

BAND of BROTHERS

SUMMER SERIES 2023 – WEEK 2

David: Fallen, Forgiven, Faithful

“...he raised up David to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse a man after my heart, who will do all my will.’”

– Acts 13:22 ESV

- **A man after God’s own heart**

- David tends to be known for his **greatest victory** and his **greatest failure**

- Victory: His defeat of Goliath
- Failure: His affair with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband

- So, why is David considered a man after God’s own heart?

- He had a healthy fear of God
- He understood and appreciated God’s love for him
- He displayed a sold-out devotion to God
 - He was far from perfect or sinless
 - But he had a vibrant, dynamic relationship with God, characterized by:

...Prayer	...Humility
...Dependence	...Commitment
...Confession and repentance	...Obedience
...Praise	

- **Anointed, but not appointed**

- David was anointed to be king of Israel long before he took the throne. Why?
 - David was **a man after God’s own heart**
 - But God was going to make him **a man of God**
 - He was going to enter God’s leadership training school
 - Where he would learn to **serve**

And Saul sent to Jesse, saying, “Let David remain in my service, for he has found favor in my sight.” And whenever the harmful spirit from God was upon Saul, David took the lyre and played it with his hand. So Saul was refreshed and was well, and the harmful spirit departed from him. – 1 Samuel 16:22-23 ESV

- He ends up serving the man he was to replace

- And this would teach him how to serve God

*He chose David his servant
and took him from the sheepfolds;
from following the nursing ewes he brought him
to shepherd Jacob his people,
Israel his inheritance.
With upright heart he shepherded them
and guided them with his skillful hand. – Psalm 78:70-72 ESV*

- God was going to teach him **patience**

Wait for the LORD;
*be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD! – Psalm 27:14*

*Commit your way to the LORD;
trust in him, and he will act.
He will bring forth your righteousness as the light,
and your justice as the noonday.*

Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him;
*fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way,
over the man who carries out evil devices! – Psalm 37:5-7 ESV*

- God was going to teach him **humility**
 - He would learn firsthand the effects of sin from the life of Saul
 - He would discover the importance of humility in his own life

*Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.
All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,
for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. – Psalm 25:8-10 ESV*

- God was going to teach him the importance of **faith**
 - He would learn to trust God, instead of men
 - He would have to believe that God would make him king

*But I trust in you, O LORD;
I say, “You are my God.”
My times are in your hand;
rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!” –
Psalm 31:14-15 ESV*

- God was going to remove the **crutches** from David’s life
 - David would lose his...
 - Job (1 Samuel 19:1-10)
 - Wife (1 Samuel 19:11-17)
 - Mentor (1 Samuel 19:18)
 - Best friend (1 Samuel 20)
 - His self-esteem (1 Samuel 21:10-15)
 - Crutches become **substitutes** for God

*“You are my servant,
I have chosen you and not cast you off”;
fear not, for I am with you;
be not dismayed, for I am your God;
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” – Isaiah 41:9-10 ESV*

- If you’re leaning on something else, you’re NOT leaning on God
- Crutches keep our focus on a **horizontal plane**
 - They take our eyes off God
 - They paralyze the walk of faith
- Crutches offer only **temporary relief**
 - We tend to turn to remedies that offer...
 - ...quick fixes
 - ...and immediate relief from pain
 - But only God offers a permanent solution to our problems
- Chosen, but not complete
 - There are a lot of similarities between you and David
 - You were **chosen** by God

*But **you are a chosen race**, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession... – 1 Peter 2:9 ESV*

 - God has chosen you
 - And He has plans for you

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. – Ephesians 2:1- ESV
 - We are destined for **glory**

*...since we are his children, we are his heirs. In fact, **together with Christ we are heirs of God's glory.** But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering. – Romans 8:17 NLT*

*And **now the prize awaits me**—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing. – 2 Timothy 4:8 NLT*

- This is our temporary wilderness
 - We are awaiting our crown
 - In the meantime, we must go through strife, struggles, and setbacks
- We are **leaders** in training
No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it, but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us. – Philippians 3:13-14 NLT

This is a trustworthy saying:

*If we die with him,
we will also live with him.
If we endure hardship,
we will reign with him. – 2 Timothy 2:11-12 NLT*

