

Hebrews 11:32

And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of **David** and Samuel and the prophets.

The stories of Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah were pretty shocking to most of us. Those stories left us scratching our heads asking, “Why are these men even in the hall of faith?” All of these stories, however, highlight the faithfulness of God while at the same time honestly dealing with the faithlessness of men. And since God is so kind, merciful, and patient that He honors even total mess ups like Samson and Jephthah, we can be confident that He will also honor us.

2 Timothy 2:13

If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

Praise Jesus for His faithfulness to us. Praise Jesus that He is always true to His own character and nature. These stories also show us something else about our God. They reveal how with just the faith of a mustard seed (which is pretty darn small), He will still be able to do amazing things through our lives. So each of us can take hope for I know we each have at least a mustard seed sized faith. This is just another marvelous reason why we can (and must) trust ourselves to Him.

Tonight we are going to start a multipart study on David which will in a lot of ways be like a breath of fresh air for it will be the first time since Enoch and Noah that we see a man of faith who practically enjoys a mutual relationship with God. From early childhood David knew the character and nature of God and he fully trusted himself to God through the day of his death. Sure David had his infamous

moments of failure but, as we will see, even those were purposeful in terms of God molding David into a true hero whose life of faith is to be emulated. Tonight we will be pulling from **1 Samuel 8-26**.

Now, as with every good hero story there has to be an evil villain or an arch enemy which tests the hero and tries him and makes him even greater than he could ever be on his own; and this story does not disappoint. It is sad however that this arch enemy comes by the way of a man named Saul, the first king of Israel. We have to understand a little bit about this arch enemy before we can fully understand David.

King Saul was only thirty years old when he was chosen to be king and we are told that the Spirit of the Lord came upon him (or literally rushed upon him) and changed him into a different man, a king of men. But not so much as a few months into his reign he began to actually believe he was a king of men and act like a king of men, prioritizing his ways above those of the Lord.

It started when the Philistines came to wage war against Israel. The numbers they brought to the battlefield were frightening. Saul's troops lost their nerve entirely and tried to hide or run away not wanting to incur the wrath of the Philistines. You have to keep in mind that Saul had just assembled the first national army since the days of Joshua so they were all pretty green when it comes to the ways of war.

Samuel the prophet had told Saul to go to the staging area for this war and wait for him there for 7-days and he will offer up burnt offerings and peace offerings to the Lord. But Samuel was slightly delayed and Saul realizing that his troops were rapidly slipping away took it upon himself to offer up these sacrifices. This was an act strictly prohibited by the Law as only the priests were authorized to

make these sacrifices. Just as Saul had finished with the burnt offering Samuel shows up and goes into an outrage:

1 Samuel 13:10-14

Just as Saul was finishing with the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. Saul went out to meet and welcome him, but Samuel said, "What is this you have done?" Saul replied, "I saw my men scattering from me, and you didn't arrive when you said you would, and the Philistines are at Micmash ready for battle. So I said, 'The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven't even asked for the Lord's help!' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came."

"How foolish!" Samuel exclaimed. "You have not kept the command the Lord your God gave you. Had you kept it, the Lord would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

Can you imagine, just barely over a month or so into the whole “king” thing and Saul was told that he would lose his kingdom and that another leader had already been chosen. I am sure that did not sit well as Saul had already tasted of the power and glory that belongs to a king; he would not take this one lying down.

A little side note. This gives us an interesting look into ***Ephesians 1:4*** and the way God chooses His people from before time as David had not yet been born; still he was chosen to be king. David would not be born for probably 10 years or so. God is always working out His plan.

Now, God's idea of time is a bit different than ours. When we hear "your kingdom must end" and the Lord has already appointed a replacement we automatically think it is going to happen any at any moment. But according to **Acts 13:21** Saul ended up ruling for 40 years before he was killed; so David's ascent to the throne was not an overnight deal.

This is an important lesson for all of us. We must be careful to never take a word that God has spoken over our lives and shove it into our own paradigm about what it will look like or when it will take place. God's purposes are always so much higher than we can even fathom.

For example, in this instance, God had a lot that he needed to accomplish in David, through Saul, to ensure that David would not become another Saul. The world has known far too many kings like Saul and far too few David's.

