

After His Own Heart

A person is greatest when he is the least among others, strongest when he is weak, mightier when he is humbled and worthy when he is poor. Only then can he be a man after God's own heart.

Php 2:5 Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 6 Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God (*He couldn't steal what was already His; equality with God*): 7 But made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8 And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. 9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name:

Eph 1:4 According (*just*) as He (*God*) hath chosen us (*the church*) in Him (*Christ*) before the foundation of the world (*"before the world was made, God had already chosen us to be His through our union with Christ"-GNB*), that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: (*but in the meantime man decided to choose to do evil...*)

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every imagination of the **thoughts of his heart** *was* only evil continually.

Gen 6:8 But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted His way (*Heb.1870- a road [as trodden]; figuratively a course of life*) upon the earth.

- Because of God's all-knowing nature, He could foresee how people, along with their individual ideologies, could be used in such a way that would ultimately show His power and existence to man, who is the focus of His creation. Whether good or bad, each would be used in doing His will.

Exo 9:16 And in very deed for this *cause* have I raised thee up (*He allowed Pharaoh to rule Egypt at a time when He wanted to teach His people Israel a lesson*), for to shew in thee My power; and that My name may be declared throughout all the earth.

- Not that there is lack of choice on the part of man, but He would use those choices, good or bad, to guide the course of history in sending His Son at the most appropriate time.

Gal 4:4 But when the fulness of the time was come (*"when the time was right" -CEV*), God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5 To redeem them that were under the law (*Jews*), that we might receive the adoption of sons. (*The law had its purpose and now the only way for the Jew to regain his sonship was through Jesus Christ.*)

David

- King Saul did not repent of his past sins but blamed them on others and in this case his excuse put him even further away from being a man of the same mind and understanding as God. Because of this, Samuel told Saul...

1Sa 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought Him **a man after His own heart** (*David*), and the LORD hath commanded him *to be* captain over His people, because thou hast not kept *that* which the LORD commanded thee.

- **heart- Heb.3824- mind, understanding.** Saul was not on the same page as was David according to his faithfulness and obedience to God. So God chose David over Saul to lead His people Israel. David understood his position as servant, and Jehovah as his all-knowing Master. When he messed up and sinned against God he had that relationship in mind and thus repented of his ill-conceived actions.

2Sa 11:2 And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon. 3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

- As the story goes, David committed a grave sin with the wife of another man. When she became pregnant David tried to hide his sin by having her husband Uriah come home from the war David was waging against Rabbah. Uriah remained faithful to the Lord, being concerned for the Ark, Israel and Judah that abode in tents, so he did not go into his wife as was David's plan to cover his own sin. So David had him placed in the heat of battle so that he died. Then David took Bathsheba for his own wife. When Nathan the prophet was sent to David with a story of a wealthy man taking a poor man's lamb to feed his guests...

2Sa 12:5 ... David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, *As* the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die: 6 And he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity. 7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man...

- Obviously David then realized that his sin with Bathsheba did not go unnoticed before God. He didn't try to blame it on anyone else or try to explain his way out of it. David was a man after God's own heart in that his repentance was so sincere. He wrote...

Psa 51:1 **To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.** Have mercy upon me, O God, according to Thy loving-kindness: according unto the multitude of Thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. 3 For **I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me.** (*David's conscience reminded him of what he did, not just with Bathsheba but against Uriah*)⁴ Against Thee, Thee only, have I sinned (*when we sin we might sin with or against others but ultimately we sin against God*), and done *this* evil in Thy sight: that Thou mightest be justified when Thou speakest, *and* be clear when Thou judgest.

- Thus the heart of a God-like man/woman is ever ready to admit his/her failures by their humble repentance and do not blame their sin on the actions others.

1Ti 1:5 Now the end (*Gk.5056- purpose*) of the commandment is charity out of a pure (*Gk.2513- clean*) heart (*Gk.2588- thoughts or feelings [mind]*), and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned (*sincere conviction*):

Josiah

1Ki 13:1 And, behold, there came a man of God out of Judah by the word of the LORD unto Bethel: and Jeroboam stood by the altar to burn incense. **2** And he cried against the altar in the word of the LORD, and said, O altar, altar, thus saith the LORD; Behold, a child shall be born unto the house of David, **Josiah by name**; and upon thee shall he offer the priests of the high places that burn incense upon thee, and men's bones shall be burnt upon thee.

