

**JOURNEY**  
into a  
*Passion-Filled*  
**LIFE**



**In Pursuit of a  
God Shaped Heart**

Studies from the Life of David

**CLARK TATUM**

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Passion-Filled  
Life*

*In Pursuit of a God  
Shaped Heart*

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**Clark Tatum**

  
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in appreciation for the spiritual encouragement,  
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## Introduction

David is one of the most interesting and powerful characters in the Bible. He is so important that it takes 66 chapters in the Old Testament to tell his story. David is mentioned no less than 57 times in the New Testament and it is evident in Scripture he was a man in pursuit of God's own heart. <sup>10</sup>*"I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. <sup>11</sup>I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you"* (Psalm 119:10-11). David shows us that one seeks a God pleasing heart by seeking God's will. The practical insights we can gain from a study of David's life can help us develop a heart pleasing to God. Our study will remind us that David struggled where we struggle and through it all he continued his pursuit of a God shaped heart. As I began my study of David, I realized we cannot study his life unless we look briefly into the life of Saul. I also noticed we could not tell the story of David very well without sharing some background on God's prophet Samuel.



The Israelites insisted on God giving them a king (1 Samuel 8:7-10). They told Samuel, *"Give us a king to lead us"* (1 Samuel 8:6). God and Samuel knew a king was not what they needed in the long run and later the people would find that to be true. However, God did not stand in their way of having a king, but he communicated through Samuel some of the burden they would face as a result of having a king like the other nations (1 Samuel 8:10-22). God then directed Samuel to anoint Saul to be the first king of Israel (1 Samuel 9-10) and later David to be their second king (1 Samuel 16). The people had their first king and the nation would have many other kings after Saul. Many of them were wicked because their hearts were hard. David would be one of several exceptions to the succession of bad kings. In fact, David would be exclusive in that God gives an amazing testimony as to the heart of David. We read in the New Testament, *"<sup>21</sup>Then the people asked for a king, and he gave them Saul son of Kish, of the tribe of Benjamin, who ruled forty years. <sup>22</sup>After removing Saul, he made David their king. He testified concerning him: 'I have found David son of Jesse a man after my own heart; he will do everything I want him to do.'"* (Acts 13:21-22).

As I introduce the life of David, I will take us back to the very beginning of his story. The story of David begins immediately following the conclusion of the Book of Judges. There is a small book that follows Judges called Ruth that is the beginning place in the story of David. The Book of Ruth reveals a beautiful story that I have briefly repeated on occasions when I have conducted wedding ceremonies. Obviously, God did not put the Book of Ruth between Judges and 1 Samuel for me to share her story simply at weddings. Ruth is a powerful story of a godly love that causes Ruth to cling to her mother-in-law, Naomi, whose

husband Elimelech had died down in Moab. He had taken Naomi and his sons from Bethlehem of Judah down to the land of Moab because there was a severe famine in Bethlehem. He was trying to provide for them the best he could, but he died in Moab leaving Naomi with her two sons. The sons eventually married Moabite women, Ruth and Orpah. In time tragedy strikes again and Naomi's two sons died and she was left with only her daughters-in-law.

Naomi was wise and began making plans to go back to Bethlehem. She had heard things were better there and she would be in her homeland (Ruth 1:6). <sup>7</sup>*“With her two daughters-in-law she left the place where she had been living and set out on the road that would take them back to the land of Judah.* <sup>8</sup>*Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, ‘Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May the LORD show kindness to you, as you have shown to your dead and to me.* <sup>9</sup>*May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.’ Then she kissed them and they wept aloud* <sup>10</sup>*and said to her, ‘We will go back with you to your people.’* <sup>11</sup>*But Naomi said, ‘Return home, my daughters. Why would you come with me? Am I going to have any more sons, who could become your husbands?* <sup>12</sup>*Return home, my daughters; I am too old to have another husband. Even if I thought there was still hope for me – even if I had a husband tonight and then gave birth to sons –* <sup>13</sup>*would you wait until they grew up? Would you remain unmarried for them? No, my daughters. It is more bitter for me than for you, because the LORD’s hand has gone out against me!’* <sup>14</sup>*At this they wept again. Then Orpah kissed her mother-in-law good-by, but Ruth clung to her.* <sup>15</sup>*‘Look,’ said Naomi, ‘your sister-in-law is going back to her people and her gods. Go back with her.’* <sup>16</sup>*But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go, I will go, and where*

