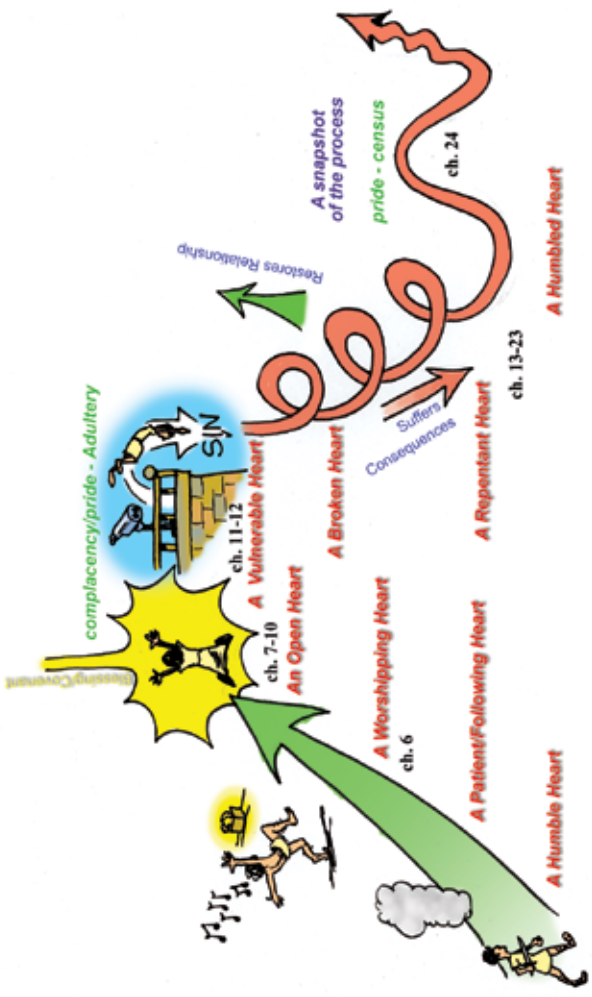


2 Samuel

2 Samuel: The Anatomy of a Heart in Process



David had a heart after God's own heart. Through his life we see the ongoing process of spiritual formation. We struggle daily with the tension between holiness and humanness. If we study the characteristics of David's heart we can discover how we can have a heart after God in the middle of a sin-sick world.

Monday: 2 Samuel 7-12
Tuesday: 2 Samuel 13-15
Wednesday: 2 Samuel 16-20
Thursday: 2 Samuel 21-24
Friday: 2 Samuel 24-1 Kings 3

Introduction

Outline of David's Story

2 Samuel is the story of David. David was considered to be a man after God's own heart. (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22) Yet, it is easy to observe that David was far from perfect. He made some huge mistakes in his life. A valid question could be asked when reading 1 and 2 Samuel, "Why did Saul get axed because of his mistakes and David get blessed with an eternal promise in spite of his mistakes?" Does God play favorites or is there something else going on?

To deal with that question we are going to look at this story through two lenses. First we will see a pattern in the sequence of the events in David's life. Second, we will look at the characteristics of David's heart.

Starts in humility and rises to the top

In the pattern we see that David started out in humble beginnings and slowly rose to the top of the heap. In 1 Samuel he started out as the last son of Jesse who was worth nothing more than tending the sheep. Then he became the attendant of Saul who had faith big enough to kill a giant. Most of the next part of his life was lived running away from Saul. When Saul died at the end of 1 Samuel, David's troubles didn't end. Chapters 1-4 of 2 Samuel are all about the

struggle David had with Saul's heir Ish-Bosheth and the Israelites who were loyal to Saul's family. Finally, through some treachery on the part of David's men, not him, David ascended to the rank of king over all of Israel. A key characteristic of David in this phase of the story is that David always recognized that it was God's movement out in front of him that brought victory, not his own strength. That has been true of him all along the way. He faced Goliath because he knew God would deliver him. He wouldn't kill Saul when he had the chance because he knew that vengeance was God's and that the timing of his ascension was God's problem, not his. He didn't take the throne from Ish-Bosheth either, he waited for God's timing. Because of David's faithfulness and desire to worship God and have the ark of the covenant in Jerusalem, God made an eternal promise to David.

