

"A man after mine own heart"

Acts 13:22

22 And when he [God] had removed him [Saul], he raised up unto them David to be their king; to whom also he gave their testimony, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart**, which shall fulfill all my will.

INFORMATION

Let us examine a little bit about the man God is speaking of here. David is the same man who killed the giant Goliath with nothing more than a slingshot and a few stones from a creek; that is definitely something we should remember about him. The death of Goliath was justified because Goliath was threatening to kill Israelites and was God's enemy. However, Goliath is not the only man David killed. David also killed another man named, Uriah. The death of Uriah can only be considered a murder, a murder which David was responsible for. Uriah was killed because David committed adultery with Uriah's wife, and she was pregnant with David's child. David had Uriah killed and took his wife. Uriah did nothing to deserve death, and, in fact, the Bible paints a picture of Uriah as a good man. David was a warrior and killed many people, but these two examples show that David was capable of, both, leaps of faith and leaps of depravity.

These acts do not sound like something that would compel God to say that David was "a man after mine own heart". So, why did God say that? The answer is that this statement by God could only be made because God truly forgave David of his sins, and his sins were truly put away. Hallelujah! Take that in for a moment. David was a murderer and an adulterer; the Bible records this as a fact, yet, God still refers to David as a man after his own heart. This is because God is faithful to his own promises. David repented; God forgave.

WHAT IT MEANS TO OUR FAMILY

Sometimes we say or do things that we know are just wrong or bad. Sometimes we put ourselves down because of these bad acts. Sometimes we allow these bad acts to separate us from God because we think we are too bad to speak with God. Sometimes we say to ourselves that it is too soon after a sin to pray to God or attend church. This is nonsense. God forgives us completely of all our sins because the blood of Jesus was shed for us. When we sin, we should rush to prayer so that we can be reminded of God's forgiveness. Always remember that there is only one way that God could say, "David was a man after his own heart." David was completely, thoroughly, and eternally forgiven by an Almighty God who knew everything about David, but chose to not recall the sin, and to forgive him completely.

We can learn something else more sobering from the life of David and that is that sins have consequences. Even though God completely forgave David, the murder of Uriah led to continued conflict for David. Our sins will also have consequences.

Relevant Passages

Psalm 103:1-14

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name. 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: 3 Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases; 4 Who redeemeth thy life from destruction; who crowneth thee with lovingkindness and tender mercies; 5 Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's. 6 The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. 7 He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel. 8 The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. 9 He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. 10 He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. 11 For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. 12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. 13 Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him. 14 For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

Malachi 3:6

For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Romans 3:20-26

Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin. 21 But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: 23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; 24 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: 25 Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; 26 To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

1 John 1:9

If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.