*you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. <sup>17</sup>Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.’ <sup>18</sup>When Naomi realized that Ruth was determined to go with her, she stopped urging her” (Ruth 1:7-18).*

What a beautiful scene. Ruth is clinging to her mother-in-law realizing she is older and will need someone to help her. God was at work in Ruth’s story as she meets a man by the name of Boaz. He is a distant kinsman of Ruth’s father-in-law who had died. He is attracted to Ruth and they marry. Boaz shows compassion and care to Ruth and Naomi. In time Boaz and Ruth have a son whose name is Obed who eventually had a son whose name is Jesse. The very last verse in Ruth reads, *“Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of David”* (Ruth 4:21b). One of the reasons Ruth has been placed in the Bible between Judges and 1 Samuel is tell us about the beginning of David’s father, Jesse, who was the son of Obed, who was the son of Boaz, and that means David is the great-grandson of a woman named Ruth. Interestingly enough if we look at the genealogy of Jesus you will see the names of Boaz, Ruth, Obed, Jesse, and David within it.

Ruth had a very special quality and that quality was love and we will see that quality in David. In Ruth, we see a love so strong she was willing to leave her own people to help Naomi. It would not have been easy for Ruth to leave the land and the people she was familiar with and go to an unknown land. But Ruth loved Naomi enough she would undergo a separation with her own people and the ways of her people to learn the ways of the God of Israel in a different land. The ways of Israelites, as

followers of God, were different than the Moabite ways. It is an amazing statement Ruth makes to Naomi. *"Your people will be my people and your God my God"* (Ruth 1:16b).

Love for God and people will be the quality that outweighs all the others in the story of David. He loved God with all of his heart. He loved God enough to leave the comfort of certain places in his life for the benefit of others and the cause of God. We will see him give large amounts of his wealth when he is not required to simply because he loves God and cares about others. In the New Testament we learn that is the kind of love Jesus has for us. Love is the quality above all qualities that stand out in the life of Jesus who said, *"It is more blessed to give than receive"* (Acts 20:35). Our Savior had a love so strong He was willing to leave the glories of heaven to come to this earth to help people, as only God can, from every nation under the sun.

It stretches our minds to comprehend the great love of God, but it is not above our ability to appreciate such transforming love. David was a man in pursuit of God's love-filled heart. He desired to know the depth of such love and God's love became the driving force in his life. Hunger and passion for God filled his heart as he pursued to please God. Passionate hearts for God do not have an internal debate on whether or not they are going to be in the assembly on the Lord's Day to worship God and encourage others. Passionate hearts will always be in pursuit of eternal things. Passionate hearts will be faithful stewards of God's Word and serve God until they breathe their last breath on earth. A passionate heart for God, like David had, will motivate us to love God's way. David said, *"My heart is set on keeping your decrees to the very end"* (Psalm 119:112). There were times in

David's life when he would seem to give way to his heartache then suddenly, he would recall his faith in God's unfailing love. If we will let God's Word infuse us with His love like David did, we too will let God shape our hearts and never lose salvation's joy. There are many insights to having a heart pleasing to God embedded in David's story. These life lessons are linked to the identity of God's love that will help us develop a passion-filled, God focused heart.