Takes a nose-dive off the pinnacle

There is a strange and abrupt transition between chapter 10 and chapter 11. Just when you think David is perfect, he makes a huge mistake. He doesn't go to war (where he should have been), he sleeps with another man's wife, gets her pregnant, tries to cover it up, and eventually has the husband killed and marries Bathsheba.

Suffers the consequences of his sin

Even though David repented from his sin and was forgiven by God, that sin still led to serious consequences. David's children rebelled against him, he nearly lost the throne, and a rift between the tribes of Israel and the tribe of Judah was started that would eventually lead to civil war.

The Anatomy of a Heart in Process

The previous chronological look at 2 Samuel was the first lens through which we are examining the book. The second lens is to look at the characteristics of David's heart that we can observe throughout the story. By listing these characteristics we can begin to see what our heart needs to be like if we are going to have a heart after God.

Humble Heart -- David started in humble beginnings and knew that he was nothing special outside of God's will.

Patient/Following Heart -- We see in 2 Samuel 5:24 that David followed God's lead, he didn't try to make it happen in his own strength. Our job is to be open to God's leading, and then have courage to obey when He commands.

Worshipping Heart -- Here we see that David was a great king because he had deep respect for God and was not ashamed to worship Him. The ark of the covenant was the symbol for Israel that represented God's presence. When Uzzah touched the ark, an act that showed that he thought God needed his help instead of him needing God's help, he was struck down. We need to have respect for God, and come before him in humility and show honor to Him. David did this. David also worshipped God with great enthusiasm, joy, and humility. If we are going to grow up to be great men and women of God we need to not be afraid to let the world know how much we love God, even if they make fun of us.

Open Heart - David was open to receive God's blessing. This may seem like an odd one, but many people are not willing to receive good things from

God. We are quick to find our faults and cower from a fierce God, but we are not willing to see ourselves through the loving eyes of our Heavenly Father and let Him give good things to us. David received the Covenant from God with deep gratitude, but not self-deprecation and false humility.

Vulnerable Heart - Even though David had many victories with God and had just entered into an eternal, unconditional covenant with God, he was still vulnerable to temptation and sin. Many times, just when we think we have hit a good stride with God and have it all under control - BAM! -- we get blind-sided by a temptation that we bit into. When we become complacent we let down our guard and can be sent spinning by a wicked blow. It's not that we need to have a vulnerable heart to have a heart for God. What we need is the awareness that we ARE vulnerable and never let our guard down. Too often we take pride in our humility and take credit for the blessings of God, and that's when we are in trouble. (Proverbs 16:18)

Broken Heart - When David was confronted with his sin he had two options. He could go the way of Saul and deny his sin, shift the blame, and rationalize his sin. OR, he could let the arrow of truth penetrate the hardness of his sin-filled heart and be broken by the weight of his guilt. A broken heart drives us to our knees and shifts our focus from self to God. When we are broken, we admit that we are empty and powerless to do anything on our own and need God's strength to live. This is the flavor of the first three beatitudes in Jesus' sermon on the mount. Blessed are the poor in Spirit, those who mourn, and those who are meek. In Psalm 51:17 David expresses the spirit of this truth.

Repentant Heart -- it is one thing to be broken by conviction, it is another thing to actually want to change. In Hebrew the word translated "repent" is *shuwb* which means to "turn around" or "turn back." In Greek the word is *metanoia* which means to change the pattern of thinking. To repent is to actually change, not just say "forgive me." David repented and desired to have a heart that pleased God. He made a mistake, he suffered deeply for his sin, and he invited God to change him. (Psalm 139:23-24)

Humble Heart 2 -- There are infinite layers in the process of spiritual transformation. Just when we think we have a handle on understanding God, He reveals a whole new aspect of Himself to us. Just when we think we have a handle on patience, God places us in a job with an incredibly irritating person. Just when we think we are humble, God allows us to become proud in our godliness and fall into sin. When that happens our humble attitude is exposed as arrogance and we are plunged into a new level of humiliation. We emerge from that ugly process with a new understanding of the sovereignty of God and a what a humble spirit means. May God peel back the layers in our lives.

