

A Heart that Pleases God

What I Really Want in 2013

1 Samuel 16:1-13

King David

- David was a skilled musician
- David was a fearsome warrior
- David was a poet
- David was a statesman
- David was very attractive (physically and in his personality)

David was the CENTRAL character of the Old Testament

- Abraham has 14 chapters devoted to his story
- Elijah has 10 chapters devoted to his story
- David has 66, and he's mentioned 600 times in the OT and over 60 in the NT
- To this day, the flag that flies over the country of Israel features the star of David

But what was really amazing about David?

- It was not any of his external accomplishments, but it was his HEART that pleased God.
- 1 Samuel 13:14 says, “But your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and has appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

1 Samuel 16:1-13

What is God saying?

- Birth order was very significant for the people of that day and still is in some cultures today.
- But God was saying, “I’m breaking into the old limitations and boundaries that don’t matter to me, because I look at the heart.” (v. 7)

This does not mean...

- That God will not use your talents and strengths **FOR HIS GLORY**, after you have become a believer
- God does not prefer people with **NO** talents. He looks at everyone equally.
- He used people like David, with many talents.
- But the world looks at those things as **OVERLY** important and says that without those, we are insignificant.

What is it about David's heart?

- There are three significant things that made David's heart a heart that pleased God.
- And I hope for us in 2013 that God will turn our hearts into hearts that please Him.
- As we look at David's heart, please do a heart check of your own.

David's heart was characterized by stubborn love

- His heart was not fickle, but loyal
- He loved people and God with the heart of a shepherd, “with integrity of heart” (Ps. 78:72)
- He loved even his stubborn sheep
- The people in David's life
 - Saul
 - Jonathan
 - Absalom

- When David loved you, YOU STAYED LOVED!
- That is the kind of love I want to have in 2013!
- I pray that God will give all of us this kind of stubborn love in the new year, for others and for Him.

David's heart was characterized by freedom before God

- In Psalm 9, 86, 111, David says, “I will praise you O Lord, with all my heart!”
- He has unguarded passion before God and didn't hold it back
- When the Ark of the Lord's covenant came back to Jerusalem... (1 Chronicles 15)
- It is my prayer that God will give us this kind of free heart before Him in then new year!

David's heart was characterized by deep reflection

- Psalm 139 is a great example of this
- “Search me, O God, and know my heart!”
- What a combination! Amazing passion and deep reflection! They don't often go together.
- David's heart was formed in all those years when he was alone with God
- He spend much of his time WAITING

Our Heart in 2013

- Will our hearts be filled with **STUBBORN LOVE** for those around us and for God?
- Will our hearts be **WILDLY FREE** before God?
- Will our hearts be **DEEPLY REFLECTIVE** of God and His goodness?