

A Heart for God

Ponder: Am I a person after God's own heart?

Scripture "Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you" (Proverbs 9:8b, NKJV).

Scripture calls David a man after God's own heart (Acts 13:22). David certainly had his faults. Sometimes his blunders were colossal! We might think, "I'm glad my sins aren't as catastrophic as his!" But we would be better served by asking, "Do I have David's repentant heart?"

Before becoming king, David and several hundred of his men helped a wealthy man named Nabal who had servants herding three thousand sheep. They kept marauders from stealing any sheep or harming the herdsmen (read First Samuel chapter 25).

Later, David and his men moved further south, avoiding persecution from King Saul. David sent servants to Nabal requesting supplies. He reminded Nabal how he had helped his herdsmen. Nabal not only refused David's request, but insulted him. Infuriated, David determined to slaughter Nabal and every male associated with him. While we understand David's annoyance, the truth remains that he was wrong.

Fortunately for all, a servant told Nabal's godly wife, Abigail, what Nabal had done and what David was planning. She hurriedly arranged a caravan of donkeys loaded with supplies for David and his men. Upon meeting David, she apologized on behalf of her husband. Then she pleaded with David not to avenge himself, tactfully pointing out that if he did, he would regret it later.

David's reply is remarkable: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to me! And blessed is your advice, and blessed are you because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand" (1 Samuel 25:32, 33). Here the strong warrior and king-to-be of Israel says to the wife of his enemy, "You are right, and I was wrong! Thank God that He sent you to me. Thank God for your good advice, which I will follow. Thank God for you!"

How do you respond when someone points out your mistake? Do you acknowledge your error and thank them for pointing it out? Do you thank God for sending them? That's what a person with a heart for God does.