Monday: Get Off the Porch!

2 Samuel 7:8-16

What did God promise to do for David?

2 Samuel 11:1-12:25

Where was David supposed to be at this time?

What sin did David commit?

How did David respond when confronted about his sin?

Food for thought:

The most glaring and obvious question for today is, “How can a man who was so close to God that God would make an eternal promise with him plummet so quickly into the depths of such blatant sin?”

The answer to this important question can be found in 1 Samuel 11:1, *“In the spring, at the time when kings go off to war...David remained in Jerusalem.”* The problem is that David had fallen into the “success syndrome”. Up to this point in his life David had been very spiritually and politically successful. Let’s take a moment and recount his success story:

- ✦ Defeats Goliath: Faith and courage.
- ✦ Spares Saul: Humility, submission, and patience.
- ✦ Made king, but loves Ish-bosheth: Mercy and compassion.
- ✦ Defeats Philistines: Faith and courage
- ✦ Brings ark to Jerusalem: A true worshipper of God.
- ✦ **The Davidic Covenant.** Chapter 7 is significant enough of a chapter that we need to take a break and look at it closely. One of God’s patterns throughout all of the Bible is that He made specific promises to specific people along the way that all built upon each other. He promised Adam that one would come to crush the serpent’s heel. He promised Noah that He would never flood the Earth again. He promised Abraham that He would make him a great nation and that all nations would be blessed through him. He promised Moses that obedience to God’s heart and Law would bring blessing. Now He is promising David that He would do great things for him and



through him.

God promised David that he would...

1. make his name great
2. give him rest from his enemies
3. establish a house for him
4. raise up offspring to succeed him
5. make his house and kingdom endure forever. Luke 1:32; Ezekiel 34:23-24;

This was an unconditional promise that God made to David, meaning that no matter what David did, God would still keep his word. parts 1-4 of the promise came true in David's life. His name was great and still is great to this day. David did get to enjoy some peace in his lifetime, since he had conquered pretty much everyone around him. His house was established and his son, Solomon, did rise to the throne and build a temple in Jerusalem. part 5 of the promise is the most significant. David's family would be an eternal kingdom. That is being fulfilled right now. Jesus came from the line of David and He sits on the throne of the Kingdom of God eternally.

You can see how each covenant God makes narrows the field and becomes more specific. in Adam's promise, the Messiah could have come from any human family. In Abraham's promise, the Messiah could only come from an Israelite family. In David's, the Messiah could only come from the line of David.

-  Defeats enemies. A mighty warrior.
-  Loves Mephibosheth. A keeper of promises.

So, after all that truly godly behavior and fruitful victory, how can he become an adulterer, a liar, a thief, and a murderer? It is important to understand that the Bible does not directly say this, but it is not much of a stretch to place into David's mind the reasoning that allowed him to remain at home when it was time to go to war. He may have been thinking, "You know what, I have been working hard for God for many years now. I deserve a break. After all, God has just made an eternal covenant with me. What could possibly go wrong?" There it is, just like a prize fighter who let's his guard down in the 11th round, David let his guard down for a moment, walked out onto the porch, and set eyes on a beautiful woman. You know the rest of the story.

In the early 90's there was a prominent pastor on the east coast that had a similar experience. He had written books that had impacted millions and was on the regular preaching circuit. One day, when being interviewed by a Christian magazine, he was asked what was his greatest strength. His response was, "My fidelity to my wife." Within one year that man had an affair that rocked the Christian world.