- God is preparing us for our future
- He is making us worthy to reign with Him
- He is in the process of making us more like His Son, the true King

“Failure and personal crises do not disqualify people from becoming leaders. Rather, God can use adversity to build certain qualities deep within one’s character that could not be fully developed in any other way. – Richard and Henry Blackabee, *Spiritual Leadership*

- **Psalm 18: A Powerful reflection of David’s heart**

- A fear of God

I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised... – vs 3

*...the earth reeled and rocked;
the foundations also of the mountains trembled
and quaked, because he was angry. – vs 7*

*For who is God, but the LORD?
And who is a rock, except our God? – vs 31*

- David refers to God as his...

...strength	...horn of salvation
...rock	...stronghold
...deliverer	...stay
...shield	...lamp

- An understanding of God's love

*The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer,
my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. – vs 2*

*He sent from on high, he took me;
he drew me out of many waters.
He rescued me from my strong enemy
and from those who hated me,
for they were too mighty for me. – vs 16-17*

*He brought me out into a broad place;
he rescued me, because he delighted in me. – vs 19*

- David was convinced of God's love because...

...He heard God's voice	...He had been guided by God
...He experienced God's deliverance	...He had been trained by God
...He had seen God's hand in his life	...He had been strengthened by God
...He had been rescued by God	...He had been crowned king by God
...He had felt God's delight	...He had felt God's lovingkindness

- A devotion to God
I love you, O LORD, my strength... – vs 1

For I have kept the ways of the LORD... – vs 21

*I will praise you, O LORD, among the nations,
and sing to your name. – vs 49*

- David showed his devotion to God by...

...expressing his love for Him	...viewing God's enemies as his own
...crying out to Him	...obeying God fully
...keeping His ways	...thanking God openly and unashamedly
...keeping himself free from iniquity	

- **The love of God produces humility**

- David knew that God was holy
- He was also aware of his own sinfulness

- But he was convinced of God’s love for him
 - o He understood that...
 - ...God was all powerful
 - ...and He was the source of all David’s strength
 - ...it was God who saved him from his enemies
 - ...trained his hands for battle
 - ...and gave him success in battle
 - ...God had made him king
 - ...and God was the one who executed judgment for him

“It is only as we are absorbed with His perfection – His infinitude, His majesty, His omnipotency – that self will be lost sight of.” – Arthur W. Pink, *The Life of David*

- o David knew the damaging influence of pride
 - He had seen it in Saul’s life
 - He knew what it had done to the Israelites

*For you save a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down. – vs 18*

- God stands opposed to the prideful

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble. – James 4:6 ESV

PRIDE – believing that I have achieved what God has done through me and others have done for me
Seeking the praise of men and assuming credit for the achievements of others

GRACE – It is an active force within us that produces the desire and power to do things God’s way (Not just unmerited favor)

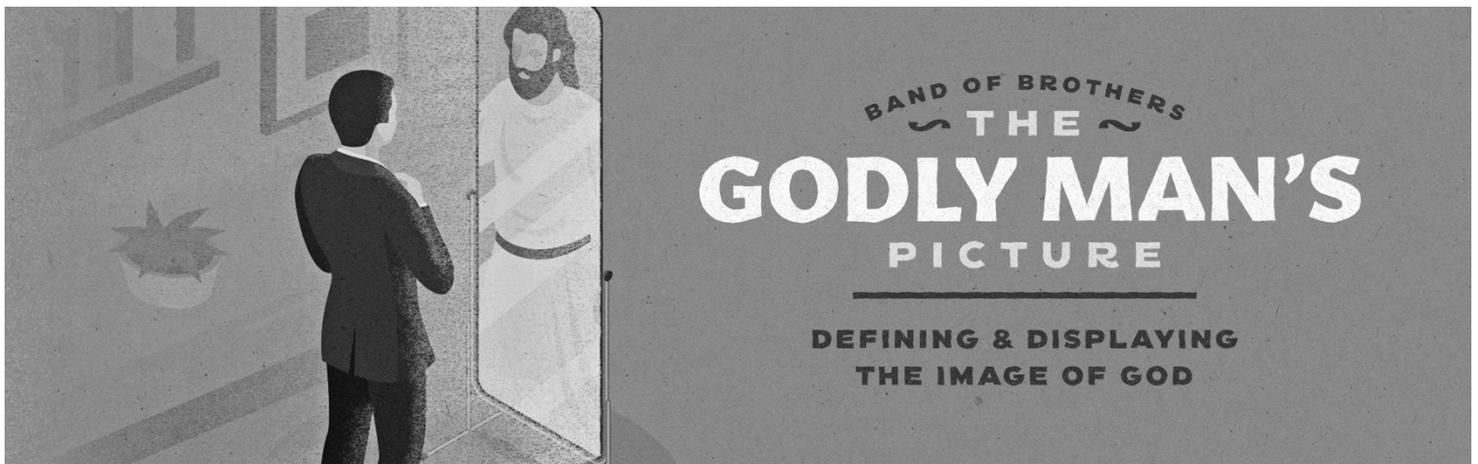
“...in the day of Laodicean conceit and boasting, it needs to be emphasized that, as a general rule, those whom God has used most mightily have not been men who were distinguished for abnormal natural powers or gifts, but instead by deep humility.” – Arthur W. Pink, *The Life of David*

FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

Why would humility be such an important characteristic of a godly man? How does a proper fear of God produce a healthy kind of humility?

What are some crutches you rely on in your life that keep you from being a godly man?

Godliness doesn’t happen overnight. So, how could impatience or the need for instant gratification be a detriment to becoming the man God wants you to be?



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SUMMER SERIES 2023 – WEEK 3 HOMEWORK

WEEK 3 – Lot: A Friend of the World

God also rescued Lot out of Sodom because he was a righteous man who was sick of the shameful immorality of the wicked people around him. Yes, Lot was a righteous man who was tormented in his soul by the wickedness he saw and heard day after day.

– 2 Peter 2:7-8 NLT

In this study, we'll examine the life of a man named Lot. He was the nephew of Abraham, the great patriarch of the Hebrew nation. But while Abraham is familiar to most of us, Lot tends to be one of those obscure and often overlooked characters in Scripture. Yet, he is included in God's Word for a reason. As we look at his life, you may be surprised by what you discover. In the Old Testament, he is painted in a less-than-flattering light. Yet, the apostle Peter describes him as "a righteous man" (2 Peter 2:8). As before, we will want to keep in mind our three foundational characteristics that mark a godly man: 1) A healthy fear of God, 2) A deep appreciation for God's love, and 3) A passionate desire for intimacy with God. Were these three attributes present in the life of Lot? Were his actions indicative of a man who was devoted to God?

- Read Genesis 12:1-5. This is where we first get introduced to Lot. At this point, what do we know about Lot?

After a brief stint in Egypt, Abraham returned to the land of Canaan with Lot in tow. According to Genesis 13:1-2, Abraham came back from Egypt a wealthy man. According to Genesis 12:10-20, how did Abraham acquire his wealth?

It seems that Lot also benefited from Abraham's surprising windfall in Egypt. Look at Genesis 13:3-7. What is described in these verses that would lead you to believe Lot was also wealthy?

- Read Genesis 13:8-13. What solution does Abraham come up with to settle the conflict between himself and Lot?

Notice that the issue had to do with grazing land, yet Lot “settled among the cities of the valley” (Genesis 13:12 ESV). What does Lot’s choice of land reveal about him? And how does verse 13 provide a premonition that things were headed in the wrong direction?

- Read Genesis 18:16-21. God sends two angels to visit Abraham and to assess the spiritual state of the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. How does the text describe the situation in these two cities?

According to verse 1 of chapter 19, when the two angels arrive in Sodom, they find Lot sitting at the gate of the city – a place of honor or prominence. What does this reveal about Lot and why is it important?

- Read Genesis 19:1-29. What do the actions described in these verses reveal about the wickedness of Sodom? And what does it reveal about Lot’s decision-making?

According to the text, Lot had a wife and two older daughters who were of marrying age. Why is this fact important to consider?

Now, read 2 Peter 2:6-10. How does Peter describe Lot and how does this seem to fly in the face of what you just read in the Genesis account?

Finally, read Genesis 19:30-38. In what way do these verses seem to contradict Peter’s assessment.