

There's only one person in all the Bible who is called a man after God's own heart. He's mentioned more than any other Old Testament character in the New Testament. When we first meet him, we find that he was ready with beautiful eyes and a handsome appearance. It's the only physical description we have of young David. He may have had red hair, or more likely he was sun bronzed by his many hours in the sun and wind. His appearance didn't seem to set him apart from other people. He was the youngest in the family when Samuel came to anoint the next king. David's father didn't even have him in the room until Samuel asked are these all your sons and his father said. While there is one more he's out what watching the sheep. David was born about 10 years after Saul became king, and the people of Israel at that time were on a long drift away from God and they were becoming disillusioned with the king that they themselves had wanted what you do when you got your own way and it's not working out the way you hoped it would. That was the place they were in. And yet God did not abandon his people at that time of disillusionment and insecurity. He did not abandon his people. Saul was told by Samuel you have acted foolishly you have not kept the commandments of the Lord your God. Now the Lord would've established his kingdom over it. Your kingdom over Israel forever, but now your kingdom shall not endure. The Lord has sought out for himself a man after his own heart and the Lord has appointed him as ruler over his people because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you for Samuel 13:13 and 14. We're given more information about David than we are anybody else in the Bible. Abraham's story is told in 14 chapters. Joseph's story is told in 14 chapters. Jacob's story is told in 11 chapters. Elijah in ten, but David's story is told in 66 chapters of the Bible and that does not include the 59 references to him in the New Testament from all antiquity. The story of David is probably the largest single narrative representation of a human life that slowly evolves over time, shaped and altered by the pressures of political life and public institutions and family and impulses of body and impulses of mind, and the eventual said decay of the flesh. It provides an unflinching portrait, a strong insight, into the human character and behavior. There's nowhere else in the Bible that we see its ability to define its characters more brilliantly deploy on two occasions. David is called a man after God's own heart. God saw something in David that he could use, but it wasn't on the surface. Man looks on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart. Paul said in I Corinthians chapter 12:6: "You see your calling brethren heaven, not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble our call got it chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise and the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty and the base things of the world and the things that are despised, hath God chosen and the things that are not that he might nullify the things that are that no man should boast before God." God saw spirituality in David people are terribly captivated by the service we have people elected to high office in our country based primarily sometimes on physical appearance, but David didn't look much different than any other boy. If we had been David's neighbors, we might not even know his name. What does it mean to be a person after God's heart? It means that what is important to God is important to you; it means that you have a heart and are sensitive to the things of God. In II Chronicles

16:9, the statement is made that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to show himself strong in the behalf of them, whose heart is perfect toward him." To be after God's heart means that when you're wrong you admit it; you come to terms with it. You're grieved over wrong; you're concerned about things that displease God; you care about the motivations behind your actions. God saw spirituality in David. He also taught humility in David. David was faithfully keeping his father. She and God saw the heart of a servant in him. God didn't care about head and shoulders taller. He cared about character--is he authentic or is he a fake? The purpose of a servant is to make somebody else successful. A servant does not want the person he serves to fail, so God looked at David and he saw spirituality; he saw humility. He also in David saw integrity from the care of the use with suckling lambs. He brought forth to shepherd Jacob his people and Israel. His inheritance God brought in for so he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart and guided them with his skillful hands. Psalm 78 :71 and 72. Integrity is what you are when nobody else is looking. The training ground of David was lonely. It was obscure. It was monotonous, but it was real. God trained David in solitude; nature was his nurse; nature was his companion and his teacher. Bethlehem is five or six miles south of Jerusalem's 2000 feet above the level of the Mediterranean with rich fields where Ruth once gleaned in, which gave the place its name "house of bread." The more lands around Bethlehem are wild and gaunt and strong and character breeding. It was there that David first imbibed that knowledge of natural scenery and pastoral pursuits that we see not only in the 23rd Psalm, but lots of other places. They colored all his life and all his poetry. Solitude has nurturing qualities. People who must have superficial sounds tend to lack depth. If you can't stand to be alone with yourself, something is unresolved in you. Solitude has a way of helping us address those issues. When was the last time you got all alone by yourself in nature and just soaked today so alone that the very sound of silence seemed deafening. That's where David lived. That's where he first learned