So think about the psychology of men who have power, the psychology of a king. Saul was not about to sit around and have his kingdom stripped from his hands; after all, it was his kingdom. Besides, according to **1 Samuel 9:1**, Saul came from a wealthy and influential family from the tribe of Benjamin and he would not see their influence and privilege wane, at least not under his watch. They were now kings and he would do whatever it took for his family to remain the kings of Israel.

So as is the way of men of power, and most every king, he became paranoid and was on full alert for this supplanter who would steal his kingdom. As a result, Saul focused all his efforts on securing his grasp on Israel's throne (**1 Samuel 14:47**).

Even though this is the way of men of power, and almost certainly the way of kings, it is not without its price. Over time, possessiveness, jealousy, control,

paranoia and fear all tend to mutate a person and darken their soul and even make them quite mad. And it is a slippery slope such upon which it is very hard to slow down or reverse directions. Furthermore, it does not matter the size of one's kingdom; what matters is if the leader, if you, walk according to the ways of men, the ways of kings, or whether you follow another way altogether.

In fact, the one thing about this type of paranoid psychosis is that it never remains static; and you can always count on a paranoid king to become obsessed with himself, with his throne, and with all his efforts to make himself larger than life. For Saul, it was a way for him to live in denial hoping that if he could make himself big enough that even God could not touch him.

Before long Saul was making stupid vows that would have required him to kill his own son. Thankfully, though the king was losing his sensibilities, the people remained quite sane and did not allow this to happen (**1 Samuel 14**) as his son Jonathon plays an important role in helping David supplant Jonathon's own "right" to the throne.

Before long, Saul once again blatantly defied God, all the while confidently professing that he had carried out the Lord's commands. And while he was busy building a monument to himself (a thing kings tend to do) Samuel the prophet confronted him with his sin. After much ado, Saul finally admitted his rebellion and said that he disobeyed because he was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. As you can see, his paranoia and self-obsession were growing.

Samuel said: "Since you have rejected the Lord's command, He has rejected you from being the king of Israel" (**1 Samuel 15:26**). Then Samuel really stuck it to Saul and said: "The Lord has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is **better** than you. And he who is the Glory of

Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind" (**1 Samuel 15:28-29**)!

Those words, "one who is better than you," I am sure, never left the mind of Saul. You know it just pushed on every button within his sick and dark mind. "It is my kingdom. No one will take it from me. I will find him, I will hunt him down, and I will kill him and all his treacherous corroborators before he can find me, hunt me down, and kill me."

Then in **1 Samuel 16:14**, we are told that the Spirit of the Lord left Saul and in place God sent a tormenting Spirit that filled him with depression and fear. Through rebellion, arrogance, pride, paranoia, fear, jealousy and obsession Saul had opened the door to the darkness and now his condition, by magnitudes, just got worse. Finally things are prepared; finally things are ready for David to enter the scene.

God tells Samuel to go to Judah for He has selected His new king and Samuel was commanded to anoint this chosen one from the house of Jesse. This freaked Samuel out. Even though He was a judge and a well known prophet, he knew that if Saul heard about it he would definitely be labeled as one of those treacherous corroborators and would be instantly killed. So God tells him to take a cow with Him and just tell everyone that he has come to make a sacrifice to the Lord this way no one would suspect what he was really up to. Go figure; that is what **1 Samuel 16:2** says.

So when Samuel arrived he went to the family of Jesse and took one look at the oldest brother and thought surely this is the Lord's anointed. But the Lord said: "Don't judge by his appearance or height, for I have rejected him. The Lord

doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (**1 Samuel 16:7**).

So Samuel examined all of Jesse's sons and rejected all 7 of them. It was not because they were not strong enough, tall enough, handsome enough, or smart enough, but they simply did not have the heart that God was looking for. But there was still the youngest son (the 8th) who was out in the fields doing the job of the youngest, watching the sheep. Sadly, neither Jesse nor David's brothers thought enough of him to even call him to the meeting.