# Chapter 1

## After God's Own Heart

(1 Samuel 13:1 – 16:23)

WE LEARNED IN THE INTRODUCTION TO THIS BOOK THAT THE PEOPLE of Israel began to call out to God's prophet Samuel demanding a king like the other nations. God knew a king was not what they really needed, but He didn't stand in their way. There is a lesson right here for our learning. We should be careful what we want, because in this case God didn't tell them, "No, you cannot have a king." Is what we want right now drawing us closer to Christ and taking us closer to heaven? We can have just about anything we want if we work at it hard enough and God is not going to stand in our way. But we ought to understand that it quite possible for us to want something that is not good for us in the long run. God allowed them to have what they wanted and even tried to find the best man for the job.

Before we dive into David a man after God's own heart, we need to take a good look at Saul who became the first king of Israel. The Bible tells us that Saul was "*...an impressive young*

man without equal among the Israelites – a head taller than any of the others” (1 Samuel 9:2). Samuel follows God’s direction and begins to tell Saul of God’s plan for his life. “Saul answered, “But am I not a Benjamite, from the smallest tribe of Israel, and is not my clan the least of all the clans of the tribe of Benjamin? Why do you say such a thing to me?” (1 Samuel 9:21). Saul was overwhelmed God would choose someone like him to be king which tells us this young man at this time possessed a heart of humility. Samuel anoints Saul to be the leader of Israel (1 Samuel 10:1) and tells him that God was going to change him. “As Saul turned to leave Samuel, God changed Saul’s heart, and all these signs were fulfilled that day” (1 Samuel 10:9). God equipped Saul with everything he needed to be a success as king over Israel (1 Samuel 10:6).

Saul was a young man that was humble which meant he would be prone to listen to God and the people which he would lead. Prideful people are prone to do what they want rather than what God wants. As he begins his reign as king at thirty years old, he has it all and that is what makes 1 Samuel 13 such a sad commentary on his life as king. Saul is at Gilgal with 3,000 Israelite soldiers preparing to fight the Philistines who were enemies of Israel. The Philistines outnumbered the Israelites and they are better equipped for battle and they hold Israel in military bondage as well as economic oppression. The Bible reads, <sup>5</sup>“The Philistines assembled to fight Israel, with three thousand chariots, six thousand charioteers, and soldiers as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They went up and camped at Micmash, east of Beth Aven. <sup>6</sup>When the men of Israel saw that their situation was critical and that their army was hard pressed, they hid in caves and thickets, among the rocks, and in pits and cisterns. <sup>7</sup>Some Hebrews even crossed the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the

troops with him were quaking with fear. <sup>8</sup>He waited seven days, the time set by Samuel; but Samuel did not come to Gilgal, and Saul's men began to scatter. <sup>9</sup>So he said, 'Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings.' And Saul offered up the burnt offering. <sup>10</sup>Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. <sup>11</sup>'What have you done?' asked Samuel. Saul replied, 'When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, <sup>12</sup>I thought, "Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor." So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering.'" (1 Samuel 13:5-12).

I imagine we all remember hearing the same question Samuel asked Saul from our parents, "What have you done?" The question was never asked because we had done something good, right? As we consider Saul's response to Samuel, we can relate to those times we tried to justify our actions to our parents or someone else in authority. Saul says, "I thought" and "I felt." Whenever we begin to think and feel what is right over what God has communicated to us, we will always be wrong. <sup>13</sup>"You acted foolishly," Samuel said. 'You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time. <sup>14</sup>But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command'" (1 Samuel 13:13-14). This announcement by Samuel is the pivoting point in the downward spiral of Saul's leadership and unfaithfulness to God.

