

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

These questions are designed to help you talk about God's word and Pastor Brian's message with friends and family. You of course can use your own questions, but we'd like to give you this tool to encourage Biblical fellowship and discipleship in your circle of relationships. **Enjoy discovering more about Him!**

"THE MANY ROADS OF FATH: DAVID- FAITH THAT DEVOTES" | PSALMS | PASTOR CAMERON SEELY

WARM-UP QUESTION:

- What comes to mind with the word "devoted"?

"Devoted In Distress" Psalm 6: 1-4

David cries out to God when he is distressed and struggling.

- How can difficulty drive people from the Lord?
- How does difficulty bring people to the Lord?

"Devoted When Broken" Psalm 51: 3-17

David was ashamed and broken when confronted by a prophet about his sin yet went to God in repentance.

- How is God showing faithfulness when confronting people with their sin?

"Devoted for the Long Run" Psalm 37: 23-25

David appreciates his long journey with God over many years.

- What wisdom have you or others gained from following Jesus for a long time?

"Devoted in Remembrance" Psalm 103

David remembers all God has done and it leads him to respond in worship.

- How can you build a habit of remembering God's blessings and thanking Him for them?

REFLECTION AND APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

David went from a forgotten shepherd boy to a mighty king. He sinned greatly and repented humbly. David had family drama and leaned on His heavenly Father. David saw God's faithfulness through it all and he responded in humble worship.

- What state is your faith in lately?
- Have you been turning to God in EVERY circumstance?
- What is one way you can reflect God's faithfulness to others this week?
- Take time to tell God in speech, writing or song how amazing His faithfulness has been throughout your life.

Many Roads of Faith

David - A Faith Devoted to God

Intro & Recap:

- Hello church! My name is Cameron, and I am so blessed to get to share with you all today!
- Pastor Brian introduced this Series “The Many Roads of Faith” about three weeks back. With an emphasis on seeing stories of Faith in Hebrews 11 - namely **(Show Slide 1)**
“Faith that is trusting the faithfulness of God, on every road of life.”
 - **Pastor Andrew Lacasse** kicked off walking us through Jacob’s faith, a road that limps and wrestles with God. And eventually is Overcome by God!
 - **Pastor Andrew Paulsen (Double the Andrews is always nice!)** showed us the faith of Samson, or a faith road that Returns. Samson's story was not one of exact faithfulness. But one that resulted in a faithful ending!
 - Today...we will look at David. And see a faith that was Devoted to God!

Let’s Read Hebrews 11:32-34 & Pray!

“32 And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets-- 33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, 34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.”

Hebrews 11:32-34

- David is amongst a handful of short mentions in the Hall of Faith chapter in Hebrews 11. But anyone who has followed the Life of David in 1st and 2nd Samuel knows. His story is anything but average.
- **I mean geez have yall watched the David movie yet or what????**

Great movies aside. David’s faith walk is one of Devotion! But we maybe lets first define devotion...**Devotion: Love, loyalty, or enthusiasm for a person or cause. (In Religious terms can be described as worship)**

So David's faith is one of love, loyalty, and enthusiasm, a life of worship! And the subject of those actions is God himself.

Here is what we know about David as an overview: (Slide 2)

The Youngest son of Jesse, a Shepherd Boy - (1 Samuel 16:11-12)

The Chosen Anointed King of Israel - (1 Samuel 16:13 & 2 Samuel 5)

A Faithful Servant and Worshipper - (1 Samuel 16:23)

A Great Warrior & Champion for Israel - (1 Samuel 17)

A Man After God's own Heart! - (1 Sam. 13:14, Acts 13:22)

Lots of good stuff. Noteworthy accolades & accomplishments. **But we also know these things about David...**

Fled for His life from the Hand of King Saul! - (1 Samuel 20-26)

Experienced Great Moral Failure - Bathsheba & Uriah (2 Samuel 11)

Experienced Many Family Tragedies (2 Samuel 12-15)

Was Betrayed and Conspired Against by Family & Friends. (Including 2 Sons Absalom & Adonijah)

Was Openly Rebuked by God and His Prophet Nathan for Sins he had committed. (2 Samuel 12 & 2 Samuel 24)

(Slide 3)

So it's safe to say David's faith in God and devotion to Him, was not a straight shot, a path of least resistance, or even smooth sailing. (For my sailors out there lol)

- David's life is often relatable to so many of us because we get it. We too have experienced the **unsure** up's and down's of this life. And yes even as followers of Jesus!

