

THE STORY

STUDY 11

CHAPTER 11

Summary of Chapter:

- God tells Samuel that he has rejected Saul as King over his people and he is to go to Jesse of Bethlehem to anoint one of his sons to be the next king of Israel. Samuel after examining the sons of Jesse and considering their outward appearance as acceptable for the position of King, God tells him that the inward appearance of His next King is more important and David, Jesse's youngest son who was a shepherd, is anointed Israel's next king.
- David defeats the giant Philistine, Goliath, after showing a trust in the God of Israel that no one else did. And David suddenly shoots to prominence in Israel as a mighty warrior, which angers King Saul. Saul's anger and jealousy towards David turns to hatred and he makes numerous attempts to kill David. David in the meanwhile befriends Jonathan, one of Saul's sons and enjoys a close friendship with him.
- Saul's attempts to kill David takes him to the desert of Engedi where he believes David to be. Saul rests in a cave in which David is hiding, and instead of killing Saul, David spares his life and cuts off a piece of Saul's robe. David feels terrible about what he has done and leaves the cave to find Saul, and shows Saul the piece of robe he cut off and how he had the opportunity to kill Saul, but instead he spared Saul's life which was a sign for Saul that David had no intention to harm the King.
- Saul after hearing this returns to his home and David and his men go up to a stronghold. This peace treaty between Saul and David did not last and again Saul was in pursuit of David. David withdrew to the Philistine territory.
- The Philistines in the meanwhile made war with Israel and Saul and some of his sons died at the hands of the Philistines. King David rose up and led Israel against the Philistines, but David was more concerned about the spiritual welfare of his people and so he also gathered some men to retrieve the Ark of the Covenant stored at the house of Abinadab.
- On the way God struck down Uzzah when he tried to steady the ark after the oxen stumbled and this made David afraid to bring the Ark into the city of David and so he left it with Obed-Edom. Well God blessed Obed-Edom and his entire household and when David heard of the Blessing he brought the ark back to the city of David, cautiously and in a worshipful manner.
- His Wife Michal however did not think that David's public display of exuberance and worship was fitting of a King. David's response was to affirm that it was God that had anointed him as King and if his worship had to become more undignified than what he had done he would do it for his God.

- After that David wanted to build a temple/house for the Lord, but through the prophet Nathan God told David that his son would be the one who would build him a temple.
- God establishes his covenant with David and promised to make David into a great leader and from his offspring God would raise a leader who would sit on Israel's throne forever.

1. Why was David chosen to be the next king of Israel?

God had rejected Saul as king over His people. Although Saul was physically well suited to be King (he stood head and shoulders above everyone else), his heart was not for the Lord. Saul led with no regard to the Israelites God, this is seen in the confrontation with Goliath where no faith in God's power or strength is evident from Saul nor his army. And so God chose David because he loved God deeply and had a great faith in God. David was a man after God's own heart. He knew his God and believed that his God would be faithful to his promises. Again we see evidence of this as he takes on Goliath.

When God chooses someone to use for His purposes, He does not look at outward appearance, the Lord looks at the heart and looks for a heart that is for Him.

2. What obstacles did David face to become the king he was anointed to be?

He had to face the obstacle of his family struggling to accept Him as future King. We see at his anointing by Samuel, he was the youngest son and the one looking after sheep, while his brothers were to Samuel obvious candidates for King. We also see how his older brothers struggled to accept David, for when they were facing Goliath, they were irritated at his presence and his boldness and wanted him to return home to his sheep.

Goliath and the Philistine army was an obstacle which threatened Israel's existence, which in turn threatened David's future kingship.

Later on David would have to overcome the obstacle of King Saul and his numerous attempts to kill David. Saul's hatred and jealousy towards David also created an obstacle for his friendship with Saul's son, Jonathan.

With David being such a great leader and warrior, his popularity grew amongst the people, which increased Saul's jealousy and desire to exterminate David. From that David faced the obstacle of being patient and honouring God's King for his people, Saul, until the appointed time for his reign to begin. The obstacle of peer pressure from those around him to kill Saul or to go to battle with him must have been great.

3. How was David able to face a giant when so many others gave way to fear?

Pg148 “Your servant (David) has been keeping his father’s sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the Living God. The Lord who rescued me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will rescue me from the hand of this Philistine.”

David had come to trust in the greatness of God in his own personal walk with the Lord, he knew that God had protected him and enabled him to kill the lion and the bear in order to protect his sheep. He knew that his God was great enough to enable him with all he needs to overcome the one who wants to make a mockery of God’s greatness and to harm God’s people.

David had a faith that rightly ascribed greatness to God instead of greatness to the giant. And God honoured that faith and gave David everything he needed to kill the giant.

4. Why did David spare Saul when he had the chance to be free of Saul’s attempts to kill him? What would you have done?

David realised that Saul was still God’s anointed King of Israel; he was still David’s King. Even though he had been anointed Israel’s future king, and even though he had become an enemy of Saul’s, who was he to take matters into his own hand and make himself King of Israel. And so out of honour to God and his anointed one and in faith in God’s anointing on his own life, he spared Saul’s life. (Pg 153) David honoured God and trusted in his word in the midst of the threats on his own life and he wanted God to be praised and exalted more than himself.

5. David had a single goal (that the God of Israel would be glorified) because he had a single love (the God of Israel). What can you do to cultivate a heart like David’s?

I think having a heart like David rests on our relationship with God. We need to grow our relationship with God. When our relationship with God grows and we discover more and more who he is and what he has done for us and what he promises us, a single love develops for Him which results in a single goal to glorify his name.

We can’t expect to have a heart like David’s if we refuse to work at our relationship with him.