Saul will have some victories over the Philistines, but when we open our Bibles to chapter 15, we find him disobeying God to the point where God is sad, He ever made him king. "I am



*grieved that I have made Saul king, because he has turned away from me and has not carried out my instructions” (1 Samuel 15:10). Saul had everything he needed to be successful as king in Israel and this is why his life is such a tragedy. He will be a disappointment to God and even Samuel will feel the pain of Saul’s downfall. <sup>26</sup>“But Samuel said to him, ‘I will not go back with you. You have rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD has rejected you as king over Israel!’ <sup>27</sup>As Samuel turned to leave, Saul caught hold of the hem of his robe, and it tore. <sup>28</sup>Samuel said to him, ‘The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to one of your neighbors – to one better than you. <sup>29</sup>He who is the Glory of Israel does not lie or change his mind; for he is not a man, that he should change his mind’” (1 Samuel 15:26-29).*

It is worth mentioning Saul repeatedly said, *“I have sinned”* (1 Samuel 15:24,30 and 26:31), but he did not change or have godly repentance. The New Testament gives us insight on true repentance. <sup>10</sup>*“Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death. <sup>11</sup>See what this godly sorrow has produced in you: what earnestness, what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what alarm, what longing, what concern, what readiness to see justice done. At every point you have proved yourselves to be innocent in this matter”* (2 Corinthians 7:11). There is a big difference between acknowledging our sin and actually repenting of our sin and turning to God. The rest of Saul’s life will be filled with selfishness, pride, jealousy, envy, anger, hatred, and eventually attempts to even kill David as the story unfolds. Although, at this point David is an unknown to Saul. We learn again in chapter 15 of God’s and Samuel’s disappointment in Saul. <sup>34</sup>*“Then Samuel left for Ramah, but Saul went up to his home in Gibeah of Saul. <sup>35</sup>Until the day Samuel died, he did not*

go to see Saul again, though Samuel mourned for him" (1 Samuel 15:34-35).

**Saul's story in summary reminds us of four things which are applicable to us today.**

**One** - God has a plan for our life.

**Two** - Satan has a plan for our life.

**Three** - We have a choice which plan we will follow.

**Four** - It is possible to follow God's plan for a while and drift back to Satan's plan.

Saul's downfall did not take place overnight. It was a subtle drift away from God by his choosing to be a little disobedient here and a little disobedient there. There is no such thing before a holy God as being a little disobedient. God's view is we are either obedient or disobedient. Yet, Satan, due to Saul's sinful choices, had likely deceived him into thinking some of his choices did not even fall in the category of disobedience. Mark it down, Satan will not tell us today if we are following God to sever all of our Christian relationships and separate ourselves from the church family completely. What the Deceiver will do is to try to get us to slip away from God's plan and purpose for our lives.

Drifting away from what we have seen and heard is one of Satan's most powerful weapons. If we have ever used that old-fashioned flypaper that is overly sticky and catches flies, we would know it works. We all know how it works. We hang the sticky paper up and when a fly lands on it they are caught and their flying days are done. I have always been somewhat

amazed that after some flies are caught other flies continue to land on the paper as if they will not get stuck. I am not sure why the flypaper keeps catching flies, but it does. We would think that a fly that is caught would communicate to his fellow flies this is not the place to land – you'll get stuck here – don't stop here, but inevitably the flypaper keeps on catching flies.

Satan's traps are similar in that they are often subtle, but they have quite a stick to them. We would think we would figure Satan's traps out as well and do everything we could to help one another avoid yielding to sin's temptations thinking we can do this and be alright as if there are no consequences. Galatians 6:1, *"Brothers if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently."* Satan's plan is we can make sinful choices and we will not be there long enough to get hurt. He wants us to think we are strong enough to do this and not get stuck. When we give in to Satan's plan that is when the drift away from God's plan begins. How do we keep from drifting away from God's plan and missing out on the great salvation (Hebrews 2:3) made possible by Jesus? Hebrews 2:1, *"We must pay more careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away."* Jesus is the author of our salvation (Hebrews 2:10) and He is able to help us as we are tempted to sin (Hebrews 2:18). Saul did not pay careful attention to the Word of God spoken through Samuel and as a result he drifted away from following God's plan. In view of this may we listen to what the Hebrew writer says by paying, *"more careful attention, to what we have heard, so we do not drift away."*