how to be king. Surely for many nights, he sat alone under the stars. He felt the winds of autumn and the reins of winter. He endured the summer sun. Solitude was one of his teachers, and when I was a boy you can get into the woods like that. Stay there today. If a young person goes into the woods and they have their phone with them, all their friends are right with them. It's not the same experience at all. David grew up in obscurity. I know unseen unappreciated unapplied character is built in obscurity. David was trained in monotony. He was faithful in a menial routine through endless hours it was real training for Samuel 17 David is standing by saw when the giant appears solid scared to death hiding in his tent. David says who is this Philistine that he/she defy the armies of living guidance also who are you where the event that I'm David. I've been with my father. She salsas we fight this Philistine your name replies any replies without hesitation, your servant was standing, his father sheep. When a lion or a bear came and took a lamb from the block. I went out after him and attacked him and rescued it from his mouth and when he rose up against me. I season by his beard and struck him in Guild verses 3435% to 17 David had been killing lions and bears when nobody was looking. He'd been facing that kind of reality long before he faced Goliath in the public eye. It's in the little things, and in the lonely places that we prove ourselves capable of bigger things cultivate the habit of doing small things well become the conversion of a soul can happen in a moment, but the development of a saint is the task of a lifetime. You don't have to be smart to be obedient. You just have to obey for

David the day that Samuel came to his house started with a morning like any other day. Samuel looked at Eli have the older brother and thought will surely the Lord's anointed is before them. What Samuel didn't see was the character of Eli, Eli, but Eli was critical and negative and look down on his younger brother, the parade of possibles went by in that living room and the Lord literally told site Samuel man looks on the face of God looks on the heart chapter 16 verse seven would be something if we could see people not by face, but by heart. We could identify hearts as they came into the room. God saw Elijah, are you liar the older brother. He saw a been a dad and Schama, the oldest three brothers. He saw them as they really were and all the rest of the brothers as well. David is a teenager walks into the house and an old man comes over and pours oil on his head. Josephus says that as that was done Samuel leaned down and whispered in David's ear. You will be the next king. What David did go shopping for crowns Notley went right back out with the sheet where he belong when he was sent to play music for Saul. That's where he still was out with the sheep. They went back and forth from salt attend his father's block at Bethlehem chapter 17 versus 14 and 58 and expect special treatment. He went back and he did his job and that's one reason he was a man after God's own heart. He was faithful in these little things David had become a skilled musician and music was used, to bring them together with Saul. David wrote more than half of the songs they range over the whole gamut of human emotions. Whatever your mood is at a particular time you can find a song that will help express it. David went to Saul and provided soft music for a hard heart and then he got some more training. He killed Goliath. He became an overnight celebrity a lot of people could not take that and strong, but David did take it in stride. David went everywhere this all since he was in loyal submission to his king, even though he saw the shortcomings of escape four times in chapter 18 were told that David prospered, or the David behaved himself wisely. He submitted to authority us by his youth despite is an experience. David knew how to conduct himself with everybody. The service like them. The troops followed him, and even Saul when he was not in the grip of an evil spirit respected David did write without getting tired of overtime crutches that David had relied on began to fall away from him. He lost the crutch of a good position. Suddenly Saul was throwing spears at him and after the second time David never again serve in Saul's army. He lost the crutch of his wife, Michael Saul's daughter love David but when David escaped Saul through subterfuge, Michael Sable, he threatened to kill me if I didn't help him get away never again with a live together in harmony. David fled and came to Samuel at Raima and he and Samuel went stated may offer. There were condominiums in a mazelike arrangement where was easy to get lost and not be found that this was the type of place where he was easy to disappear. Nevertheless, David was forced to flee from AR and when he did he lost Samuel as a crutch. David's emotional stability was eroding all through this. He said there's hardly a step between me and death. Every time I fall down Saul gets closer to me when I can be and I get up a little slower. He fled to Jonathan that he has to leave Jonathan and loses the crutch of contact with his closest friend finally lost even his own self-respect when he went down to a case, the king of gap in enemy king and to get out a situation he had to fake insanity and let his spittle run down his beard. He lost his job, his relationship with his wife. His wise counselor. He lost contact with his closest friend, and he lost his self-respect. These were crutches that David could have used as substitutes for God crutches that tend to keep one's focus