2Ki 23:15 Moreover the altar that *was* at Bethel, *and* the high place which Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who made Israel to sin, had made, both that altar and the high place he broke down, and burned the high place, *and* stamped *it* small to powder, and burned the grove. **16** And as Josiah turned himself, he spied the sepulchers that *were* there in the mount, and sent, and took the bones out of the sepulchers, and burned *them* upon the altar, and polluted it, according to the word of the LORD which the man of God proclaimed, who proclaimed these words.

- **Josiah is best known for this restoration movement in the Old Testament.**

2Ki 22:1 Josiah *was* eight years old when he began to reign, and he reigned thirty and one years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name *was* Jedidah, the daughter of Adaiah of Boscath. **2** And he did *that which was* **right in the sight of the LORD**, and walked in all the way of David his father, and turned not aside to the right hand or to the left. **3** And it came to pass in the eighteenth year of king Josiah,.. (*about twenty-six years old*)

2Ki 22:8 ... Hilkiyah the high priest said unto Shaphan the scribe, I have found **the book of the law*** in the house of the LORD. And Hilkiyah gave the book to Shaphan, and he read it.

***Deu 31:9** And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, and unto all the elders of Israel. **10** And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of *every* seven years, in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles, **11** When all Israel is come to appear before the LORD thy God in the place which He shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing. **12** Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that *is* within thy gates, that they may hear, and that they may learn, and fear the LORD your God, and observe to do all the words of this law: **13** And *that* their children, which have not known *anything*, may hear, and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it.

Deu 31:24 And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished, **25** That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the LORD, saying, **26** Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee. **27** For I know thy rebellion, and thy stiff neck: behold, while I am yet alive with you this day, ye have been rebellious against the LORD; and how much more after my death?

2Ki 22:10 And Shaphan the scribe shewed the king, saying, Hilkiyah the priest hath delivered me a book. And Shaphan read it before the king. **11** And it came to pass, when the king had heard the words of the book of the law, that **he rent his clothes.**

“...he had long thought the case of his kingdom bad, by reason of the idolatries and impieties that had been found among them, but he never thought it so bad as he perceived it to be by the book of the law now read to him. The rending of his clothes signified the rending of his heart for the dishonour done to God, and the ruin he saw coming upon his people.”

Mathew Henry

- When we can look solely to **God's** word for all our doctrines that pertain to the faith and with good conscience and conviction say we are doing according to truth (*speaking where the Bible speaks and remaining silent where the Bible is silent*), then we can say that we are a people of **God's** own heart. Too bad the denominational world doesn't "spiritually" rend their clothes (*in this case their creeds and false doctrines*) in repentance and humility in order to do that which is "right in the sight of the Lord" as **Josiah** literally did here.

2Ki 22:12 And the king commanded Hilkiah the priest, and Ahikam the son of Shaphan, and Achbor the son of Michaiah, and Shaphan the scribe, and Asahiah a servant of the king's, saying, **13** Go ye, enquire of the LORD for me, and for the people, and for all Judah, **concerning the words of this book** that is found: for great *is* the wrath of the LORD that is kindled against us, **because** our fathers have **not hearkened** unto the words of this book, **to do according** unto all **that which is written** concerning us.

- From this passage we are to understand the responsibility of the parents in keeping the word of **God** constantly in their children's hearing. The heart of a **God-like** man/woman fears to ever go against **God** through their daily reading and understanding **His** word. To become complacent with regard to our study of the word of **God** today is akin to what **Josiah** discovered concerning the fathers then. The words of the book of the law should never have ceased to be read in their hearing. The same applies to us today with the New Testament with regard to our own children.

Jeremiah

“Jeremiah came to be somewhat of a type of Christ in that he learned to be meek. Jesus once said, “Not My will but Thine be done” (Luke 22:42). When we evacuate thoughts of personal opinions, convictions, and preconceived ideas and lean wholly on God's word for guidance we become meek. Fearless meek preachers will save souls.”