Here are some points to remember for today:

1. Our victories are God's victories, not ours. For a brief moment David forgot that all the amazing things that he had done came from the power of God working through his submitted heart, not through his own strength. We need to make sure we don't start taking credit for the fruit that God is producing in our lives. That is a sure way to turn that fruit sour over night.
2. The enemy doesn't take a vacation. As wearisome as it may sound, the battle for our

souls and our allegiances never stops raging. Every day we must wake up and strap on the armor of God. Yes, we need to take a break and refresh our souls, that is a part of the plan. But, refreshing our souls happens when we climb deeper into the safety of God's heart, not when we go play on the porch for a while.

3. No one is exempt from sin. Everyone can fall in an unguarded moment. Never, for one minute, believe that you are "above" something. The greatest killer of Christian warriors is when they start believing that it is their own skin that is impervious to the enemy's darts rather than the armor of God that has been protecting them the whole time.
4. Guard your heart, every day. Once again, it comes down to this simple lesson. Every day we need to wake up and pray the simple prayer, "Kill me, Fill me, Spill me. Lord, in my own flesh and in my own wisdom I am weak. Please let me get out of the driver's seat of my life and die to the desires of my own flesh. Please fill me with your Spirit today, wash me clean, and overflow in the kind of ministry that you want to do through me for your glory." This attitude will be the shield that protects your heart from taking a nose-dive off the porch of sin.

Tuesday: Facing the Music

Today's questions come from the entire daily reading plus a few verses from tomorrow (ch. 13:1-16:4)

What did Amnon do that made Absalom so angry?
(ch. 13)

What did Absalom do to Amnon? (ch. 13)

What did Absalom do against David? (ch. 15)

What was David's response to Absalom's actions? 2 Samuel 15:25-26

What was David's response to being cursed by Shimei? 2 Samuel 16:11-12

Food for thought:

Here is another recurring theme in our devotionals. Hosea said it best in Hosea 8:7, *“they sow the wind and reap the whirlwind.”*

Our behavior has consequences. When we sow to the Spirit and yield ourselves to God’s will, then the fruit of the Spirit will grow in our heart. (Galatians 6:9) In the same way, when we sow to the flesh, then the wild seeds of weeds will be scattered in the garden of our heart and nasty stuff will pop up overnight and do serious damage.

David’s life was no different. David’s sin brought about intense consequences in his family and in the nation. His children were divided, his nation was divided, and his throne was threatened.

I believe it is important to pause at this moment and make a very important point. The consequences that David suffered in chs. 13-20 were not the result of the one sin with Bathsheba. I’m not saying that that one sin did not deserve harsh consequences, because it did. I’m saying that the consequences are rooted deeper into David’s life and into the entire heritage of the nation. One of the key sins that produced so much pain was the distorted view of women in the culture. Had the men of Israel not treated women like cattle, taking multiple wives and concubines, there would not have been the division and rivalry amongst the half-brothers. Also, had the nation not begged for a king, the inevitable treachery that swirls around every human throne would have not happened. Remember that Samuel warned them that these events would come. Treachery, pain, murder, and warfare are part in parcel with a human monarchy. That’s what power does to any person.

The division of Israel was inevitable. David's sin with Bathsheba just became a catalyst for the crumbling of the shoddy foundation upon which the nation was built. These consequences were the results of generations of disobedience to God.

We have talked a lot about consequences in past devotionals. Simply put, the message is this, if we repent from our sin and are restored in fellowship with God, that does not remove consequences. If you lost brain cells from drugs, they'll still be gone after salvation. If you've had a child out of wedlock, the child will still be there after salvation. If you've been divorced and the children are in pain, they'll still be hurting children of a broken marriage after salvation. Enough said.

The point for today is found in David's attitude towards these consequences. How do we typically respond when we reap what we sow? We tend to get bent out of shape and start shaking a rebellious fist at God, saying, "How could you do this to me? A loving God wouldn't do this." Or, we implode in shame and depression, saying, "Yes, I deserve this punishment, I might as well not go on living."