Yet, even though David was just a boy, he had already shown signs that he was someone special. Whenever a lion or a bear came after his sheep he would chase after the beast and pull the sheep out of its mouth rescuing it; and if the lion or the bear turned on him he would grab it by its beard and strike it and kill it. David was tough; but no one knew, just David and the one who carefully watched all that David did.

When Samuel heard that there was still a younger boy he called for him and when he arrived the Lords said, "This is the one; anoint him." So as David stood there among his brothers, Samuel took the olive oil he had brought and poured it on David's head. And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David.

Now this act was an act which would have silenced everyone in the room. They knew what it meant. Not a word had to be spoken. This was the oil which made kings and the oil which caused others to become fearful, jealous and resentful—those whose hearts were simply not made of the right stuff.

Meanwhile, back at the castle, Saul is having mad bouts of demonic insanity and his servants suggested a remedy: hire a good musician. They thought that the music could calm his spirit and quiet the madness in his head. Then out of the

blue one of the servants said: "One of Jesse's sons from Bethlehem is a talented harp player. Not only that—he is a brave warrior, a man of war, and has good judgment. He is also a fine-looking young man, and the Lord is with him" (**1 Samuel 16:16**).

So David was summoned and suddenly everything in his life changed. He moved from the fields doing the tasks of the youngest to the castle where he served the king. Not surprisingly, we are told that Saul was more than impressed by David and he asked David to join his staff and became one of Saul's armor bearers. And whenever the tormenting spirit troubled Saul, David would play the harp and Saul would feel better and for a time the tormenting spirit would leave.

Soon the Philistines were back and their champion was a 9' giant named Goliath. Saul and his men were terrified. But David shows up on the scene and he is utterly dismayed that this Philistine, this pagan, is defying the armies of the living God.

When Saul heard that David was there he called for him and David said: "Don't worry about a thing, I'll go fight this Philistine." Saul laughed and said, "Don't be ridiculous...There is no way you can go against this Philistine. You are only a boy." But David persisted. He remembered the lions and the bears and the way his God always protected him. He told Saul: "The Lord who saved me from the claws of the lion and the bear will save me from this Philistine."

Saul relented and with nothing more than a stone and a sling David approached Goliath. He shouted, "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty—the God of the armies of Israel whom you have defied. Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild

animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel! And everyone will know that the Lord does not need weapons to rescue His people. It is His battle, not ours. The Lord will give you to us” (**1 Samuel 17:45-47**)!

This is amazing and it explains why David is a hero of faith. David knew his God; David trusted his God; and David acted upon what He knew. He bet his life on the character and nature of his God not on the odds of the battle.

David quickly ran out to meet Goliath and hurled a stone from his sling landing it square in the center of Goliath’s forehead. The stone sank in and Goliath fell face downward to the ground. David then pulled out Goliath’s sword and used it to cut off his head. The Philistines were routed that day and Israel had its new hero. The people shouted out: “Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands.”

Saul was pretty upset at the response of the people and from that day on he kept a jealous eye on David. He knew that one day this young man would have his job but would David acquire the throne by fair means or by foul treachery. That is the question upon which Saul obsessed and it literally drove him crazy. He loved David and he hated David, but mostly hated.

Saul’s anger and jealousy once again opened a door to the darkness and he was again overcome with a tormenting Spirit and Saul began to rave like a madman. David tried to calm him by playing his harp, but Saul who had a spear in his hand hurled it at David intending to pin him to the wall. He was the king, he decided who was friend and foe and he could spear anyone he wanted. That is what kings do—at least that is what they say they can do—and it is what everyone believes they can do.

What about you? Who is your king? Pretty much everyone has at least one; some of us have many. Does your king throw spears? If he does (even if you happen to be that king), you can be assured that your king has walked in the ways of men, the ways of kings. The question is what do you do with such a king?

Well, what do men, and soon to be kings, do when someone throws a spear at them? They dodge the attack, grab a spear of their own, and ensure that the spear thrower can never throw another spear ever again. Isn't that what you would do? Is it what you have done?

Unlike many of us, David is not just an ordinary man or an ordinary soon to be king, he belongs to his God; so David jumped aside and chose to run away. This happened another time as well for Saul was afraid of David and was jealous because it was clear that the Lord had left him and was now with David.

