

Acts 13:21-23

²¹ And afterward they desired a king: and God gave unto them Saul the son of Cis, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, by the space of forty years.

²² And when he had removed him, 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.

²³ Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:

2 Samuel 1:11-16

¹¹ Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him:

¹² And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

¹³ And David said unto the young man that told him, Whence art thou? And he answered, I am the son of a stranger, an Amalekite.

¹⁴ And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the LORD's anointed?

¹⁵ And David called one of the young men, and said, Go near, and fall upon him. And he smote him that he died.

¹⁶ And David said unto him, Thy blood be upon thy head; for thy mouth hath testified against thee, saying, I have slain the LORD's anointed.

2 Samuel 2:1-11

2 And it came to pass after this, that David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah? And the LORD said unto him, Go up. And David said, Whither shall I go up? And he said, Unto Hebron.

² So David went up thither, and his two wives also, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail Nabal's wife the Carmelite.

³ And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.

⁴ And the men of Judah came, and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. And they told David, saying, That the men of Jabeshgilead were they that buried Saul.

⁵ And David sent messengers unto the men of Jabeshgilead, and said unto them, Blessed be ye of the LORD, that ye have shewed this kindness unto your lord, even unto Saul, and have buried him.

⁶ And now the LORD shew kindness and truth unto you: and I also will requite you this kindness, because ye have done this thing.

⁷ Therefore now let your hands be strengthened, and be ye valiant: for your master Saul is dead, and also the house of Judah have anointed me king over them.

⁸ But Abner the son of Ner, captain of Saul's host, took Ishbosheth the son of Saul, and brought him over to Mahanaim;

⁹ And made him king over Gilead, and over the Ashurites, and over Jezreel, and over Ephraim, and over Benjamin, and over all Israel.

¹⁰ Ishbosheth Saul's son was forty years old when he began to reign over Israel, and reigned two years. But the house of Judah followed David.

¹¹ And the time that David was king in Hebron over the house of Judah was seven years and six months.

DAVID MADE KING OF JUDAH

Today's lesson begins in an unsettled and fierce time in the history of Israel. The king was dead in battle. No king ruled for a time. Executions were made without trial or punishment. Last week we studied how God anointed David king over the people whom He had said would be a peculiar treasure unto Himself above all people. God's hand continues to be manifest in today's lesson. Now we look into the latter forty years of David's life.

Acts 13:21-23 In Acts 13:21-23, Paul is giving a sermon in Antioch of Pisidia. He talks about the history of Israel and how it led to the coming of Jesus Christ. He mentions David, who was a man after God's own heart and the greatest king Israel ever had. David was also an ancestor of Jesus, who is often called the Son of David. David's kingdom was a preview of Christ's kingdom.

By studying David's life, we can find qualities that pleased God and use them as examples to make our lives more pleasing to Him. However, David also had flaws, which can serve as warnings for us. We should look for incidents in David's life that reveal his character and turn them into spiritual lessons to inspire us to live more godly

lives. This study can bring us rich spiritual blessings as we learn from David's strengths and weaknesses.

Verse 21: Desire for a King: The Israelites wanted a king to lead them, just like other nations. Even though God warned them through Samuel, they insisted. So, God gave them Saul, from the tribe of Benjamin, to be their king for forty years.

This verse shows how people often look for human leaders instead of trusting God's guidance, and the consequences that come with that choice.

Verse 22: David's Appointment: After removing Saul due to his disobedience, God raised David, the son of Jesse, as king. God testified about David, calling him "a man after mine own heart," who would fulfill all His will.

David is described as a man after God's own heart, emphasizing his deep devotion and willingness to follow God's commands. This sets a standard for spiritual leadership and personal devotion to God.

Verse 23: Fulfillment of Promise: From David's lineage, God fulfilled His promise by raising up Jesus as the Savior for Israel. This verse connects the Old Testament promises to their fulfillment in Jesus Christ, highlighting the continuity of God's redemptive plan.

This verse underscores the central message of the Gospel – that Jesus, from the line of David, is the promised Savior who brings salvation to all.

Just as God had a plan for Israel, He has a plan for each of us. We are called to trust in His timing and His ways, even when they differ from our desires.

Like David, we should strive to be people after God's own heart, seeking to fulfill His will in our lives.

2 Samuel 1:11-16 In 2 Samuel 1:11-16, the story continues from where 1 Samuel left off, with the death of Saul and his three sons on Mount Gilboa. At that time, David was fighting the Amalekites further south and had returned to the Philistine city of Ziklag.

A young Amalekite came to David with a made-up story, claiming he had killed Saul on Mount Gilboa. He brought Saul's crown and bracelet to David, hoping to gain favor by saying he killed David's enemy. However, David's heart was not seeking revenge. He loved God, his friend Jonathan, and his nation, Israel, more than himself. David tore his clothes (a Hebrew sign of sorrow), mourned, wept, and fasted until evening. He then ordered the man who claimed to have killed Saul to be executed. Why? Because Saul was the Lord's anointed, chosen by God to rule Israel.

