



INQUIRE OF THE LORD

Sermon preached on July 11, 2021 and July 18, 2021

We have been looking at lessons from the life of David.

YOU ASK: Why would we want lesson from David's life?

ANSWER: He never knew defeat! He always won...always walked in favor!

Things happened for him that didn't happen for everyone.

THEREFORE: If we look at what he did...we can find out how we can live in that same victory.

BELOVED: It is possible to live a life of victory, satisfaction and divine favor.

One of the main things that has stuck out to me time and time again, in the life of David, was the sheer number of times we read that he "inquired of the Lord" before he did something.

It was almost as if God knew what David should do...and as long as David took the time to ask, God guided him to victory every time.

BELOVED: If that worked for David...you KNOW that it will work for us too.

God desires to share His divine knowledge with us!

James 1:5 – "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and up braideth not; and it shall be given him."

(MSG) – "If you don't know what you're doing, pray to the Father. He loves to help. You'll get his help, and won't be condescended to when you ask for it."

BELOVED: God has all the answers, all the solutions, all the strategies and all the directions we need... we just need to ask.

This is how David postured himself before the Lord...constantly.

THEREFORE: He walked in that victory and divine favor...constantly.

In 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel it is recorded that David inquired of the Lord 9 times.

One account: 1 Samuel 23:1-5

1 Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

* Keilah was in the land of Judah.

* The custom of the Philistines was to spoil the harvest from the Israelites after they had brought in the harvest.

2 ***Therefore David enquired of the LORD***, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines? And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

- 3 And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?
- 4 **Then David enquired of the LORD yet again.** And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.
* David had a choice to follow the men or follow God.
- 5 So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

Another account: 1 Samuel 30:8,17-20

- David and his men had return to their homes to find that the Amalekites had burned it to the ground and had taken their families as prisoners/slaves.
The men were ready to kill David.
David was stressed, but encouraged himself in the Lord (vs.6).
The temptations would have been to act harshly and rashly...or just to quit...but what did David do?
- 8 **And David enquired at the LORD**, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.
- 17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.
- 18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.
- 19 And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.
- 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

BELOVED: This was the way David operated!

Psalm 27:4 (A Psalm of David) – “**One thing have I desired of the LORD**, that **will I seek after**, that I may dwell in the house of the LORD **all the days of my life**, to behold the beauty of the LORD, **and to enquire in his temple.**”

(AMP) – “One thing have I asked of the Lord, that will I seek, inquire for, and [insistently] require: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord [in His presence] all the days of my life, to behold and gaze upon the beauty [the sweet attractiveness and the delightful loveliness] of the Lord and to meditate, consider, and inquire in His temple.”

This was David’s heart! The ONE THING he desired...to be in His presence and get information.

Acts 13:22 – “And when he had removed him, he raised up unto them David to be their king; **to whom also he gave testimony**, and said, I have found David the son of Jesse, **a man after mine own heart**, which **shall fulfil all my will.**”

“**After**” – from, toward, along

(MSG) – “God removed him from office and put King David in his place, with this commendation: 'I've searched the land and found this David, son of Jesse. **He's a man whose heart beats to my heart**, a man who will do what I tell him.'”

(PASSION) – “After removing him, God raised up David to be king, for God said of him, ‘I have found in David, son of Jesse, **a man who always pursues my heart** and will accomplish all that I have destined him to do.’”

There were two things that separated David from the rest:

- 1.) He always pursued and went after the heart of God. Inquiring to know!
- 2.) When he got the heart of God...he did what God said to do.

BELOVED: Too often that is the problem with Christians...they either do what they want to before asking God or when they know the good they need to do, they don't do it. Therefore, they fail and end up trying to figure out what went wrong.

UNDERSTAND: We are invited to live the same way David lived.
Inquiring of the Lord!

TODAY: We are going to look at the first part...inquiring of the Lord...pursuing the heart of God...His knowledge!

Inquiring Brings Good

Deuteronomy 28:1,2

- 1 And it shall come to pass, if thou ***shalt hearken diligently*** unto the voice of the LORD thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the LORD thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:
- 2 And all these blessings shall come on thee, and overtake thee, if thou shalt hearken unto the voice of the LORD thy God.

“Hearken” – listen with the intent to do

But “hearken” starts with a desire and a passion to know! To inquire!