Look what David did. In 15:25-26, when he was fleeing from Jerusalem for his life, David said, "If God wants me back in Jerusalem, then I'll go back. If not, then I won't." Then, when Shimei was hurling stones and insults at him, David said, "Leave him alone; let him curse, for the LORD has told him to."

Here again we see why David was considered a man after God's own heart. David took the consequences of his sin in the same way that he took the adversity and the victories he had experienced before the sin with Bathsheba. He accepted the consequences with

an open spirit, realizing that he was in God's hands, was God's servant, and was willing to take whatever God wanted to give him. He didn't fight back in resentment and he didn't crumble in shame. He submitted his heart to the will of God and humbly and courageously followed wherever God took him.

Let us never forget two important lessons:

1. There are always consequences for sin, so think twice before you do something stupid.
2. The attitude of a godly heart remains the same regardless of circumstances. Our attitude should always be one of humble submission to God's plan.

Wednesday: The Morning After

Today we are going to look at the aftermath of David's sin. We are going to look at "the Morning After" a night of unbridled sin.

An interesting way to observe how a sinful human system affects a community is to do a study on specific individuals in the story and observe the effects of David's actions on each of their lives. The pivotal event in today's reading is the death of David's rebellious son, Absalom. Notice how each person is described before the death and after the death of Absalom.

David's Concubines

before 15:16 and 16:22

after 20:3

Shimei

before 16:5-14

after 19:15-23

Ziba and Mephibosheth

before 16:1-4

after 19:24-30

You can also look at the relationship between the tribe of Judah and the tribes of Israel in ch. 19-20 to see the seeds of civil war that were sown at this time.

Food for thought:

Have you ever sat down and looked at your life and the circumstances of the world and thought, “This scene is messed up?” It is very easy to get caught up in that mode of thinking, especially if you are of the personality type that is more prone to introspection and emotion. Why is it easy to get caught up in that mode of thinking? There is one easy answer: because the world is a messed up place. Shakespeare said it well as he wrote, “Oh the tangled webs we weave...” Each one of us is born into a tangled web. We are born into family systems that are suffering from the direct consequences of the past sin of our parents. Our family system is suffering from the consequences of generations of sinful patterns that have been passed down through the ages. The family of humanity has been marked by wars and treachery that has caused us to be bitter and suspicious of each other. We live in guarded fortresses, both literal and figurative, protecting ourselves from the enemy that lies outside and from the enemy that lies inside. Many times it seems that no one can be trusted.

The second half of 2 Samuel can be a discouraging experience to read. While that is true, we can also look at it as a guidebook for how to live in the reality of a messed up world. From chapter 12 on we can make some interesting observations about the nature of God, sin, and forgiveness.

First of all, the reason David was God’s man was not because he was perfect in his action, but because he was honest in his heart. When Nathan confronted him about Bathsheba, David was deeply convicted and admitted that what he did was wrong. This is what made him different from Saul. Whereas Saul tried to shift the blame and save face, David fell on his face and took full responsibility for blowing it.

Secondly, we can see that God is a forgiving God. When David truly repented of his sin, God spared him. Now, we need to be careful at this point. Many people in our day misinterpret the idea of a forgiving God. I've heard too many people say, "Oh, I know this is a sin, but I just can't help myself... and I know God will forgive me because he's a forgiving God." Yikes! That is a dangerous theology. Yes, God is a forgiving God, but forgiveness is only possible when it is preceded by TRUE REPENTANCE. Outward religion, or going through the motions of church, does zilch for the removal of sin. David said in Psalm 51:17 that the sacrifices God desires are a broken and contrite heart.

There is a third thing we can observe about God, sin, and forgiveness. Even though God forgives sin and the relationship with God is restored, the natural consequences of sin are not removed. David's life was never the same after the Bathsheba incident. The rest of 2 Samuel is the story of the downward spiral of David's family and the reality of having a heart for God that is groping in the physical fallout of sin. That is the condition of the world today. The effects of sin are all around us. The world is polluted, families are decimated, people are fighting and killing each other over money, power, and property. Each of us has sinned and we live with the scars every day. It is naive to think that following Jesus will take away all the bad circumstances in life. It doesn't work that way. Following Jesus gives us an inner joy that is anchored in an eternal truth that gives us the hope and strength to persevere through difficult circumstances, not escape them.