David could have taken matters into his own hands and purified Israel from this madman. If he could slay a giant he certainly could slay a king. To many it would have seemed like the proper and even righteous thing to do as no one wants a crazy despot as their king; yet, ironically it seems that all those who want a king end up with a crazy despot. It is the way of men; it is the way of kings.

But David saw things differently than most people so he chose to trust his life to God and to the pain he knew he would experience in the wilderness of isolation. It was not fair, it was not just, and it was not fun; but if it was what God wanted then David would flee, alone even, for he would not lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed.

Perhaps David was thinking about how he would want the next up-and-coming soon to be king to act when he was the Lord's anointed one. We don't know for sure, but what we do know is that God had enrolled David in His own school of

ministry affectionately called Pain Central. And the chief instructor of the school was none other than Saul. God had chosen Saul to teach David what it is like to walk in the way of men, the way of kings.

There are usually so few students in God's school of ministry as no one really likes the subject matters that have to be mastered: submission 101; self control 201; rejection 200; humility 300; and everyone's favorite are the 400 level classes: listening and waiting. And the most popular instructors are Suffering and Sorrow as they have the most to teach.

Now the interesting thing about this school is that no one volunteers to go to this school on their own, as there are no applications, students are chosen by God. But sadly, so many who are enrolled choose to dropout of on this school as the pain, the rejection, the isolation, are too much to bear for those who are used to walking in the ways of men.

But for those who opt to stay in school, it is nothing less than excruciating yet at the same time more glorious than one could ever imagine. I doubt that a single graduate has ever, and I mean ever, wished they had not been enrolled in Pain Central. In fact, I would venture to say that every graduate leaves filled with gratitude and a great sense of glorious satisfaction. David would be one such man.

David is soon banned from Saul's presence but Saul is way too paranoid to just let David go his own way. So Saul conceives of a plan to have him killed. He sends messengers to David to tell him that the king wants David to marry his daughter and become part of the family if only he will deliver to the king one hundred Philistine foreskins. Saul was convinced that the Philistines would be able to easily handle David, and David was delighted to accept this offer. But David was not just

satisfied with one hundred foreskins; he brought the king two hundred. When Saul realized how much the Lord was with David he became even more afraid of him and remained David's enemy for the rest of his life.

Next Saul urged his servants and his son Jonathon to assassinate David, but Jonathon was David's friend and loved him dearly and told him what Saul was planning. So Jonathon talked to his dad and reminded him of all the ways that David had been a good, faithful, and loyal servant. For the time it seems that this madman came to his senses and he agreed not to assassinate David. Jonathon actually brought David to Saul and things seemed to return to the way they were before when David was accepted and welcome.

But before long the tormenting spirit returned and once again Saul tried to pin David to the wall with a spear. David dodged out of the way and escaped into the night leaving the spear stuck in the wall.

Then Saul sent troops to David's house under the instructions to kill him if they see him. But David's wife, Saul's own daughter, helped him escape through a window in the middle of the night foiling the assignation attempt.

David fled to where Samuel was staying and told him everything that happened to him. When Saul heard that David was with Samuel he sent troops after him. When they arrived and saw Samuel and the other prophets prophesying, the Spirit of the Lord came down on them and they also began to prophesy. So Saul sent another regiment of troops and the same thing happened to them. The same thing happened a third time. Finally Saul also came. And guess what happened? He also started prophesying. He tore off his clothes and lay on the ground all day and all night, prophesying in the presence of Samuel unable to carry out his plans of destruction. How funny is that?

David fled and found Jonathon and was all out of sorts. "What have I done?" he exclaimed. "What is my crime? How have I offended your father that he is so determined to kill me?" ... I swear to you that I am only a step away from death! I swear it by the Lord and by your own soul" (**1 Samuel 20:1, 3**).

David is feeling the weight of it all. He is on the run and there is no place safe for him to hide. Jonathon is even beginning to feel the weight of Saul's madness. At one point in time Saul boiled in rage at Jonathon and said:

1 Samuel 20:30-33

"You stupid son of a whore!" he swore at him. "Do you think I don't know that you want him to be king in your place, shaming yourself and your mother? As long as that son of Jesse is alive, you'll never be king. Now go and get him so I can kill him!" "But why should he be put to death?" Jonathan asked his father. "What has he done?" Then Saul hurled his spear at Jonathan, intending to kill him.

