

DAVID: WHOLE HEART

1 SAMUEL 16-31

God is intensely interested in the heart conditions of humans. He knows that our bodies will wear out, and He knows that each of our souls has a rendezvous with eternity.

King David was a man after God's heart. He cared about what God thought, said, and required from him as a human leader. His life was filled with ups and downs and he made many mistakes, including adultery and murder. These choices cost him dearly, but through all of his troubles and challenges he continued to pursue God with a whole heart! Many of the Psalms are ascribed to David, and give us further insight into his heart.



1 Samuel 16-17

Why was David chosen over his brothers? What was Samuel's role in the process? What was David's initial relationship like with King Saul? What functions did he perform for Saul and what kind of access would this have given David? Who were the Philistines? What gave David his courage to fight Goliath? What strikes you about this conflict? What are your impressions of David as a young man?

1 Samuel 18-20

What are your impressions of the relationship between Saul, David, and Jonathan? Why did Saul become so dissatisfied with David? What are the root problems here?

1 Samuel 21-24

Jesus talks about the situation with the "consecrated bread" (set apart) in Matthew 12:1-7. What does He say and how does He read this situation? How does David's feigning of madness stack up with his courage in confronting Goliath? What is happening to Saul's heart and how is it impacting his actions and relationships? How does Saul's obsession with David reflect upon his relationship with God? Why was Saul chosen as king in the first place? Why in the world didn't David kill Saul when he had the chance?

1 Samuel 25-31

What do David's experiences with Abigail tell you about where his spiritual life is headed? What has happened to David's wife, Michal? Once again David spares Saul's life! Is this restraint or cowardice or something else? Why would Saul consult a witch? What does this tell you about his spiritual path? How would it been possible for him to call up Samuel? Saul is all form and no substance. He is tossed by the waves of circumstance.

David and Saul are an interesting contrast. David is all heart for God but still makes many mistakes. Saul appears to be more concerned with what people think rather than what God thinks. How well do you deal with this trap? Read 1 Samuel 8 for more background on Israel's desire for and choice of a king.

My conclusions from this study...