Thursday: A Last Look at David

2 Samuel 24

What did David do that brought the wrath of God?

How did David respond to the consequences of this action?

What was David's attitude toward the offering he was to bring to the altar he built on the threshing floor?

Food for thought:

If you have read this chapter carefully you are probably scratching your head and asking, "If God asked David to take the census, then why does he get mad at him?" Part of the answer to that question can be found in the parallel passage in 1 Chronicles 21:1 where the author states that Satan rose against Israel and incited David to take the census. Here are couple of points to keep in mind when trying to sort out this difficult passage.

2 Samuel tells us that God was angry with the Israelites...again. Whenever God was angry with the people it means that they were running off into sin again and were in need of punishment. We aren't told exactly what the sin was, so that must not be the point of the chapter, but we can be sure that God's actions toward them was justified.

1. Satan was the one who actually tempted David to take the census. James tells us that God does not tempt people. (James 1:13)
2. God was in control of allowing Satan to tempt David. This verse sounds a lot like the opening scene of Job when God allows Satan to mess with Job's life. Why? In order to test Job. Here, too, we see God putting David and the nation to the test.
3. David was the one who is ultimately responsible for having taken the census. Even his commander, Joab (who has not been a very noble character in the story), warned David to not do this sinful act. Yet, David persisted in taking a head count of all the fighting men.

In light of these points, we can conclude that God did not force David to sin, He simply allowed David an

opportunity to choose God's way or the world's way in order to test David's heart. David failed the test and then had to suffer the consequences.

I believe the purpose of chapter 24, in the scheme of the entire book, is to serve as a summary and a synopsis of the whole story of David's life and why, even after sinning, David was considered a man after God's own heart. From this summary we can also see a pattern for our own lives.

Every day we are faced with temptations that press our "self" buttons. For David it was the temptation to take stock in his powerful position and to take comfort in the fact that he was well-armed for battle. Each one of us has a different blind spot in which the enemy can attack and cause us to turn from God and worship the god of our own creation.

1. No matter how much success has been experienced in the past regarding a yielded heart, no one is exempt from succumbing to temptation. David certainly proved this to be true. First he fell with Bathsheba, now we see him falling with the census. Be careful if you think that you have it under control because you, in your own strength, don't. Only through daily submission to God's protection and strength will you stand firm against sin.
2. A godly heart cannot stay long in the camp of sin. In v. 10 the NIV states that David was "conscience-stricken" by what he had done. The literal translation of the Hebrew says that his heart hit him with a strong blow (the KJV says "David's heart smote him"). Here is

one of the marks of David that demonstrated that he had a heart after God's own heart. Deep down inside, David knew that what he was doing was not right. When we are characterized by having a godly heart, the Holy Spirit will not allow us to remain in a sinful state. As soon as we commit an offense against God the Holy Spirit will bring it to our attention. A heart that is not seeking for God has become calloused to the Spirit and does not even notice when it has offended God.

3. A godly heart is quick to confess sin, repent from it, and submit to whatever God's response to that sin may be.
4. Sin always brings consequences. David's census-taking brought about an intense plague on the nation for three days. In our lives, even if the sin was a momentary slip in a life characterized by obedient following, there will still be consequences. One harsh word spoken will still sting and leave a mark. One unguarded moment will start a chain reaction that will have ripple effects through your community. Don't fall into the "just-this-once" game of rationalization. It only takes once to unravel the whole deal.
5. It always comes back to worship. The final word on David in 2 Samuel was that he built an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Araunah the Jebusite. At first glance it may seem that this was not that big of a deal, but there are two important aspects to this story that we must look at. First, this altar was built on the spot that the temple would be built by David's son, Solomon. David was the first to

establish the worship of God in a centralized place in Jerusalem. This act would impact the nation for millenium. Secondly, David summarizes the heart and soul of worship when he says, *"I will not sacrifice to the Lord my God burnt offerings that cost me nothing."* How many times do we give to God of our time, treasure, and talent out of the left-overs in our life. We work hard all week on our stuff, and then, if there is anything left we throw it to God, as we would throw the table scraps to the family pet. God doesn't want that. God wants the BEST of ALL that we are. He wants our hearts.