- What is so amazing is we not only get to read the narrative life of this “Man After God’s own heart” but because David penned roughly 75 of the 150 Psalms. We get to see into the heart of David the Warrior Poet’s experience with God.

So... walk with me, as we look to see a few examples of David’s devotion to God in 4 Psalms he wrote in different circumstances and seasons of His walk with the Lord. We will break it down this way:

- Devoted in Distress (Psalm 6)
- Devoted when Broken (Psalm 51)
- Devoted for the Long Run (Psalm 37)
- Devoted in Remembrance (Psalm 103)

These are just four examples of how devotion is displayed in the life of God’s servant David. **So why don’t we start by jumping to Psalm 6:1-4!**

(Slide 4)

1. Devoted in Distress

1 To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments; according to The Sheminith. A Psalm of David. O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. 2 Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. 3 My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O LORD--how long? 4 Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

Psalm 6:1-4

(If Spirit leads read the whole thing)

- Here we see arguably one of the least remembered or reference Psalms in all the Bible. And why... because it finds David in a moment of distress and fear. We don’t obviously understand why, or even know where how it ends.

- Like many other Psalms that David wrote that give some context and background, like Psalm 34 or 51. Psalm 6 is vague and not as clear where David is actually at.
- But what we do know we find is in the Psalm itself, and is key to seeing that a devoted faith spans many circumstances:
- **In reading the Psalm 6 David gives us a few details of what He is facing:**
 - a. He feels/believes he is being “rebuked” or “disciplined” by the Lord. (Vs.1)
 - b. David is ailing or sick in both body & soul. (Vs. 2-3)
 - “Be gracious to me O Lord for I am languishing (Weak or Feeble) and HEAL ME, O Lord for my bones are troubled (Vexed, dismayed)”
 - “My soul is also greatly troubled (Sore)”
 - Whether David is facing physical sickness or internal sickness. The message is clear he is in distress.
- We know this because Verses 6-7 show us what this season in His faith journey has lead him too...

“I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.”

Psalm 6

Look I get it. Artists, Musicians, & Song writers can be dramatic for effect. (No offense Romulo)

- Though this is Poetry, it's poetry that lives alongside and actually real life faith.
- I don't need to speculate, tie this Psalm to any of David's deep struggles and battles.
- Maybe He wrote this when He was fleeing Saul trying to kill Him, or Fleeing from the Philistines trying to kill Him, or fleeing from one of His own sons trying to Kill him.

- Put yourself in the place of our Psalmist. This is not a moment of ease and relaxation. Its a moment of stress, of anguish, of weeping and heavy emotion.
- And hes got enemies waiting for him on top of it! **(Ever just felt like the season is just piling up on you?)**
- That's where David finds himself. And yet...DONT MISS Verses 8-9...

Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping. 9 The LORD has heard my plea; the LORD accepts my prayer.

Psalm 6:8-9

With a loud proclamation he opposes his enemies with a cry of depart from me, why...**BECAUSE THE LORD HAS HEARD THE SOUND OF MY WEeping.**

- In Hebrew there is a name Elishama or El Shama which means "The God who Hears"
- And that is who David cries out to, even in His distress. Even in remember, He thinks that what He's facing is a punishment or rebuke from God. (I don't know for sure if it is, but usually that drives distance between persons)
- STILL, he cries out. He calls out. He relies upon the God who hears in His distress.
- And listen to the faith displayed in verse 8..."**The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord ACCEPTS my prayer.**"
- **David not only believes the Lord hears Him, which is so vital, but He believes that God accepts that prayer as true and genuine.**

Reflection:

1. Does difficulty in life drive me too or from the Lord?
2. If and When I do talk to God, do I trust that He listens?

The Encouragement here is not to simply look at David's actions and look to replicate, but much more as to see the God who met him there in the struggle and was faithful to help him and us in our distress.

Listen to this quote from Pastor Alister Begg I thought was beautiful: **(Slide 5)**

“As I am humbled by my difficulties, so I am strengthened by God's grace”

Difficulty will come, trouble will find us, the heaviness of life will weigh down. But rather than allow doubt to push us away or fear to cause anxiety and try to grip control. As a response devote yourself to prayer:

6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, 7 casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.

1 Peter 5:6-7

There is no reason to downplay the current difficulty your facing today, lean into it, allow it to humble you and cry out to the Lord who hears and wait upon him for His comfort.

Let's take a turn a bit forward to Psalm 51, where we will see David's Faith:
(Slide 6)

2. Devoted when Broken.

As described earlier, where Psalm 6 doesn't have clear context or timeframe. Psalm 51 is probably one of the most known when it comes to where David is at in His life and walk.

Read the description given before verse 1:

“To the choirmaster. A Psalm David , When Nathan the Prophet went to Him, after He had gone into Bathsheba.”

For those unfamiliar with this stage in David’s life, He has been King for some time now. Won many battles, faced many enemies, and honored God in many ways.

But as 2 Samuel 11-12 detail, David in a time of lax & foolish arrogance stays in the gates of the city while the armies are out fighting for Israel, and on the rooftop of His home in His lax and distraction he notices a women bathing and decides in all his power to have her as His own. Only issue, she's married to one of David’s honorable and mighty men Uriah. And in a state of sin and desperation, knowing His sins are before Him. David sends Uriah out to battle on the front lines of war, conspiring for his death, which is exactly what happens. David, the great King, the Man after God’s own heart, is now an adulterous murderer and liar.

And if not for God’s mercy and grace, sending Nathan the prophet to confront and rebuke David we may have never gotten Psalm 51. The incredible repentant response of David from this rebuke.

Not sure about everyone here today. But when I know I’m wrong, and am afraid to admit it. Or maybe feel like I’ve gotten away with it. I want to hide. I want to bury that shame and guilt so deep down that one knows its there and prayerfully never will. But that state never actually feels relieving or free.

Psalm 51, is the expression of a man of God truly broken and devoting himself to repentance and confession!

Read Verses 1-6 with me:

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. 2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! 3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin

is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment. 5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. 6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being, and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Psalm 51:1-6

David, in most likely the lowest place He's ever been, cries out to the Lord. But not for help in distress from forces outside himself. But for Mercy because of choices. His own actions. His own sin.

Devotion When Broken means:

Genuine Acknowledgment of our Sin

- David knows the God who He cries out to, He knows that He's Holy, and the sins He's committed are grievous and unholy.
- But He also knows that this same God is faithful and merciful, and in a place of truly humility and brokenness he acknowledges His sin.
- I believe David displays to us a faith in God that is showing genuine acknowledgement of sin, because what good is hiding when God already knows (like a child hiding what they've done when mom and dad witnessed it) most would prefer just to hear the honest truth, because we want to give mercy!
- But David does acknowledge, and even makes it clear, though his sin affects many lives, at the end of the day it was against the Lord alone that He truly sinned against.

Devoted Brokenness Longs for God's Presence

- For many kiddos who have found themselves guilty of disobedience and being given a timeout. The absence of mom, dad, siblings can be all it takes to get the

message across. They want our presence. Or may its grounding from a friends house or event. They want to be in the presence!

- David living in the OT was not living in a time where the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and that personal indwelling with God was a permanent experience.
- He personally witnessed Saul's downfall, and how a man once filled with the Spirit and connected with God eventually found himself void of God's Spirit and God's presence.
- And David was broken and understanding where He went wrong, wanted nothing to do with being apart from God.
- It was the true difference between Saul and David. Saul was devoted to himself and pride. David was devoted to the Lord and to humility.
- Both men sinned, both made offerings, but only one was accepted by the Lord!

A True Sacrifice Unto the Lord

- What matters to God, was not the type of offering, but how it was offered.
- Many times in Israel's history they would build the altars, make the sacrifices, but have no brokenness truly for the sin they committed against the Lord.

"All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the Lord. But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word."