If anyone had any doubts about Saul's sanity, they should all be erased. Even Jonathon was now convinced that his dad had entirely lost it and he tearfully said his goodbyes to David and David fled alone.

David starts to panic. He runs to the city of priests and tells them that he is on a secret mission for the king and that is why he travels alone. He says he will meet up with his men later. He asks the priest for the bread of the presence in the Tabernacle so he will have something to eat and he also retrieved from the priest Goliath's sword which was being kept with the Tabernacle and he fled to the land of the Philistines. But David was seen by Doeg, one of Saul's men.

Now clearly the Philistines would have some issue with David fleeing to their king since he is the one who is famed to have killed his tens of thousands. David heard these comments so being afraid of what might happen he pretended to be insane, scratching on doors and drooling down his beard (its kind of fitting since he was in school to learn the ways of a madman). Finally, King Achish said to his men: “Must you bring me a madman? We already have enough of them around here” (**1 Samuel 21:14**)!

So David fled Philistia and took up residence in a cave in Israel. Soon his brothers and other relatives joined him there and before long others who were outcasts and rejects (men who were in trouble, in debt, or just discontented with Saul) joined him; about 400 in all. In God’s school of Pain, David’s kingdom was the wilderness, his castle was the cave, and his subjects were rejects.

By this time Saul had become so crazy it seems he was no longer worried about the enemies of Israel, he was only obsessed with David. In fact, when Doeg told him that the priests helped David, he had them all slaughtered and only Abiathar one of the sons of the high priest escaped. This man was now going toe to toe with the Lord God. Saul had graduated and earned his PhD in the ways of men, the ways of kings, and the ways of a lunatic.

In the mean time, the Philistines had made a raid on a town in Judah stealing their grain. When David heard about it he asked the Lord if he should rescue the town. His men, who were not really warriors, were afraid to challenge the Philistine army. But the Lord told David to go and so he went. Of course, the Lord handed him a great victory and he freed the city.

But when Saul heard about it he could care less about the Philistines or his people, he just wanted David. Saul was so excited believing that David had

positioned himself in a walled city, easy prey for the likes of a king. So Saul mobilized his entire army (if you can believe it) to attack David and his men. But David learned of Saul's plan and escaped before Saul could get there.

So David and his men, about 600 of them now, began to roam the country side and David stayed in the strongholds of the wilderness in the hill country. Saul hunted him day after day, but God did not let him be found.

Now even though the School of Pain Central is ridiculously hard; ever so often it provides some comfort and encouragement for its students. David was on the run; Saul was closing in and even knew where David was hiding and he was coming for him. But as David was ready to flee his best friend Jonathon showed up. What a relief it was to see his old friend.

1 Samuel 23:16-18

Jonathan went to find David and encouraged him to stay strong in his faith in God. "Don't be afraid," Jonathan reassured him. "My father will never find you! You are going to be the king of Israel, and I will be next to you, as my father, Saul, is well aware." So the two of them renewed their solemn pact before the Lord. Then Jonathan returned home.

I know by firsthand experience, and so do many of you who have been in God's school of ministry, how wonderful those little moments of respite can be. Seeing a blessed friend, receiving a tender hug, and hearing words of encouragement are often just what you need to make it through the semester. It is just enough to restore your faith and allow you to continue on another day in the dry, hot desert.

But soon thereafter the chase was on once again. Saul had ears and eyes everywhere and no matter where David went soon Saul knew and David was continually running. Eventually, David retreated farther back into the wilderness and found refuge in what was known as the great rock but Saul and his men were about to close in on David when the Lord rescued him just in the nick of time. Saul received word that the Philistines had once again invaded Israel and the Israelites were sitting ducks since Saul had the entire army looking for David. He was forced by his people to give up his hunt and return to fight the Philistines.

