

1. Our LifeLines verse for November 13 will be Psalm 78:41.

2. Next Monday, November 13, will be our last LifeLines until Monday, January 8, 2024!

LifeLines November 6, 2023

Today's Scripture: 1 Verse

1 Samuel 13:14 (portion of)

The Lord has sought out a man after His own heart;

WHY WE'RE HERE

2 Timothy 3:16-17, All scripture is inspired by God & is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

CONTEXT

(God sent the prophet Samuel to deliver this news to Saul. We don't meet David until Chapter 16. Here's our entire verse: "But now your kingdom will not continue; the Lord has sought out *a man after His own heart*; & the Lord has appointed him to be ruler over His people, because you have not kept what the Lord commanded you.")

David's life was a portrait of success & failure. He was far from perfect, but his heart was pointed toward God. He had a desire to follow God's will & do everything God wanted him to do. David had *absolute* faith in God & knew God was in control of his life. After all, God saved him from a lion, a bear, Goliath & more in battle. He knew God was to be trusted & obeyed. His faith, even as a young boy, pleased God, & God rewarded him for his faithfulness.

David is credited with over half of the 150 psalms. He wrote of his love for God & God's word, laws & statutes. He meditated on God's word, & God gave him understanding. David continually expressed praise, blessed God, offered thanks & was rewarded for his devotion to God. Imagine if we offered as many declarations of love & praise to God & were as close to Him as David was. (*Perhaps you are!*)

Are there Bible characters who have a better track record than David, morally speaking? Consider Enoch (Genesis 5:21-24), Elijah (2 Kings 2:11), Elisha, Moses (Deuteronomy 34:10-12), Daniel. Maybe, God was simply crazy about David!

The people of that day *longed* for a king. They wanted a king to satisfy the desires of their hearts – one who would be like kings of other nations, protecting them & fighting their battles. God wasn't in favor of granting that request because *He* wanted to be their King. He gave them Saul. When Saul began to lose favor with God, God looked for *the kind of man He wanted, one of His choosing*, in other words, *one after His heart*.

DIFFERENT VERSIONS (Versions not listed are similar to the NRSV.)

CEB

A man following the Lord's own heart.

CEV (Contemporary English Version)

He has already chosen the one He wants to be the next leader of His people.

ERV (Easy-to-Read Version)

The Lord was looking for a man who wants to obey Him.

MSG

God is out looking for your replacement right now. This time He'll do the choosing.

NCV

The Lord has looked for the kind of man He wants.

NET (New English Translation)

The Lord has sought out for Himself a man who is loyal to Him.

NirV

The Lord has already looked for a man who is dear to His heart.

NLV

The Lord has found a man who is pleasing to Him in every way.

SELAH

BREAKING DOWN THE VERSE

The Lord has sought out... God was searching with great purpose.

a man after His own heart... God was searching with great purpose.

SELAH

RELATED VERSES (Add other related verses as you think of them.)

1 Samuel 15:28, And Samuel said to him, "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel away from you this very day, & has given it to a neighbor of yours, who is better than you."

1 Samuel 16:7, But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance (speaking of Eliab, David's older brother) or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

1 Samuel 16:13a-b, Then Samuel took the horn of oil, & anointed him in the presence of his brothers; & the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

1 Samuel 17:45, But David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with sword & spear & javelin; but I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied."

2 Samuel 12:13-14, David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." Nathan said to David, "Now the Lord has put away your sin; you shall not die. Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child that is born to you shall die."

1 Kings 11:4, For when Solomon was old, his wives turned away his heart after other gods; & his heart was not true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David.

1 Kings 15:5, Because David did what was right in the sight of the Lord, & did not turn aside from anything that He commanded him all the days of his life, except in the matter of Uriah, the Hittite.

1 Chronicles 29:10-13, Then David blessed the Lord in the presence of all the assembly; David said: “Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of our ancestor Israel, forever & ever. Yours, O Lord, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, & the majesty; for all that is in the heavens & on the earth is Yours; Yours is the kingdom, O Lord, & You are exalted as head above all. Riches & honor come from You, & You rule over all. In Your hand are power & might; & it is in Your hand to make great & to give strength to all. And now, our God, we give thanks to You & praise Your glorious name.”

2 Chronicles 16:9, For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the entire earth, to strengthen those whose heart is true to Him.

Psalm 9:1-2, I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your wonderful deeds. I will be glad & exult in You; I will sing praise to Your name, O Most High.

Psalm 14:2, The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

Psalm 18:1, I love You, O Lord, my strength.

Psalm 23:6, Surely goodness & mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, & I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

Psalm 25:4-5, Make me to know Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths. Lead me in Your truth, & teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all day long.

Psalm 25:11, For Your name’s sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.

Psalm 25:14, The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear Him, & He makes His covenant known to them.

Psalm 26:6, I wash my hands in innocence, & go around Your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, & telling all Your wondrous deeds.

Psalm 27:1, The Lord is my light & my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Psalm 34:1, I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Psalm 51:1-3, Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, & cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgression, & my sin is ever before me. Against You, You alone, have I sinned, & done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are justified in Your sentence & blameless when You pass judgment.

Psalm 51:17, The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken & contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Psalm 62:11, Once God has spoken; twice I have heard this: that power belongs to God, & steadfast love belongs to You, O Lord, for You repay to all according to their work.

Psalm 63:1, O God, You are my God, I seek You, my soul thirst for You; my flesh faints for You, as in a dry & weary land where there is no water.

Psalm 89:20-21, (This psalm is a Maskil of Ethan. A maskil is a poem, song or psalm that is enlightened or imparts wisdom. Ethan was a boy in King David’s court who was said to be almost as wise as Solomon! In

this psalm, Ethan honors God & His faithfulness to David.) I have found My servant David; with My holy oil I have anointed him; My hand shall always remain with him; My arm also shall strengthen him.