By the time, we move into 1 Samuel 16 the prophet Samuel is absolutely heart-broken about the situation with Saul and the failure he has become as king. 1 Samuel 16:1, *"The LORD said to*

*Samuel, 'How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.'*" This is the first-time Samuel has heard that God has zeroed in on a man to replace Saul. God has picked His next king and God will direct Samuel to anoint him. Samuel is totally supportive of God's decision to dethrone Saul, but he has some concerns. Samuel had always been an obedient servant of God, but by now Saul's reputation has spread and everyone knows something is wrong because he has become a dangerous and evil man. Saul has not repented of his sin and that continues to be a great tragedy. Surely with that in the background of Samuel's mind he asked God a question. 1 Samuel 16:2a, *"How can I go Saul will hear about it and kill me!"* From a human viewpoint, Samuel was right. King Saul might well try and kill him but God was aware of the situation.

The Lord does not even answer Samuel's question about Saul. It was not an option for Samuel not to obey God in this matter. God told him in 1 Samuel 16:3, *"Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."* What Samuel momentarily did not realize, and what we often forget, is that behind-the-scenes God was not at a loss to know what He's going to do. The challenge of faith is to obey when we do not know exactly what God is doing behind-the-scenes. By faith Samuel responds to God's word and he travels to Bethlehem. That is what faith does – it obeys God.

1 Samuel 16:4-5, <sup>4</sup>*"Samuel did what the LORD said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, 'Do you come in peace?'* <sup>5</sup>*Samuel replied, 'Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves and come to the*

*sacrifice with me.' Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice."* As Samuel arrives in Bethlehem there is an elevated concern among the spiritual leaders of the town likely because they know Samuel is a prophet and priest and he has been a judge so they think something might be wrong. They know he is a man of God who has had to correct things before when things were wrong so they are relieved to know that the prophet comes in peace. They learn he is going to prepare a sacrifice to the Lord and they are invited along with Jesse and his sons.

<sup>6</sup>*"When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed stands here before the LORD.'* <sup>7</sup>*But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart.'* <sup>8</sup>*Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, 'The LORD has not chosen this one either.'* <sup>9</sup>*Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, 'Nor has the LORD chosen this one.'* <sup>10</sup>*Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, 'The LORD has not chosen these.'* (1 Samuel 16:6-10). When Jesse and his sons come to the sacrifice Samuel looks around at the sons of Jesse because he knows God has chosen one of them. When he sees Eliab, Jesse's oldest son he thinks surely this is the one. We can understand why he might think so for chances are Eliab is likely tall and strong looking so Samuel thinks he has to be the one God wants as king. After all Samuel, does not have a lot of experience in anointing kings. He has only done it one time and that man was strong and very tall so based on his experience he looks at the sons of Jesse and he thinks Eliab fits the picture so he is ready to anoint him as king but

God steps in and makes it clear Eliab is not the one. God says, *"Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart"* (1 Samuel 16:7).

Abinadab is the second son and he appears before Samuel. God looks I his heart as well as Jesse's third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and seventh son and the Lord rejects them as king on the basis of their hearts.

Now Samuel turns to Jesse with a question. <sup>11</sup>*So he asked Jesse, 'Are these all the sons you have?' 'There is still the youngest,' Jesse answered, 'but he is tending the sheep.' Samuel said, 'Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives.'* <sup>12</sup>*So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the LORD said, 'Rise and anoint him; he is the one.'* <sup>13</sup>*So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power. Samuel then went to Ramah"* (1 Samuel 16:11-13).

