

David- An Excellent Spirit

Sunday, December 15, 2019

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

2 Samuel 1:17-27 And David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son: (Also he bade them teach the children of Judah the use of the bow: behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.) The beauty of Israel is slain upon thy high places: how are the mighty fallen! Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in the streets of Askelon; lest the daughters of the Philistines rejoice, lest the daughters of the uncircumcised triumph. Ye mountains of Gilboa, let there be no dew, neither let there be rain, upon you, nor fields of offerings: for there the shield of the mighty is vilely cast away, the shield of Saul, as though he had not been anointed with oil. From the blood of the slain, from the fat of the mighty, the bow of Jonathan turned not back, and the sword of Saul returned not empty. Saul and Jonathan were lovely and pleasant in their lives, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions. Ye daughters of Israel, weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel. How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle! O Jonathan, thou wast slain in thine high places. I am distressed for thee, my brother Jonathan: very pleasant hast thou been unto me: thy love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women. How are the mighty fallen, and the weapons of war perished!

- I. David was of an excellent spirit.
 - A. The word signifies “the best” “being of great virtue or worth.”
 - B. In other words, David’s spirit was of the best kind and most virtuous kind.
 - C. His “spirit” – the motives of his heart, the fragrance of his character, the atmosphere around him when you were in his presence.
 - D. He saw everything and everyone in the best light possible.
 1. This included his enemies as well as his friends.
 - E. He was not blind or apathetic toward wickedness and wicked people.
 1. But he could recognize sin and evil and maintain an excellent spirit.
 2. He could identify the wicked, and those who had done him so much wrong, but leave the dealing with them to God.
 - F. David had an excellent spirit toward others, not only while they were alive, but after they were dead, whether they were a friend or a foe.
 - G. David did not judge them or estimate their character based upon what he had suffered at their hands.
 - H. Someone in David’s life had taught him well in this matter – he was the “son of Jesse.”
 - I. Knowing these things about David make other Scriptures come to life.
 1. Such as when the angel said to Joseph in a dream:

Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost.

2. Jesus is called the “son of David” many times.

- II. We see David’s excellent spirit in how he reacted to the death of Saul and Jonathan.

2 Samuel 1:11-12 Then David took hold on his clothes, and rent them; and likewise all the men that were with him: And they mourned, and wept, and fasted until even, for Saul, and for Jonathan his son, and for the people of the LORD, and for the house of Israel; because they were fallen by the sword.

- A. Saul was his king, his father-in-law, and the anointed of the Lord.
- B. Jonathan was his true friend – the only such friend we know of in David’s life.
- C. David did not rejoice in the fact that the persecutor of his life was dead.
- D. At this point David did not look forward, but back.
 - 1. Back on the good memories and the part Saul and Jonathan had played in his life.
 - 2. Death is a time to remember and reflect and try to glean the good from a life that has been lived.
- E. Charity teaches us to lay aside the faults and wrongs that have been done at a time like this.
- F. Although Saul had done David much wrong for many years David concealed all the bad and spoke only of the good he could remember.
- G. David did not wreck his revenge on Saul while he lived, and neither will he do it when Saul is dead.
- H. This is what an excellent spirit looks like.

III. David wrote this eulogy for Saul and Jonathan – he did not just speak it.

- A. Behold, it is written in the book of Jasher.
- B. David denied himself the satisfaction of reminding others of all the injustices Saul had done to him.
- C. David celebrated what was good in Saul.
- D. He did not preach Saul into heaven or paint him as a godly person.
 - 1. Neither did he commend him for things he was not: obedient, holy, etc.
- E. David pointed out that Saul was anointed with oil, on which David put great importance and significance.
- F. That Saul was a mighty warrior, and Jonathan was, too.
 - 1. That they fought for their people and died fighting the enemies of their nation.
- G. The state in which Saul died must not define his entire life.
 - 1. David recalls and writes about earlier times when Saul and Jonathan together were “lovely and pleasant in their lives.”
 - 2. Jonathan died that way – Saul did not, but David did not mention that.
- H. David said to the daughters of Israel, “...weep over Saul, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel.
 - 1. Remember the good he did for you and the benefits you received because he lived.

IV. David had the same kind of reaction when Abner was killed by Joab.

2 Samuel 3:31-38 And David said to Joab, and to all the people that were with him, Rend your clothes, and gird you with sackcloth, and mourn before Abner. And king David himself followed the bier. And they buried Abner in Hebron: and the king lifted up his voice, and wept at the grave of Abner; and all the people wept. And the king lamented over Abner, and said, Died Abner as a fool dieth? Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou. And all the people wept again over him. And when all the people came to cause David to eat meat while it was yet day, David sware, saying, So do God to me, and more also, if I taste bread, or ought else, till the sun be down. And all the

people took notice of it, and it pleased them: as whatsoever the king did pleased all the people. For all the people and all Israel understood that day that it was not of the king to slay Abner the son of Ner. And the king said unto his servants, Know ye not that there is a prince and a great man fallen this day in Israel?

- A. Even though Joab had been his loyal, number-one man for all the years of his persecution and trouble, David lamented the death of Abner and blamed Joab for wickedness in killing him.
- B. All this in spite of the fact that Abner had stood firmly against David and had made Ishbosheth king after the death of Saul.

V. Take some more lessons from David:

- A. David was loyal to his people – Saul and Jonathan belonged to his people. They were not foreigners.
 - 1. Because of this, Saul could do David so much wrong and David would not hate him, or speak evil of him, even after he was dead.
 - 2. He could fight and kill the Philistines, but no matter what his own people did to him, he would not retaliate, neither in life or in death.
- B. We can never build or salvage our own good reputation upon the ruins of someone else's.
- C. This New Testament Scripture pretty well sums up the evidence of an excellent spirit in a person:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Charity never faileth: ...

- D. Even Saul, while he yet lived, recognized this excellent spirit in David.

1 Samuel 24:17 And he said to David, Thou art more righteous than I: for thou hast rewarded me good, whereas I have rewarded thee evil.

- E. We should all check ourselves and compare our spirit with what we see in David.
- F. It is a very important thing to teach our children through example, if we want them to be godly and righteous people.

Romans 12:21 Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.