horizontal crutches that offer only temporary relief. It's so easy to let God's gifts take the place of God himself. But David is script of all the substitutes he goes and lives in the cable been doing. He writes songs about these experiences on not take the time to go over them, but the hundred and second Psalm verses one through 10 Psalm 142 someone 57 Psalm 57 verses one through seven Psalm 34. This was all training for David. It doesn't really explain David why is one person like they are and a person is some other way. How do you explain Abraham E Lincoln Abraham Lincoln was not explained by a log cabin and a hearth and a shovel that you can take a piece of charcoal and do math problems on the back of seeking learn math by the fire like everybody had those things, but there was only one Abraham Lincoln and there was only one David. So how do we explain David we often talk about him as a man after God's own heart. But what is the heart of God, life, and how can our heart. The light David's and like God's. David has been a puzzle for thousands of years. His life perplexes in maddens and humbles students of the Bible to a lot of people. It doesn't seem like it makes any sense that this man who was so prone to personal weakness still had God treated him with special favor. David was many things he was shepherdess almost a king. He was a liar, an adult for and a murderer, but he was the only person in the entire Bible. It was called a man man after God's own heart and it was God who called them that God singled him out for this almost unfathomable complement, but in saying those words God threw open the door to each of us to be like David a person after God's own heart. We all have the same opportunity to embody in our own personality. The kind of heart that reflects God's heart and emotions and the personality of God. Why David get this special distinction from God. What set him apart from so many other godly people. He wasn't any more obedient than some of the others. If we want a sterling example of obedience. We look today. There's nothing bad ever said about Daniel now we only have a few chapters about it, but nothing bad ever said about that he wasn't called a man after God's own heart. David was committed to obeying God's commands and that's critically important Jesus equated obedience with love in John 1423. If you love me. You keep my Commandments, this desire chiseled and shaped the heart of David over many years. The fact that he wanted to obey God. David was far from a model of obedience all the time. There was often a yawning gap between his sincere resolve, and his actual actions. What is all this talent. It tells us that there's more to being a person after God's heart, then just obedience. I even say that I think it's hard to talk about this. I don't want to in any way ever seemed to downplay obedience. We ought not to do that and yet I say there's more to being a person after God's heart. Then just obedience. There is also the posture of your heart before God. Our sincere intentions to obey are very significant to God. He notices our desires and not only our outward actions. We all start out with an immature love maturity takes time but sincere love and any maturity level is real in the eyes of God. David's deep down determination to love and obey was valued by God. David was a student of God's emotions. He wanted to know what wonders and what pleasures he wanted to know what awesome things filled the heart of God. So he spent his best energies trying to understand what emotions burned in the personality of God. This was a king like no other peering into the heart of the uncreated be this is the kind of reality fuel the obedience of David and is a remarkable hunger to understand the heart of God. David had a grasp of the emotions and the intentions and the passion of God's heart. One key

to being a person after God's heart is yearning to know how God feel how the passion of his heart moves David wrote by inspiration about what he saw in the heart of God. Some 36 verses seven and eight. How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God, therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of my house and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures and the word translated pleasures. There is the word Eden the river of the IE God's river of passion for us drove him to be incarnated and be hung on a cross. God will not be denied a relationship with all of his creatures. God has chosen a group who will serve and obey you each decide we each decide whether were going to be in that group or not. But God has chosen a group who will serve and please him to think of God. In this way tends to supercharge our obedience because we understand how God feels we mature more rapidly than if we plot along with a false view of God, a passionless God we go after the fullness of God's heart with a lot of energy. If were motivated by his affections and his desires for us. I don't think it's possible to outgrow the thrill of being loved and enjoyed by God. I think that's the experience that all human beings groped for no matter what they say, even when things go badly for us in our heart, the love of God is a lamp that is lit by the power of God's love and we know that no matter how bad things get, even if all else fails, we still have this most important thing God still loves us. God created us to be this way. He put these deep longings to the love inside of we were designed right down to our DNA to live in the spiritual pleasure of being enjoyed by God in David's life. Prayer was not in the category of sacrifices I make forgot. David talk to God because he wanted to statement is made in the book of Jeremiah chapter 9 verses 23 and 24. Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his mind, nor let the rich man glory in his riches, but let him glory's glory in this that he understands and knows me that I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment and righteousness in the earth for in these I liked saith the Lord God looked at David and said, this guy's heart is like mine. I can use it. There were other people that were like this in the Bible there does not singled out in Jeremiah 315. The statement is made there the Lord speaking I will give you shepherds according to my heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding possible for anybody to be like this if they choose in a 16 song which was written by David verse 11 at your right hand are pleasures for evermore. Whatever we understand about God's heart toward us. That's what we tend to become in our own hearts toward him be transformed by the renewing of your minds, our minds are not removed, renewed, primarily by staying away from bad things. Our minds are renewed primarily by filling our minds with the truth about God. How does God feel most of the time you thought about that. How does God feel is a board. Is he worried is he blasé is he happy is he detached his he engaged how does God feel is a man say glad. How does God feel more specifically when he looks at you how to feel about you. What wells up in his heart when he turns his eyes upon your life. People usually respond to that question in one of two ways. When God looks at me in my life. He's mostly mad or when God looks to be in my life. He's mostly sad. Those are the usual two responses. Listen to this. Deuteronomy 30 verse nine, the Lord thy God will make the plenteous to every work of thine hand in the fruit of thy body and in the fruit of thy cattle, and in the fruit of thy land for good for the Lord will again rejoice over the for good as he rejoiced over thy fathers. This was written to the generation ready to entertain and after the 40 years wandering

and he's talking about the people who were in the preceding generation. Their fathers were the murmurs. These were the people who were the recalcitrant mutineers who exasperated Moses and yet God rejoiced over the over these people in parts of Exodus and numbers. It's hard to remember that God rejoiced over those people and yet that's the overarching theme that God rejoices over his people. The third chapter the book of Proverbs verse 12, whom the Lord loves he corrects, just as a father the son and whom he delights he delights in his son. The primary emotion. There is delight. We correct because of our loving care and he liked and God does the same thing. Zephaniah 3:17. He will take great delight in you, he will quiet you with his love, he will rejoice over you with singing God created us for his pleasure Revelation 4:11 and God experiences the pleasure for which he created us God is smiling at you as you respond to him in willing obedience. Psalm 149 verse for the Lord takes pleasure in his people. He will beautify the humble with salvation. Proverbs 8:31. He rejoices in the inhabited world and the lights in the sons of men, the prodigal son was confused when he came home by his father's overwhelming the life that he is better, but there was first Chronicles 16, verse 17 honor and majesty are before him strength and gladness are in his place. This is a prevailing theme throughout the five joy prevails everywhere in heaven. The God we love overflows with gladness seems to be his primary emotion. This is not sporadic. It's a lifestyle in heaven. Whoever gets close to the throne of God in heaven seems to have exquisite joy smiling in heaven is not required. It's inevitable. Joy is the province of people who chose of their own free will to enter into it. We will see someone who makes us extraordinarily glad there's a combination of overwhelming terror of God's majesty and an overflowing happiness. It's like it's too much but yet we want more. It's so intense it's too much and yet it's never enough. The gladness of God is foundational to helping our hearts grow into spiritual maturity. Nehemiah 8 verse 10 the joy of the Lord is our strength God lays out the only two options that exist and he does this. A number of places in the Bible one concise one is in Deuteronomy 28 versus 47 and 48 because you did not serve the Lord your God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything. Therefore you shall serve your enemies, but God is not acting out of spite here God is not pouting and saying well you wouldn't serve me wouldn't entering my gladness I just forget about it. Negative serve your enemies. That's not the point at all. Either we enter into his gladness with our whole hearts, or else we were, under the influence of the enemy by default as the dominoes fall we end up serving the lies of the enemy instead of living beneath the truths of God. We begin to see God is different from the way he really is revealed to us in the Bible so we begin to imbibe false notions about him. The second Psalm said kiss the son, lest he be angry and you perish in the way. If we don't kiss the son, meaning entering into relationship with him. We will eventually Paul fall prey to an accusing spirit against God because of his judgments, and this is the enemy's very packed. This is the way Satan wins he tries to align us with himself and bring us into opposition to the Lord by unleashing accusations against God. This is as old as Genesis chapter 3 and if we accept the enemy's logic that it brings God's wrath upon us a tight connection with God is the only divine plan for avoiding this guy does not give us the option of living in some gray or neutral zone your lovesick and glad before him or you're not those of the two options is one way or the other. There's no middle ground. You're even David e-reader David dancing with all his might. Before the Lord, or else your Michael criticizing and despising him because she loved God that