John Robertson, July 23, 2012; Watchman Magazine

Jer 20:7 O LORD, Thou hast deceived me, and I was deceived: Thou art stronger than I, and hast prevailed: I am in derision daily, every one mocks me. **8** For since I spake, I cried out, I cried violence and spoil; because the word of the LORD was made a reproach unto me, and a derision, daily. **9** Then I said, I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His name. But *His word* was **in mine heart** (*Heb.3820- mind*) as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not *stay*.

“He felt stings of conscience for the hasty and disobedient resolution he had formed; he felt ashamed of his own weakness, that did not confide in the promise and strength of God; and God's word was in him as a strongly raging fire, and he was obliged to deliver it, in order to get rid of the tortures which he felt from suppressing the solemn message which God had given.”

Adam Clarke

- A person who has the mindset of, and understands God, cannot in all humility, keep from mentioning His word! That is, if His word is in them in the first place.

*2Pe 1:3 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the **knowledge of Him** that hath called us to glory and virtue:*

Jer 26:1 In the beginning of the reign of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah came this word from the LORD, saying, **2** Thus saith the LORD; Stand in the court of the LORD'S house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the LORD'S house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word: **3** If so be they will hearken, and turn every man from his evil way, that I may repent Me (*change My way of dealing with them*) of the evil, which I purpose to do unto them because of the evil of their doings.

Jer 26:12 Then spake Jeremiah unto all the princes and to all the people, saying, The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and against this city all the words that ye have heard. **13** Therefore now amend your ways and your doings, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will repent (*change His mode of dealing with you*) Him of the evil that He hath pronounced against you. **14** As for me, behold, I *am* in your hand: do with me as seemeth good and meet unto you.

- Jeremiah spoke as he was told without holding anything back. He was a man after God's own heart.

Jesus

Mat 16:13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, saying, **Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?** **14** And they said, Some say that Thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

“What was it about Jeremiah that caused the people of Jesus’ day to say He reminded them of the prophet of God? A study of the book of Jeremiah bears out two glaring characteristics of the prophet that forever associates him with the Christ. Jeremiah was a meek and fearless preacher who faithfully preached God’s message to a lost and dying people.”

John Robertson, July 23, 2012, Watchman Magazine

Saul/ Paul

“Whenever God has work to do, He raised up men with a heart to do it.” Brad Price

Act 9:11 And the Lord said unto him, **Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13** Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to Thy saints at Jerusalem: **14** And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on Thy name. **15** But the Lord said unto him, **Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16** For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for My name's sake.

- Paul later recounted this incident to the Jews outside the Roman barracks where he was to be held.

Act 22:12 And one Ananias, a devout man according to the law, having a good report of all the Jews which dwelt *there*, **13** Came unto me, and stood, and said unto me, Brother Saul, receive thy sight. And the same hour I looked up upon him. **14** And he said, The God of our fathers hath chosen thee, that thou shouldest know His will, and see that Just One, and shouldest hear the voice of His mouth. **15** For thou shalt be His witness unto all men of what thou hast seen and heard. **16** And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.

- Before we can become a people after God's own heart we need to, with a sincere conscience, heed His every command, as did Paul. When Paul was called by Jesus to preach to the Gentiles, he went to those that he had earlier shunned as the uncircumcised heathen. His message of hope to them, then, through the gospel, is the same message we preach today. But obedience is as necessary today as it was then because...

Heb 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.

- So if you've been convicted by these words (*Rom 10:17*) and you believe that God is Who He says He is (*Heb 11:6*) and are willing to change your way of life (*Lk 13:3*) into becoming someone after God's own heart, then you need to confess that Jesus is the Christ (*Mat 10:32*) and be immersed so that your sins can be washed away (*Acts 22:16*) to have a clear conscience before God on the day of judgment (*1 Pet 3:21*) and remain faithful to this new life, please come so that we might help you in your obedience to His will.

Hear: **Romans 10:17** ..."faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

Believe: **Heb 11:6** ..."for he that commeth to God must believe that He is"...

Repent: **Lk 13:3** ..."except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

Confess: **Mat 10:32** "Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess before My Father which is in Heaven."

Be baptized: **Acts 22:16** "And now why tarriest thou? Arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."

Remain faithful: **Rom 6:4** ..."even so we also should walk in newness of life."

*Charli Yana
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CEV: Contemporary English Version, GNB: Good News Bible