David's mourning for Jonathan, his dear friend, is understandable. But why did he honor Saul, his enemy and would-be murderer? Why did he grieve for him, punish his confessed killer, and thank those who buried him? 2 Samuel 1:14 explains that David's loyalty was not just to Saul, but to God, who had chosen Saul. This teaches us to respect God's choices today. We have opportunities and relationships where we can show such respect. Everyone, whether saint or sinner, can learn a great lesson from the experience of this Amalekite. God will deal with His anointed, and man should not interfere. This applies to a God-called pastor anointed by God for leadership in spiritual matters. Working against a man anointed by

God will bring spiritual death as surely as physical death came to this Amalekite.

David's grief for Saul was genuine and consistent with his usual behavior towards Saul. He never tried to take advantage of or seek revenge against Saul. He did not rejoice over Saul's downfall. David showed a high quality of forgiveness. How would we act under similar circumstances?

2 Samuel 2:1-4 David was in Ziklag and wasn't sure what to do next. Instead of asking people, he asked God. God told him to go to Hebron in Judah, and David obeyed. When he got there, the leaders of Judah came and made him king over their tribe. They knew about David's past, his relationship with King Saul, and that he had been anointed as king by Samuel when he was just a shepherd boy.

David's journey to Hebron shows us the importance of seeking God's guidance and following His directions. Even though there were risks and uncertainties, David trusted God's wisdom and timing. His obedience led to him being made king, fulfilling God's promise made through Samuel years before. This was the start of David's leadership, showing that God's plans are always perfect and His timing is always right.

The leaders of Judah recognizing David's past achievements and his anointing by Samuel highlights the importance of supporting God's chosen leaders. It also shows that God's anointing sets people apart for His purposes, no matter how humble their beginnings.

This passage reminds us to seek God's guidance in all our decisions, trust His plans, and stay obedient to His calling, knowing that He will lead us to our purpose in His perfect timing.

2 Samuel 2:5-11 Men of Jabesh-Gilead, from the land where Saul was killed, had buried Saul and his sons.

They were men from the other part of Israel. David thanked them for their kindness to Saul for burying him. He

gave them a broad hint that Judah had anointed him to be their king, and that they also made David their king.

David showed patience and faith in God for seven years and a half, waiting on God's next move. He was sure that the God who had started this work was also able to finish what He had begun. David knew he had been chosen of God and anointed king of all Israel years before, but he did not press his claim. Even when Abner made Ishbosheth king over the rest of Israel, David did not contest it. Even though war did follow, it was of Abner's making, not of Joab's, David's captain. David enquired of the Lord. Therein laid his secret.

David's actions in this passage reflect his deep trust in God's timing and sovereignty. Despite knowing that he was anointed as king, David did not forcefully assert his claim to the throne. Instead, he waited patiently for God's plan to unfold. This patience is a testament to his faith and reliance on God's wisdom.

The men of Jabesh-Gilead showed great loyalty and respect by burying Saul and his sons. David's gratitude towards them highlights his recognition of their honorable deed. By acknowledging their kindness, David was also fostering unity and goodwill among the tribes of Israel.

David's decision to seek God's guidance before making any moves is a powerful example of his dependence on divine direction. This reliance on God set the foundation for his reign and demonstrated his commitment to leading Israel according to God's will.

In our own lives, we can learn from David's example to trust in God's timing, show gratitude for the kindness of others, and seek God's guidance in all our decisions.

CLOSING

We are sometimes tempted to take things out of God's hands into ours to hasten an end we think is right. Abraham did. Jacob did. Peter did. How did their self-efforts succeed? Self-efforts show a weakness in faith. If God has promised or planned a thing, He will bring it to pass. Our part is to trust, pray, and obey. David's method was "more of God and less of me". It surely was successful.

When we take matters into our own hands, we often find ourselves facing unintended consequences and complications. Abraham's impatience led to the birth of Ishmael, causing strife within his family. Jacob's deceit brought him years of hardship and separation from his loved ones. Peter's impulsiveness resulted in him denying Christ three times. These examples remind us that our self-efforts, driven by impatience and lack of faith, can lead to failure and regret.

In contrast, David's approach of "more of God and less of me" exemplifies true faith and reliance on God's perfect timing. By trusting in God's promises, praying for His guidance, and obeying His commands, David experienced success and fulfillment of God's plan for his life.

Let us learn from these biblical examples and strive to surrender our will to God's, trusting that He will bring His promises to fruition in His perfect time. As Isaiah 40:31 encourages us, "But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall

mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary;
and they shall walk, and not faint.”

May we always remember to trust, pray, and obey, allowing God to
work through us for His glory.

JUST A THOUGHT

It is never the right time to do the wrong thing.