

FOR DAVID'S SAKE (PART 2)

Jon Macon

We repeatedly see statements in the scriptures about God doing things for David's sake. He would not take the kingdom away from Solomon in his days for David's sake (1 Kgs 11:12). He would not take the entire kingdom away from Solomon's son partly for David's sake (1 Kgs 11:13,32,34). The Lord did not destroy Judah during wicked king Jehoram's days for David's sake (2 Kgs 8:19). He defended Jerusalem when Hezekiah was king for His own sake and for David's sake (2 Kgs 19:34; 20:6; Isa 37:5). We stand to learn much from studying why God did so much for his servant David's sake.

A man after God's own heart

Israel's first king, Saul the son of Kish, did not keep the commandments of God. In 1 Samuel 13:8-13, Saul offered a burnt offering which he was not authorized to do, and was rebuked by Samuel the prophet. "But now thy kingdom shall not continue: *the Lord hath sought him a man after his own heart*, and the Lord hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the Lord commanded thee" (1 Sam 13:14). The next king of Israel would be a man after God's own heart, and that man was David the son of Jesse. Acts 13:22 states that God "raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, *a man after mine own heart, which shall fulfill all my will.*" There is a direct connection between having a heart like God's and fulfilling all of God's will. Mark 7:21-23 says, "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man" (see also Matt 15:18-20). The heart is the source of our thoughts, words, and deeds, both the good and the evil. Luke 6:45 says, "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh" (see also Matt 12:33-37). Our task is to purge out the evil from our heart and to have the nature of God formed in it (2 Pet 1:4). Christ told the Pharisees to cleanse their inner man (Matt 23:25-28; Luke 11:39-40). Our hearts are to be purified by faith (Acts 15:9; 2 Cor 7:1; Jas 4:8). The blood of Christ is able to purge our conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Heb 9:14; 1 John 1:7,9). This process of spiritual cleansing and growth will enable us to glorify God by bearing much fruit by our good works (John 15:1-8; Eph 3:14-21; Col 1:9-11). "For which cause we faint not; but though our

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outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Cor 4:16). David meditated on God’s word all the day (Psa 63:6; 119:23,48,78,97,99,148), and his diligent seeking was rewarded (Heb 11:6). He had more understanding than his teachers and the ancients (Psa 119:99-100). Having grown a heart like God’s, David was able to keep His commandments and statutes, and this was a major reason why God remembered him and worked for his sake (1 Kgs 11:34; 15:4-5).

Judged as he judged others

By being faithful to His promises to David, God was also rewarding David for his faithfulness to others during his lifetime. For example, David had made a covenant with Jonathan not ever to cut off his kindness from his house (1 Sam 20:14-17). As king, David asked in 2 Samuel 9:1, “Is there yet any that is left of the house of Saul, that I may show him kindness *for Jonathan’s sake*?” David then took Jonathan’s lame son, Mephibosheth, and had him eat at his table continually as one of his own sons (2 Sam 9:2-13). Later, God brought a three-year famine upon Israel because Saul had forsaken Israel’s league with the Gibeonites (see Joshua 9), and killed many of them (2 Sam 21:1). Seven of Saul’s sons were then to be delivered to the Gibeonites as atonement (2 Sam 21:2-6). But king David “spared Mephibosheth, the son of Jonathan the son of Saul, because of the Lord’s oath that was between them, between David and Jonathan the son of Saul” (2 Sam 21:7). As David never forgot his covenant with Jonathan and continued to work “for his sake,” so God did the same on behalf of David and the covenant He had made with him. Proverbs 13:21 says, “Evil pursueth sinners: but *to the righteous good shall be repaid*.” The Lord certainly repaid good to righteous David. This principle is also taught in the New Testament. Christ said, “For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Matt 7:2). Galatians 6:7 says, “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.” David is one of the greatest examples of faith and obedience that we have in all of God’s word (Heb 11:32-34). He is part of our “great cloud of witnesses” to encourage us to “lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us,” and to “run with patience the race that is set before us” (Heb 12:1). If, like David, we too “show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end” (Heb 6:11), God is not unrighteous to forget our work and labor of love in the same way that He remembered His servant David (Heb 6:10).