Lessons Learned from David

There are so many great lessons we can learn from the life of King David. Here are just a few of my personal favorites:

Is there a better portrait of friendship than the love shared between David and Jonathan?

David’s respect for King Saul and his refusal to kill him on two separate occasions.

The courage and faith he showed by taking on Goliath.

A man after God’s own heart can fall into the trap of sin (including adultery and murder).

David was an amazing individual that we can learn many lessons from, but my personal favorite is one that is often overlooked. I think we can see from the life of David that it is all too easy to overlook our own sin, but point out the sin of others.

You may remember in 2 Samuel 12, shortly after the death of Bathsheba’s husband Uriah, that the Lord sends Nathan to David. Nathan tells David the story of a rich man who had a large number of sheep and cattle, and a poor man who has nothing but a precious little ewe lamb. When a traveler comes to town the rich man takes the ewe lamb from the poor man and prepares it for the visitor. The Bible says that David burned with anger and said, “As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die!” Next comes one of the most powerful statements in the entire Bible. Nathan replies to David, “You are the man!”

A powerful lesson exists in 2 Samuel 12. It was so easy for David to see the sin of the rich man in the story, while failing to realize his own sin that was right in front of him. Too often we like to point out any and everyone that has a problem in their life. It is so easy to point fingers and look at the sins of others instead of looking at the sin in our own lives. I can’t help but remember what Jesus had to say on this topic. “Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother’s eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, ‘Let me take the speck out of your eye,’ and behold, the log is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother’s eye.”

Notice that Jesus points out that we must first take the log out of our own eye to be able to help our brother take the speck out of his. Let us never forget to focus on getting sin out of our own life first, then we can focus on helping our brother with his sin.

By: Ryan Daniel