After he pushed back the Philistines he got his mad-mind back on task and chose 3,000 special troops to hunt for David. They were searching for David cave by cave. Then this one time Saul had to relieve himself and he goes into a cave, unprotected, where David and his men were hiding. Then the men who were following David did what most men who follow a soon to be king would do. They encourage David to take his shot and end this craziness once and for all. They took it all as a sign from the Lord that Saul had been delivered into David's hand.

David, however, was not about to place a hand on the Lord's anointed. Would you? It's a tough question. The school of Pain Central is tough and this was his way out. This was a short cut to graduation—so it seemed.

So David crept up toward Saul and cut off a piece of his robe and returned to his place of hiding. I am sure that Saul de-robed before he did his business so that is how he was able to get away with it. But since David was not like most soon to be kings, his conscience began to bother him. He told his men:

1 Samuel 24:6-7

The Lord knows I shouldn't have done that to my lord the king," he said to his

men. "The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king and attack the Lord's anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him." So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.

The isolation, the pain, the humiliation, the rejection, the running from place to place, the desert, the wilderness, the caves, the suffering and sorrow all were accomplishing their intended purposes within David. He was not going to become a Saul. He was not going to throw spears at others. He was not going to usurp the authority of the Lord. He was not going to take what the Lord planned on delivering into his hands. Instead, he was going to be a man after the Lord's own heart.

When Saul left the cave and gone on his way, David and his men came out and called out to Saul. David shouted:

1 Samuel 24:8-15

My lord the king!" And when Saul looked around, David bowed low before him. Then he shouted to Saul, "Why do you listen to the people who say I am trying to harm you? This very day you can see with your own eyes it isn't true. For the Lord placed you at my mercy back there in the cave. Some of my men told me to kill you, but I spared you. For I said, 'I will never harm the king—he is the Lord's anointed one.' Look, my father, at what I have in my hand. It is a piece of the hem of your robe! I cut it off, but I didn't kill you. This proves that I am not trying to harm you and that I have not sinned against you, even though you have been hunting for me to kill me.

"May the Lord judge between us. Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you. As that old proverb says, 'From evil people come evil deeds.' So you can be sure I will never harm you. Who is the king of Israel trying to catch anyway? Should he spend his time chasing one who is as worthless as a dead dog or a single flea? May the Lord therefore judge which of us is right and punish the guilty one. He is my advocate, and he will rescue me from your power!"

David placed his life, and the life of his men firmly into the hands of God. He refused to take any action against the Lord's anointed. I love how he said: "Perhaps the Lord will punish you for what you are trying to do to me, but I will never harm you." This is unbelievable. David is actually getting ready to graduate from the school of pain.

This grace, this mercy, these words of kindness and blessing seemed to temporarily shock Saul out of his crazed mania. Saul called David his son and began to weep. He realized what he had done. Then with all clarity of mind he said: "And now I realize that you are surely going to be the King, and Israel will flourish under your rule" (**1 Samuel 24:20**).

Now this clarity did not last long. Saul returned to his madness, returned to the chase, and this same scenario happens once again. David found Saul and his special troops sleeping one night and he slipped into Saul's camp unnoticed to check things out. One of David's mighty men asked if he could kill Saul as God had surely handed him over into David's hands.

Once again David did not listen to the voices which appealed to his flesh and he refused to stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed. He trusted that one day the Lord would deal with Saul and deliver the kingdom to David's hands.

Have you been thinking about the fact that David keeps referring to Saul as the Lord's anointed. How can a madman, how can a crazed out king, how can a megalomaniac be the Lord's anointed? Strange isn't it? Have you ever asked that about the people God has allowed in your life? How do you respond to them? Do you throw spears back at them? Do you conspire against them? Do you take things into your own hands? Have you ever thought that God just might have enrolled you in His school of ministry?

Perhaps you're a Saul. Does God use you as His instructor to teach those enrolled in His school of ministry? I doubt Saul thought he was a madman; after all, he was a king. Do you think you might be a madman? Probably not; at least not if you think you are a king.

That provides us a good stopping place for tonight. Next week we will pick up with the final stages of David's undergraduate education on the ways of men and the ways of kings. I hope you will spend some time this week thinking about the questions that were raised throughout this study. You might find out a few things about yourself and those that God has placed in your life. You might even find out a few things about your God and about his school of ministry.

Let's Pray.