David was a man after God's own heart, not because he was perfect, but because he was authentically committed to worshipping God in all that He did. He was honest with God and with himself. When he had victory, He gave glory to God. When he messed up he admitted it, repented, and submitted to the authority and discipline of God.

As you move into today, ask yourself what aspect of your life needs to become more like David's.

Friday: Are You Listening?

1 Kings 3:4-15

Where does Solomon make his sacrifice before the dream? (v. 4)

Where does Solomon make his sacrifice after the dream? (v. 15)

In the dream, what choice did God offer to Solomon?

What was Solomon's self-perception? (v. 7)

What did Solomon ask for?

How did God feel about Solomon's request?

Food for thought:

If you are familiar at all with Solomon you probably know that Solomon is famous for being wise. He is also famous for this scene in which he asked for wisdom. In studying this passage this week I had a little “aha” moment. It is easy to take your previous understanding of Solomon, read v. 9 through those lenses, and read it to say, “Solomon asked God for wisdom.” Look again. Solomon does not ask God for wisdom. He asks God for a “discerning heart.” That is how the NIV translates it anyway. So what is a discerning heart? Our first response may be, “A discerning heart is simply wisdom, so what’s the big deal?”

In this case we can learn a great deal by going back to the original language. In the Hebrew, Solomon asks that God would give him a *shama* heart. The word *shama* means “listening.” You may have heard this word used in referring to the famous passage (Deuteronomy 6:4-9) that is called the *Shema* by the Jews; “Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is One...” The tense of the word *Shema* in this passage is “hear this!” or, “Hey, Israel, Listen Up!” In these words, Moses was telling Israel that the key to living in God’s Kingdom was to listen.

Solomon asked for a listening heart, not for wisdom. I love that distinction. When we think of wisdom we think of it as a quality that we can possess. We think, “I can be wise, and I can make wise decisions.” Do you see the subtle danger in thinking of wisdom in that way? If I possess wisdom and I can make wise decisions, then where is God in that?

In this passage Solomon was overwhelmed by the realization that he had inherited a great responsibility

from his father. He knew that he would not be able to rule the nation in his own strength. So, he asked God for the ability to listen well. There is the key to the Kingdom of God, right there; Listening.

Too many times we look at the world around us and all the responsibilities and decisions that we have to make on a daily basis, and we roll up our sleeves and jump in with our own strength. Even in ministry we do this. We look at issues in our churches and we try to hammer things out using our own strength and wisdom. The answer does not dwell within us. This is God's Kingdom and His church. He knows exactly what to do for us in every situation, and He is ready to tell us. The question is, are we ready to listen.

Listening is scary business. Listening requires silence. God does not speak in brash trumpets and lightning in the sky. God is like a gentle, constant whisper that is always speaking, but can only be heard when there are no competing sounds. Our job is not to beg God to speak. Our job is to slow down and become quiet enough to hear Him.

What noises are drowning His gentle voice out of your life today? Is it the noise of bitterness and resentment that you hold toward someone? Are there unresolved issues in your family or church community that are a jamming signal for God's voice? Is there a cherished sin that has a grip on your heart and is covering the ears of your soul? Are there too many "good things" on your plate that keep you running around so fast and furious that you can't afford to slow down?

Let's commit to join Solomon in his prayer. Let's admit that we aren't smart enough to do this thing called living in the Kingdom of God on our own.

Let's join together in slowing down enough and getting quiet enough and patient enough to listen to God's still, small voice. Then let's have enough courage to obey that voice when we hear it.