened – has now become re-sensitized.

However; read and consider 2 Samuel 24:11-13 to learn of the 3 choices that the Lord, through the prophet Gad, gave to David.

1. 3 years of famine.
 2. 3 months of fleeing from his enemies.
 3. 3 days of plague.
8. David chose the shortest of the three – perhaps he thought it would be the easiest as it would be over quickly, however the immediate effect was that in those 3 short days 10,000 people died.
 9. Remember how David had been trying to count the numbers in a census?... well, this plague put a huge dent in those numbers – the resources that David had come to rely on [rather than trusting God].
 10. Knowing that David had transferred his trust from God to his physical numerical resources, God's discipline was to reduce those numbers of people, and so to weaken David. In other words; bring David back to his position of dependence on God.
 11. Read and consider also: Hebrews 10:1, and 2 Samuel 24:24b-25. This is a foreshadowing of the Cross of Christ where He finalized our sins once and for all.
Read Hebrews 9:12 and 26

This was David taking sin seriously!

- **Have you wandered from God, and forgotten the truth that you once knew?**
- **Are you living a daily life that is in independence of God?**
- **Are you looking for a cheap convenient relationship that requires no discipline of mind, or fellowship, of trust?**
- **DO YOU NEED TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD?**

David – Issues of the Heart

PART 8 – A CONTINUING HEART

1 Chronicles 28

1. This is where David announces his succession plan for the nation of Israel, the passing of the baton to his son Solomon.
2. But these principles are still true in all of ‘the church’.
3. Referring in this first instance to Solomon:
 - i. He is Appointed by God.
 - ii. He is Under the Authority of God
 - iii. He Obeys the Agenda of God.
 - iv. He Seeks Astuteness from God.
4. David had many sons, some of whom competed aggressively for the throne, but of Solomon – the tenth son of David – there is no record that he ever sought the throne. David had told Bathsheba, Solomon’s mother, that Solomon would succeed him, but there is no record that Solomon himself ever initiated any interest in it. Take a quick look at ‘Final Thoughts’.
5. This is NOT talking about the throne of Israel, but rather, the throne of the Kingdom of the Lord over Israel. Solomon was not the ultimate King of Israel – God was! It is HIS throne!

Perhaps this is why God resisted the cries of the people of Israel to have a king. After all... HE is their King!
6. All of His commands, His ways, His decrees, His law, His requirements and His promises, are all found in Old Testament scripture. But as we are now under a New Covenant – post Christ – all of those things are now supplemented by His Promise, His Resources and His Spirit. Apart from Him we can do none of these things, except create a veneer of a spiritual life.

7. All that David said to Solomon is about serving God – nothing about serving people; that will be the outcome of serving God, but God is the motive and the objective. We serve people, by serving and obeying God!
8. We are the custodians for our generation only. We need to pass our trust on to the next generation, stronger, better, more fruitful than we found it.
9. From this verse we learn that perhaps we should stop praying “Lord, Please be with me” and instead make sure that WE are with Him!
10. If you look especially at verse 10 you will discover that despite being offered a ‘blank cheque’ from God, Solomon asked nothing for himself.

He did not ask for popularity, high success, prosperity, victory in battles, good reputation or that he would leave a great legacy. He asked for wisdom, discernment and understanding.

Why did Solomon ask for these things? So that he could govern? Govern who? ‘this great people of Yours’. In doing so acknowledging that he was not the King of these people – they were God’s people!

11. Solomon received the wisdom etc. that he had humbly asked for, PLUS he received wealth, riches and honor, which he had NOT asked for. Solomon asked for wisdom, and everything else was thrown in. But it was primarily for his great wisdom that Solomon became known.

So David handed the baton over to Solomon... and they all lived happily ever after. Right? **Wrong!** But that’s another story for another time.