

Being People After God's Heart

1 Samuel (NLT) “How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart...”

There's a contrast between Saul's character and that of David.

David – a man after God's heart.
Saul – not a man after God's heart.

What is the difference between the two?

Response to sin

Saul

- *Tasked by God to 'completely' destroy the Amalekites*
- *Chose to spare King Agag as well as the animals that his troops wanted – AKA disobeyed what God had tasked him to do*
- *“But I did obey the Lord...” **1 Samuel 15:20***
- *“I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded” **1 Samuel 15:24***
- *“Please forgive my sin” **1 Samuel 15:25***
- *Saul's response was filled with excuses, reasons and justifications.*
- *He showed no remorse or a contrite heart.*

David

- *Sinned by sleeping with Bathsheba and killing Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, by sending him out to the front lines in war.*

Psalms 32:3-7 (NLT)

When I refused to confess my sin, my body wasted away and I groaned all day long. Day and night your hand of discipline was heavy on me. My strength evaporated like water in the summer heat. Finally, I confessed all my sins to you and stopped trying to hide my guilt. I said to myself, "I will confess my rebellion to the Lord." And you forgave me! All my guilt is gone. Therefore, let all the godly pray to you while there is still time, that they may not drown in the floodwaters of judgement. For you are my hiding place; you protect me from trouble. You surround me with songs of victory.

- *David confessed his sins TO God*
- *He had a humble, honest and genuine heart towards God.*

Response to uncertainties

Saul

- *Doesn't consult God FIRST or at all*
- *Acts according to what he thinks is best*
- *Sought after what would make him favourable towards those around him*

David

1 Samuel 23:1-5 (NLT)

One day news came to David that the Philistines were at Keilah stealing grain from the threshing floors. David asked the Lord, “Should I go and attack them?” “Yes, go and save Keilah,” the Lord told him. But David’s men said, “We’re afraid even here in Judah. We certainly don’t want to go to Keilah to fight the whole Philistine army!” So David asked the Lord again, and again the Lord replied, “Go down to Keilah, for I will help you conquer the Philistines.” So David and his men went to Keilah. They slaughtered the Philistines and took all their livestock and rescued the people of Keilah.

- *David inquired of the Lord*
- *He didn’t move unless God told him to*
- *David sought after God*
- *He entrusted his spirit, his life, his very being into God’s hands*
- *He listened intently and obeyed*

Jesus, the ultimate man after God’s own heart. He didn’t have to go to the cross, but He did because He was seeking not His will, but God’s.

Are you going to follow in Jesus’ and David’s footsteps and be a person after God’s own heart?