Psalm 103:1-5, Bless the Lord, O my soul, & all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, & do not forget all His benefits – who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love & mercy, who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

Proverbs 21:2, All deeds are right in the sight of the doer, but the Lord weighs the heart.

Jeremiah 17:10, I the Lord test the mind & search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

Micah 6:8, He has told you, O mortal, what is good; & what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, & to love kindness, & to walk humbly with your God?

Acts 13:22-23 (Paul is speaking of Samuel & King Saul), When he (Samuel) had removed him (Saul), he made David their king. In His testimony about him He said, 'I have found David, son of Jesse, to be a man after My heart, who will carry out all My wishes.' Of this man's posterity God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as He promised.

Romans 12:3, For by the grace given me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned.

Ephesians 5:21, Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Philippians 2:3-4, Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

Colossians 3:12, As God's chosen ones, holy & beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness & patience.

James 4:5b, ... the scripture says, "God yearns jealously for His Spirit to dwell in us."

James 4:10, Humble yourselves before the Lord, & He will exalt you.

SUMMARY

It's easy to become content as church "attenders" surrounded by other church "attenders." We look at folks & identify wonderful qualities – they take food to others; they're just the nicest people; they're such good parents; they serve the church so faithfully. These *are* great qualities, but do they speak of faith, to a relationship with the Trinity or to eternal life?

Let's ask ourselves: Are we depending on our good works or good name to be in good standing with God? Or, are we pursuing an authentic relationship with the Son of God & Savior of the world? Are we faithful to the Lord? Are we sincerely repentant when we do wrong? Do we love the Lord with all our heart & our neighbor as ourself? Do we trust God with all our heart? Do we regularly proclaim our thanks & praise? Do we boast about what the Lord has done for us? Do others know us as a child of God?

Jesus is the root & offspring of David. Because He was born into David's line, He has the legitimate title to David's throne & is qualified to fulfill all the messianic prophecies for the salvation of the Israelites *and* the world. Jesus is often referred to as the Son of David, & He's the Son of God. God is looking for people who have the same devotion He found in David & who aspire to live like Jesus.

God had especially close relationships with many people in the Old & New Testaments, but only one received the distinction of “a man after God’s own heart.” As men & women of faith, we could ask ourselves if we might aspire to such an honor...or, is it possible we already have? What do you think?

Answer these questions:

- Do you seek God every day?
- Do you love God with all your heart?
- Do you see God in the people around you?
- Do you strive to love the way Jesus did?
- Are you passionate about worshiping God?
- Are you patient about waiting on the Lord?
- Is your life in harmony with God?
- Do you focus on God’s glory?
- Is what’s important to Him also important to you?
- Does what burdens God burden you?
- Do you spend time reading the Bible & thinking about what you’ve read?
- Do you listen to & follow His voice?
- When He says, “Stop that!” do you stop?
- Are you sensitive to spiritual things?
- Do you believe in your heart that Jesus died for your sins to be forgiven?
- Have you surrendered to God to let Him do His work in you?
- Would you say your heart *belongs completely* to God?
- Do you long to please Him in all you do?
- Are you being transformed by renewing your mind to discern the will of God?
- Have you presented yourself as a living sacrifice?
- Do you tell others about your love for the Lord?
- Are you more interested in pleasing God than pleasing others?

How did you do?!

God doesn’t judge us or love us on the basis of a checklist! That’s the way the world judges. Yes, we are to love God with all our heart, soul, mind & strength. We are to love our neighbor. We are to commune, heart to heart, with our Creator everyday. We are to praise Him, thank Him & bless His Holy name. We are to praise Father, Son & Holy Spirit & bless them for who they are & their presence in our lives. We are to spend time in His Word & be springs of living water for others. We are to let His shine through our thoughts, words & deeds, but all these must spring from a pure heart, not be items on a checklist.

Actually, we have a designation that surpasses the one David was given so long ago! Because of Jesus’ birth, death, resurrection & our faith, we have become sons & daughters of the Most High God! Joint heirs with Jesus Christ! All that the Father has is ours! Because of God’s grace & our faith *we are receiving the outcome of our faith – the salvation of our souls!* (1 Peter 1:9)

CONCLUSION

God loves *all* His children & wants a deep relationship with all of us. He pays attention to our behavior & especially to our heart. Humility & submission are still important in the life of believers. C.S. Lewis said, “Humility isn’t thinking less of yourself, it’s thinking of yourself less.” Humility seeks to bring glory & honor to God & looks out for the interests of others. It’s having a modest view of our own importance. Submission is the fact & action of accepting or yielding to the will or authority of a superior force. When we submit ourselves to God, we acknowledge His Lordship in our lives. David was able to demonstrate both. He wasn’t perfect; nor are we. Only Jesus was. In this life, let us strive to be our best for His glory.

We would do well to follow David’s steadfast ways of rejoicing in the Lord with gladness each day, proclaiming the goodness of the Lord, offering praise & thanksgiving for God’s goodness & mercy,

meditating on God's Word, & turning to God with a truly repentant heart when we have sinned against Him. David's faith was tested just as ours is. When he sinned, he sought & received the Lord's forgiveness.

In David's life & in the example of his submission & humble repentance, he demonstrated his love, his faithfulness to a personal relationship with God & his commitment to following God with all his heart. Sons & daughters of God can seek to be men & women after God's own heart, too. May this be so in our lives. *Amen.*

Let 1 Samuel 13:14 be a *LifeLine* for you!

SCRIPTURE IS OUR –

LifeLine!

Take a minute or two & write something you want to remember about this LifeLine:
