

King David, Human David  
Psm 78:70-72

Mark Driscue was the first of several very high profile ministers in the last couple of years that were removed from their positions after finding out about moral or legal sins that did immeasurable damage to their congregations. In fact, Mark's church, the fastest growing and one of the biggest in America ceased to exist by the time the fallout was done.

Ted Haggard leader of one of fastest growing churches in America in the 90's. Spiritual giant. Giant sinner. His career ended after being discovered using drugs and being involved in homosexuality.

Jim Bakker. Powerful leader, charismatic preacher. Had one of the largest TV ministries ever. Went to jail for tax evasion and fraud after cheating hundreds, possibly thousands of people out of money to pay for his lavish lifestyle.

ZENTATSU RICHARD BAKER one of best Buddhist teachers in America was convicted of having affairs with his students.

You could create a list that would take forever to read of Jewish, Muslim, Christian, Buddhist and any other religious leaders who rose to great heights only to be brought down by their human side.

David would be on that list too. Today, we'll look at what made him a man after God's own heart and what made him a man who broke God's heart. Hopefully we'll learn some lessons to keep us from falling into the same mistakes he made.

PRAYER

## I. King David

### A. Physical king,

1. As we pick up the story of David's life, we look at him finally becoming king of Israel.
2. This has been no small feat. For almost 15 years, he had been on the run.
3. Talk about a long dark period. Can you imagine knowing you are God's chosen, yet year after year you live on the run driven by the man you were supposed to replace?
4. Can you imagine living in caves when you should be living in a palace?
5. It would make you begin to doubt God's promise to you.
6. It would make you wonder if following God is the right move for your political career.
7. But all that comes to an end, and David reigns over Israel ... almost.
8. His adversary is dead by his own hand.
9. David, being a man of God asks God what his next move should be.
10. 2 Samuel 2:1 (ESV) — 1 After this David inquired of the LORD, "Shall I go up into any of the cities of Judah?" And the LORD said to him, "Go up." David said, "To which shall I go up?" And he said, "To Hebron."
11. vs 11 tells us he stayed there 7.5 years being a limited king.
12. But he is king; even if only over part of the country rather than all of it.

### B. Spiritual king

1. We see a little of what God saw in David during this time.
2. Rather than be petulant over not taking over right away, he patiently served however God called him to serve.
3. What a great lesson for us.
  - a) We might have dreams of doing great things for God.
  - b) Sometimes God only calls us to do little things.
  - c) There's an old saying, "grow wherever God has planted you"

d) A true test of our faith is when we can serve contentedly in those small areas while we wait to be called to something bigger.

e) Wherever we find ourselves being used by God, let God use you.

4. By being faithful to following God's will, the elders of the country eventually come to David and ask him to rule the entire country.

5. For the first 20 years of his reign, he followed God and God blessed him mightily.

a) The country grew and prospered.

b) He became a major player in world politics.

c) He defeated all his enemies.

d) His country's borders went from 6000 square miles to 60,000 square miles.

e) After living in caves for so long, he was now living the life.

6. But, as Thomas Carlyle wrote a long time ago and I paraphrase, "For every one who can hand prosperity, there are 100 that can handle adversity."

7. We seem to be more faithful to God during difficult times than good times.

8. David learns that lesson the hard way.

## II. Human David

A. David became so involved in public life that he lost control of her personal life.

1. We saw what happened to Eli when he was so focused on being a good priest that he ended up being a bad father.

2. Samuel went down the same road.

3. So does David.

4. On the throne, he was decisive and great; In the home, he was indecisive and permissive.

5. It cost him dearly in the years to come.

a) One of his sons rapes one of his daughters.

- b) Another son murders the rapist.
- c) 2 sons lead revolts against their father.

6. Even then, the only response we see from David in these matters is that he became angry.

7. He never gave his children the discipline needed to guide them.

8. That was major flaw number 1, but his second major flaw almost did him in spiritually.

#### B. David indulged himself in the extremes of passion

1. Have you ever noticed how many great people seem to be too passionate for their own good?

2. The passion that makes them great leaders often comes out in darker ways.

3. Whatever David did, he did it with all his heart.

4. When he went into battle he fought until the bitter end bringing victory when others would have quit and lost.

5. When he loved, he loved with all his heart.

- a) He wasn't content with one or 2 wives, no, he had more than he could handle.

- b) He had 8 that were named, many other unnamed wives and then a whole slew of concubines.

- c) It was his passions that led him into the affair with Bathsheba.

- d) Because of those passions, Uriah and many other innocent men died so David could protect his sin.

6. When he spent his time in leisure, he took it to the excess even lying around when he should have been off to war.

7. That was major flaw number 2.

8. Number 3 not only cost him, but cost his people dearly.

#### C. David became a victim of self-sufficiency and pride

1. Rather than fully trusting God, he began trusting in himself instead.

2. He wanted to know how great his kingdom was that he built.
3. Joab tried to talk him out of that mistake, but he would have none of it.
4. 70,000 people died because of his pride.

### III. Lessons for Today

#### A. Nothing is more important than cultivating a Godly family

1. 1 Timothy 5:8 (ESV) — 8 But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.
2. While the context here is talking about physically caring for their family, the easy correlation to spiritual care is obvious.
3. Too many people have sacrificed their family on the ladder to success.
4. I have seen so many people being blessed by God with a growing business, great job promotion, and other blessings in life only to be so caught up in that success, that they let the spiritual end slide and watched broken hearted as they children drifted away from God, or THEY drifted away from God.
5. It's like the story of the frog in the pot, it's slow enough you don't see the danger until it's too late.
6. Too many preachers have lost their family trying to save the world.
7. I once worked with a minister who was an extremely successful missionary...at the cost of 4 out of his 5 children's souls. When we sat and talked about it one day, he told me he wouldn't do anything differently. That the 1000's he led to Christ were worth the souls of his 4 children.
8. Nothing in this life is worth the souls of your family. Don't ever lose sight of that.

#### B. Prosperity can be perilous times as well as times of blessing.

1. Sometimes our lives are too good for our own good.
2. Going back to 1 timothy, Paul warns the rich of this danger and reminds them of the blessing.
3. 1 Timothy 6:17–19 (ESV) — 17 As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. 18 They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready

to share, 19 thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life.

4. We start thinking we can rely on ourselves rather than God.
5. It's something that has really hurt Americans when it comes to faith.
6. We have too comfortable of a life to see a real need for God.
7. We aren't desperate, so God doesn't strike us as a savior, only another convenience.
8. We want a soft pillow when we need a life preserver.

### C. Faithfulness to God needs to be a life-long ambition

1. I've seen far too many good Christians walk away from God.
2. David started out so well, but got caught up in his own success and it cost him for the rest of his life.
3. You may be a wonderful mature Christian, but don't think you've ever got to the point that you don't have to keep your guard up.
4. Jesus said; Matthew 10:22 (ESV) — 22 and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.
5. Paul continues with that thought in 2 Timothy 4:7–8 (ESV) — 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the

Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

6. Satan is just waiting for you to think you don't need God quite as much as you did before.

7. Be faithful to God now, stay faithful to God always.

8. And you will have the promise of the crown of life God promised us in Rev 2:10

#### D. David's story is our story

1. It's easy to look at your life and see yourself in a very similar way to David.

2. David was great and flawed all at the same time.

3. I see times in my life when I am so in line with God, and times when I wonder, "how did I fall this far?"

4. David was a man after God's heart because he always was honest with his sin and worked to be right with God again.

5. You can I can be a person after God heart by doing the exact same thing as David.

6. Learn from his life.