Have we ever wondered why Jesse did not bring David in the first place? We are not told so we understand it is impossible to know for sure, but if you are like me, you may have found yourself wondering. Maybe it will be interesting and perhaps even beneficial at this point to consider a couple of things here. It is obvious David had a job to do, but it would seem reasonable that all of David's older brothers would have had chores to do or jobs they were accountable to do. David was assigned a job. He was taking care of the sheep, but surely there was someone else his father could get to fill the job of tending the sheep momentarily. After all this was a rare and special occasion that

Samuel would come to their town for such a sacrifice. We can only wonder why is David not there, but let us imagine for a moment because again we are not told why. Imagine Samuel has told Jesse about his plans to anoint one of his sons prior to coming to the place of sacrifice. If Samuel did do that, Jesse certainly would not have considered David to be in the selection of a possible king of Israel. And if Samuel had not told Jesse prior to coming to the place of sacrifice it would seem he might tell him fairly soon after arriving for the sacrifice and the anointing. If Samuel communicated this information, we see no movement in Scripture by Jesse to retrieve David even momentarily from his duty of watching the flock. We are left only to wonder, for we do not know, what the reason was that David stayed with the sheep, but it appears for some reason Jesse thinks he is the least likely of all his boys to be king so David's time would best be served continuing his shepherding on the hillside that day. It certainly looks like that could be a possibility.

Perhaps Jesse thinks David would be the least likely because he was the youngest and that would be understandable. And simply due to his age alone his other boys may be taller and stronger and may fit the role of king in a physical way much better than David. It was true then and it is true now, that as a rule we judge by appearance and that is why the information in 1 Samuel 16:7 is so important. We want our quarterbacks to look like quarterbacks and we want our presidents to look like presidents. It appears David did not fit the outward package of a king like Saul and Eliab did. It is clear from the text Samuel thought Eliab had to be the one God had chosen to be the next king, but God corrects him on his thought process.

Finally, David comes before Samuel and God has already investigated his heart. On the surface, there seemed to be nothing about David that would have caused God to say, "Wow! This is my man!" But when God looked at David's heart, he saw a person with single-focus of devotion towards Him. It might surprise us to learn more has been written in the Scriptures about David, than about any other biblical character. Abraham has some fourteen chapters dedicated to his life, and so does Joseph. The great patriarch Jacob has eleven chapters and Elijah has ten. It appears to me there are sixty-six chapters dedicated to David, and that does not include about fifty-nine references to his life in the New Testament. The title "*Son of David*" is often used of Jesus. No other individual occupies a position of such prominence in the lineage of our Lord and the purposes of God. David had the heart God was looking for so Samuel appoints David to be the next king over Israel.

What was it that God saw in David that convinced him he was a man after God's own heart? Let me suggest four things God is still interested in as He looks into our hearts.

**The first quality God saw in David was a committed heart.** The Bible tells us in 2 Chronicles 16:9, "*For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him.*" When God looked at David, he saw a committed spiritual heart. He saw a devoted heart. What does it mean for us to have a committed heart for God? It means we are a person whose life is in harmony with the Lord. We want to serve the Lord, honor the Lord, and encourage others to do the same. It means what is important to God is important to us. What burdens God burdens us. When we are deeply committed to God, we have a heart that is sensitive and focused on the



things of God. God is looking for individuals whose hearts are completely His. That means that when we do wrong, we admit it, and change our heart which in turn changes our actions. When God says in figurative terms, "Go to the right," our mind tells our feet to go to the right. When God says, "Stop something we are doing in our life," we do not complain about it, we stop it. When God says, "We need to do a certain thing to be pleasing to Him," we gladly do it because we want to please God. David wrote, *"Blessed are they who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart"* (Psalm 119:2). The concept of seeking God and keeping His commands remains the bottom-line of biblical Christianity today. The Apostle Paul said it this way, *"So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it"* (2 Corinthians 5:9).