Isaiah 66:2

David Guzik points out that at this time people seeing his response might have thought "whats the big deal". This is how people act, this is how you get what you want. But to David it didn't matter what anyone else thought all that mattered was what God did. But God did not despise His broken and contrite heart, He welcomes the humility of the broken.

Much like Jesus did the women caught in adultery or the women who wiped His feet with her tears called "a sinner". He welcomes the humility of the broken and needy!

(Slide 7)

3. Devoted for the Long Run

Turn with me quickly to Psalm 37, helpful to remember that the book of Psalms is a collection of songs, prayers, and poetry. But it isn't necessarily in chronological order!

Psalm 37 is one of my favorites, it was a formative word for me through Bible College. Especially verses 3-5:

3 Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.

But what makes Psalm 37 so compelling is that it's different from other Psalms of David. It's a Psalm of wisdom and counsel, towards others rather than directly to God.

And this Psalm is believed to have been written far down the line in David's life. In His older age.

I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.

Psalm 37:25

So much is shown here just by knowing the when it was written:

1. **David's devotion to God was lasting. It didn't fizzle or fade.**
2. **David didn't allow his faith and devotion to RETIRE. Even in His older age He still is seeking to bless others!**

- 3. David's struggles, failures and successes did not go wasted! The Wisdom and Counsel gained from a life devoted to God was profitable for others! And its ALL THROUGHOUT this psalm.**

Faith is tested no doubt. And at times, its the faith that has stood the test of time that is the most impactful.

And listen to this encouragement from Old Man David:

“The steps of a man are established by the LORD, when he delights in his way; though he fall, he shall not be cast headlong, for the LORD upholds his hand.”

Psalm 37:23-24

David encourages those willing to trust the Lord, that its God who establishes, stabilizes and guides their steps when they delight in His ways. And listen to this...and though they may fall...(Sounds like a guy speaking from experience right???) The Lord Upholds his hands. (Or keeps him steady)

- Brothers and sisters. The Marathon of faith is not easy, not smooth, and will be marked at times by failure.
- But I've always thought, real failure in the Christian walk is not ultimately the falling, but its choosing to stay down.
- Here David reminds us, that those who trust the Lord, and who make Him their delight or love, he will UPHOLD them. He will hold them steady.
- Paul would say it this way:

**who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
9God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

1 Corinthians 1:8-9

Reflection:

1. What wisdom or counsel might I have from years of following Jesus?
2. And who could I bless by sharing it with them?

4. Devoted in Remembrance: (Slide 8)

Psalm 103 - David's Worship in Response to Remembrance!

David was a beautiful songwriter. As we have seen already. But what makes any good song writer credible is how they write about someone or something they love!

Psalm 103 was described as "The most perfect song of pure praise to be found in the Bible" by G. Campbell Morgan (The British Evangelist and Author)

David spends 22 verses, simply and intentionally remembering who God is, and what He has done. The heart of every worship song I believe.

To slow down, and think of Him. Meditate truly on the God who is Holy, Merciful, Gracious, abounding in steadfast love, compassionate to His children, and understanding of them!

The God who has forgiven his sin, healed many diseases, redeemed lives from the pit, worked out righteousness and justice, and has REMOVED our sin as far as the east is from the west.

David's only response to these realities is to devote himself to worship! He cries out, Bless the Lord O my soul, and ALL THAT IS WITHIN ME, Bless His holy name.

It is only a heart and mind devoted to remembering Him that can worship this way. When we slow down, and take our eyes off the cares of the day, the cares of tomorrow, and the cares of the world, and fix our eyes upon Jesus that we can respond with this type of heart response!

I encourage us all today, sing His praises, but start by slowing down and remembering who He is, and all He has done.

Final Word: What state is your faith in today?

- No matter if your faith today is distressed.
- Broken from sin.
- Weary from the journey.
- Or forgetful of all His benefits.

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:1-2

Therefore, since we had the example of faith devoted lived out by David...look not to David. But look to the one He was looking forward to. The true Shepherd, the True Champion, the King of Kings.

Whatever has captured your thoughts and gaze today.
Look to Jesus. love Him. Trust Him. and Remember all He has done for you!

Now lets pray and respond accordingly amen?