much your David or your Michael hidden within our hearts are not just shameful things but also many good things, like the cry to be totally God's deep inside we struggle, we fight to be fully his against all oppositions of the enemies only God fully perceives the depth of this longing of our heart. The yes in our spirit is an imperfect yes, but it is a yes I guess is yes he is pleased with our longings to be fully his. This is the essence of the real you got smiles on us and enjoys us, though we are not spiritually as mature as we ought to be. He encourages us to continue to mature. If his gladness were just based on our performance it would be a sad law but the Lord corrects us as a father, a son in whom he delights. We are his. He liked present density light. He's not waiting for you to achieve some level of maturity before he delights in you, he delights in you when you're immature, but he wants you to improve Psalm 60 verse six God has spoken in his holiness. I will rejoice the gladness and holiness in God's heart are not opposed to one another God's gladness is an expression of his holiness. It's a holy gladness and it encourages a joyous holiness. Jesus, in spite of the sorrow and suffering through which he went lived a life of joy upon this earth got anointed them with the oil of gladness above his fellows Psalm 45 or seven Hebrews 189. The prophecy in Psalm 16, which Peter quoted on day of Pentecost makes clear, therefore it did my heart rejoice. This was written by David about himself, but Peter takes it by inspirational but it Pentecost and puts these words in the mouth of Jesus Christ. Therefore, did my heart rejoice in my tongue was glad more. Also, my flesh shall rest in hope because that will not leave my soul in Hades needed with us even that suffered a holy one to see corruption. You will make me full of joy in your presence asked to 25 through 28 Peter said on the day of Pentecost. Jesus had a rejoicing heart. He had a glad time he was full of joy. David was speaking of himself when he penned that but by inspiration Peter applied it to Jesus the son of David and Jesus the son of David said he that hath seen me has seen the father. His father has that same kind of a personality. Jesus is the brightness of God's glory and the express image of God's person we know what the father's heart is like when we see the heart of Jesus the son of course while Jesus was here. He knew anger and grief and sorrow supporting the circumstance, but he lived a life of placidity tranquility and genuine gladness was his dominant emotion. The heart of David can be contrasted with the heart of King Saul. When the Lords profit confronted King Saul saw always had an excuse. I thought this or I thought that are the people that answer it was somebody else's fault. When the Lords profit confronted King David with a little story that ended with thou art the man David dissolved into repentant contrition and obedience. Three of the 30 chief men in David's Army came to him at the cave of the dual David said with longing all that somebody would bring me a drink of water from the bell well well of Bethlehem district that when I was a boy. Well, it just right by the gate. He told those those in late they went and at the risk of their own lives. They brought that water to David he said is not this the blood of the men who went in jeopardy of their lives. He told those men your children could've been our with this that you have done your wives could've been widowed. You could've lost everything just to get me this water and then David took that water any port out on the ground in sacrifice to the Lord instead of drinking over and over again we see these kinds of reactions from Dave. I will not give the Lord that which cost me nothing David did not worship images made by man that made him rare in itself. I esteem all your precepts concerning all things to be right. Therefore, I hate every false way. Oh how love I by law. It is my meditation all the

day in his law doth he meditate day and night. The story is told among the Jews of a young Rabbi who wanted to study Greek philosophy and he came to the old Rabbi and asked if that would be all right in the old Rabbi said look you can find an hour. That's not of the day or of the night within that hour. You can study Greek philosophy we could talk about the 10 sins of David and when we got through. We would like them very much any of but David knew the secret of a focused life primarily David was a man of one thing just like Mary of Bethany was a woman of one thing they both knew the secret of a focused life giving themselves to one thing just as Paul said this one thing I do Mary of Bethany had nothing to set her apart from the many other followers of Jesus except a heart of devotion she's in Scripture three times and each time she sitting at the feet of Jesus in Luke 1039 John 1132 John 12 verse three. She was always there whenever Jesus was around. She was always listening and pouring out her love to him. She was a lot more than just a groupie who hangs around for the thrill of being near a celebrity. She was one who understood the Lord so she let other responsibilities go and prized every minute. In his presence, and she was criticized for every time Mary of Bethany appears in the Bible she's bearing the brunt of somebody else's harsh words but she's never described as giving an answer to defend herself because she was living her life before an audience of one. The Lord said one thing is needful and Mary have chosen a good part and it shall not be taken away from her love the Lord your God first and then your neighbor as yourself to try to reverse the order of those your joy to leak out like a flat tire. The first command must be first in the second command must be second and when we get the first command in its place. The second will flow naturally from all the powers of hell will fight to keep you from being a people of one thing. But if you accomplish the goal of being such person. Your joy really will be full and you will approach being a person after God's own heart to conclude this afternoon by once again extending the Lords invitation. If anybody has a need to take advantage of that in any way. Let us know how we can assist you by coming to the front as we stand and sing number 500.