**The second quality God saw in David was humility.** David was humble enough to admit his own personal need for God. The Lord had gone to the home of Jesse in spirit form. Jesse didn't know God was there. Nobody did, but God was there on a secret surveillance mission, and he spotted David and he saw a spirit of humility. God did not make a mistake here because after he is anointed what did David do next? Did he begin to try on crowns or royal robes? Did he have new business cards printed: "Scratch shepherd and write in king?" Did he go into town and shout, "I'm your new king?" Absolutely not! David went back to his sheep and waited for God to direct him in what else he should do. Because David was in pursuit of a God shaped heart he would wait for God's time and God's place to actually publicly reign as Israel's king. The Bible reads, *"Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time"* (1 Peter 5:6). The Lord saw in David a heart that was

willing to do whatever needed to be done and that included being faithful to keeping his father's sheep. God saw in David humility that moved him to depend on God while he was tending sheep, writing the poems, or playing the instrument.

**The third quality God saw in David's heart was integrity.**

Psalm 78:70-72, <sup>70</sup>*"He chose David his servant and took him from the sheep pens; <sup>71</sup>from tending the sheep he brought him to be the shepherd of his people Jacob, of Israel his inheritance. <sup>72</sup>And David shepherded them with integrity of heart; with skillful hands he led them."* God is looking at our hearts. He is not looking at how tall or short we are, or what color of hair we have or if we even have any hair. Samuel learned God looks at the heart and we should understand God still looks at our hearts. In David's story there will be times he is under severe pressure and we will be also. What is in our heart determines how we will react under pressure. David guarded his heart and kept his integrity before God and man under extremely difficult situations. The wise man wrote, *"Above all else, guard your heart for it is the wellspring of life"* (Proverbs 4:23).

**The fourth quality God saw in David's heart was a love for God.**

Love is the foundation for having a passionate heart for God in the first place. Love creates an atmosphere of commitment and devotion to that which we love. Jesus said it this way, *"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also"* (Matthew 6:21). The more we love God's way and grow in knowledge of Christ, the better choices we will make. Philippians 1:10 reads, *"so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless until the day of Christ."* What is in our heart will have everything to do with the choices we make. Love for God is our strength in times of weakness, our hope in times of despair, our

glory in times of difficulty, and our best when life throws us the worst. <sup>37</sup>"Jesus replied: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment. <sup>39</sup>And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' <sup>40</sup>All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments" (Matthew 22:37-40). When we love God as we should we will love people. God so loved He gave (John 3:16). Loving God and the things of God help us to understand what is of eternal value. Our love for God coupled with the insight on God's love for us we can get from reading the Bible, strengthens our resolve to follow God's plan and purpose for our lives. Love for God contributes mightily to our making right choices that will bless us and bring glory and praise to God. It is love for God that sets in motion a committed, humble heart that stands upright with godly integrity. How we live, speak, and act is a reflection on where our treasure is.

**CHAPTER 1 – QUESTIONS  
TO RECALL, REFLECT, AND REMEMBER**

1. How did Saul's words, "I thought," and "I felt," get him into serious trouble? When it came to God's commands what should he have done?
2. What did Samuel announce to Saul that became the pivoting point in the downward spiral of Saul's leadership?
3. Saul repeatedly said, "I have sinned," but he lacked godly repentance. What is the difference between godly sorrow and worldly sorrow?
4. Saul's story in summary reminds us of what four things?
5. What is one of Satan's most powerful weapons to get us to move away from God's plan and purpose for our lives?
6. Why did Samuel think God had chosen Eliab to be the next king? What did God remind Samuel of when God made it clear Eliab was not the one?
7. List four things God saw in David's heart that led Him to choose David to be Israel's next king? Explain why each of these qualities are still important for God to see in our hearts?
8. What did David do after he was anointed by Samuel to be king? What does this show us about his heart?
9. When we love God as we should what does that mean we will do? Loving God helps us to do what that will bless us and glorify God?





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*Journey into a Mission-Minded Life* explores concepts on church growth and maturity we can put into practice in our individual lives and in the local church family. The thirteen-chapter book has discussion questions that are intended to enlighten, encourage, and equip us so we can develop a mission-minded heart.

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