

David: A King After God's Own Heart

1 Samuel 16, 17, 24; 2 Samuel 7
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1. Introduction
 - A. Rockin' Rollercoaster Story
 - B. When you don't know what's coming next, you get a mixture of fear and excitement. Excitement if you feel safe...fear if you don't.
 - C. Show **Rockin' Rollercoaster Photo**.
 - D. How well do you think you know the upcoming turns in your life? Will what's coming next take you to a higher high...or a lower low...or maybe flip you upside down? Do you feel more excited about the next step in your life? Or more fearful? Or are you maybe standing on the platform, paralyzed from taking the next step because you don't know what's coming 10 steps after that.
 - E. Today we're learning the story of King David. David is a great example of someone in our situation, who didn't know quite how God was going to work out his story. But we can look back and learn from what he did and how God worked in his life to understand how God works in our lives.
2. Tell you a little bit about David.
 - A. Maybe you've heard of the story of David and Goliath.
 - i. Youngest boy in his family
 - ii. Takes supplies out to his brothers in the battle
 - iii. Hears Goliath. 9 feet tall, threatening the Israelites. The Israelites are afraid and don't know what to do.
 - iv. David is furious. How can it be like this?
 - v. David says, "**Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?**" 1 Samuel 17:26
 - vi. Full of passion for God. Full of faith in God. Someone once said, "Pure passion, no brains at all." God had already made David a promise that he would one day be king. He had no idea how that would happen, but he knew God would work out his promise. And he had a passion for God's honor. He had a passion for God's reputation. He wasn't going to let Goliath come out and insult God, so he stormed into his next step. Wherever else this goes, I know this step is right.
 - vii. (By the way, how passionate are you about God's reputation? Can I share with you that this is one of the dreams that God has put on the hearts of the leaders of this church. We want to serve our community in such a way that God's reputation is magnified. Our commitment to love and serve our neighbors is partly driven by this desire. That people who don't know God yet would be touched by the love of God through us and say "I don't know all that they believe, but their God must be good." God is still calling people like us to be passionate about his honor in the world.)
 - B. More about David and God's promise to make him king
 - i. There was already a king. King Saul. Saul was jealous of David. David served Saul and fought Saul's wars and cared for Saul's house. But Saul

- wanted to kill David. Once tried to pin him to a wall with a spear. David figured that was a good sign that he had overstayed his welcome.
- ii. David went on the run. Hid all over the Israelite countryside. Staying in a cave. One day Saul is nearby. Comes into the cave to take care of his business... David sneaks up, cuts off the corner of his robe. Saul leaves. David comes out and calls across the field to him and tells him what just happened. Ends his speech this way, **“May the LORD judge between us. Perhaps the LORD will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. As that old proverb says, ‘From evil people come evil deeds.’ So you can be sure I will never harm you.”** 1 Samuel 24:12-13.
 - iii. He refuses to kill Saul. It would have been a pretty easy self-defense plea, I think. This guy tried to make me into a shish-kabob. He’s chasing me across the country for the expressed purpose of killing me. But David says, “No, this is still God’s king. When God removes him from the throne, it will be my turn, but I won’t be guilty of murder in the process.” David did not know how God would make his promises come true. He did not know how God would write his story. Would he go next to some high highs or some low lows or would he get whipped upside down in the dark. He didn’t know.
- C. David spent his whole life not being able to see the whole story. That’s how life is on this side of eternity. Even later in David’s life, once he had become king, God made David another promise. He promised David that his descendants would remain on the throne of Israel forever. God said, **“Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever.”** 2 Samuel 7:16. That promise applied to David’s son Solomon, and Solomon’s son Reheboam and to hundreds of years of Kings after that. But ultimately it applied to Jesus, a descendant of King David, from Bethlehem in Judea, David’s own home town. David could never have known or understood where his story would go 1,000 years after his own death, but Jesus became God’s King of heaven and earth. He became the one who was faithful to God on behalf of all God’s people. And God was faithful to Him.
3. It’s been 3,000 years since the days of King David. It’s been 2,000 years since Jesus walked the earth.
 - A. And those 2,000 years have been filled with people who didn’t always know the ups, downs, twists, and turns that they would take in God’s story. But they knew that it was God who was writing their story. And they knew that his plan was a plan that had everything to do with Jesus, with their future in Christ and with their present lives dedicated to living out Jesus’ love. And so they lived their lives in faith that God would fulfill His promises His way and they acted for God’s honor in the world. Today is even a holiday in the Christian year when we remember all the saints of God who have gone before us. We even know some of their names, though most of them we will never know, not on this side of eternity.
 - B. And some of God’s saints are living now. And some of living right here. Filling these rows in worship this morning. Some filled these rows years ago, others will fill them years from now. The Big God story is being written into the life of our

community as it is being written in the church of Jesus Christ in every time and place.

- C. I wanted to share just a tiny fraction of these stories with you, so we collected a few memories for you, a taste of what God has done among us and of what he is still doing now. **Story of Us FLC Video**
 - D. We bless God for the stories of the saints before us and around us. They testify to the works of God and show us that God is faithful. When we don't know his next step for us, they remind us to be excited and not afraid for we are safe in His hands through the highest highs and the lowest lows. And someday people will sing about you and me in the unbroken chain of saints and witnesses to Christ. Someday they'll praise God for all the saints who from their labors rest, and that'll be us too.
4. You may know very little about the next turn your ride will take, whether it will go up or down or upside down. But you do know that God's saints have ridden with God before. And you can trust that this train lands safely on eternity's shore.
- A. So step aboard. If you've never given your heart to God, if you've been standing on the platform, checking it out, watching others get to ride, maybe today's your day. Today's your day to take Jesus up on His invitation as he beckons "Follow Me. Follow me through the journey of this life and onto the life that never ends." And today's the day to say, "I'm in. I trust you. Wherever you go, I'll follow because I know you are good. I trust you to write my story as you have written the story of those who have gone before." Today's the day to put your heart in God's hands and let him lead.
 - B. Or maybe today is the day for the next step of faith for those who already call themselves disciples of Jesus. Today's your day too. What's your next step with Christ? Is God calling you to some kind of humility and grace in a place of challenge, to forgiveness perhaps in a relationship that's strained and breaking? Is he calling you to speak up in a situation of fear? Is he calling you to love and service that witnesses to him in this world? Might God be calling you to a new level of generosity that you've been avoiding, to giving that blesses someone else and supports God's work in the world? Maybe God's calling on you to hold on and persevere through a hard period of waiting and reassuring you that's He's still there.
5. I'm going to close us in a time of prayer for God's leading in your next step. We may not know everything that's coming, but we know that it leads to Christ and to his life and hope forever.