“Observe to do” – guard against anything stopping you from carrying it out!

BELOVED: If you will live your life like that...you will walk in all the blessings that follow.

THE OTHER SIDE: If you don't...you will walk in the curses from vs. 15 on!

Proverbs 3:5,6

- 5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
- 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

“Acknowledge” – know Him...know His ways

(NLT) – “Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.”

Proverbs 7:15 – “Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.”

God is looking for you...if you go after Him, it will be impossible to not get your answer!

James 1:5 – If you lack wisdom...ask...He is not holding back from you.

God wants to give you information that you don't have.

BILLJOHNSON: Tells a story of a mom who had boys who were misbehaving, but they wouldn't come clean on what they were doing. The mom told them, “If you don't tell me I will ask God and He will tell me.” The obviously didn't believe her, so they called her bluff. A few minutes later the mom came back to them and said, “Okay, where are the matches.” The boys repented!

2 Chronicles 20:1-3, 15-17 (Jehoshaphat)

- 1 It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle.
- 2 Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi.
- 3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.
- 15 And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's.
- 16 To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel.
- 17 Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you.

And it took three days to carry away the spoils...instead of being spoiled!

Psalm 103:7 – “He made known his ways unto Moses, his acts unto the children of Israel.”

(PASSION) – “You unveiled to Moses your plans and showed Israel’s sons what you could do.”

The people saw what God did, but Moses inquired to know His plans!

Hebrews 11:6 – “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”

“Rewarder” – remunerator - a person who pays money for something. payer. money dealer, money handler

BELOVED: If you will learn to live a life of INQUIRING HIM (diligently seeking); you will live a life of reward (blessing and favor).

Jeremiah 29:11-13 (AMP)

- 11 For I know the thoughts and plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts and plans for welfare and peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome.
- 12 Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear and heed you.
- 13 Then you will seek Me, inquire for, and require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.

BELOVED: If you want those plans to come to pass...you need to INQUIRE of the One who has those plans!

UNDERSTAND: When you are facing anything...especially daunting tasks...but even ones that seem small...INQUIRE of the LORD...desire to know His ways!

Here is The Problem

The problem becomes that too many Christians have asked...but have not received the answer. Or they just simply don't know the voice of the Lord to understand what He has for us to do.

Very important...God speaks to us three ways:

- 1.) Word of God
Sometimes you don't hear the voice of God because His Word says something very clearly! You may not think this is as exciting as hearing His voice...but it is extraordinarily clear!
- 2.) Spirit of God
The inner voice of God speaking to your spirit.
BELOVED: Learn to become familiar with that voice! It gives you specifics!
- 3.) The Man of God
God gives you men and women of God who He gives wisdom and answers...they are there to help you inquire.
David, when he was on the run, had the priest in 1 Samuel 21 inquire of the Lord on his behalf.

You may not like this way...you may feel that it is not as exciting...but God has given you men/women of God as gifts (Ephesians 4) to use and to grow into the fullness of the stature of Christ.

There are a few other things that will keep you from getting answers from the Lord:

1.) Rebellion and Disobedience!

Ezekiel 20:1-3 (Israel is in continued rebellion against God)

- 1 And it came to pass in the seventh year, in the fifth month, the tenth day of the month, that certain of the elders of Israel came to enquire of the LORD, and sat before me.
- 2 Then came the word of the LORD unto me, saying,
- 3 Son of man, speak unto the elders of Israel, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; ***Are ye come to enquire of me? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I will not be enquired of by you.*** (NLT) – "...How dare you come to ask me for a message? As surely as I live, says the Sovereign LORD, I will tell you nothing!"

BELOVED: When you have sin in your life or even disobedience. You will not hear the voice of God.

- * Stay repentant!
- * Have a clean heart, clean hands and clean nose!
- * Stay humble...ready to obey.

2.) Overvalue the Ungodly

Too often we get stuck in taking the opinions and thoughts of the ungodly.

They have a lot to say, but if they are contrary to the things of God...you will pay for taking their advice.

Psalms 1:1-3

- 1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful.
- 2 But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night.
- 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

1 Chronicles 10:13-14

- 13 So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;
- 14 And enquired not of the LORD: therefore he slew him, and turned the kingdom unto David the son of Jesse.

He got tired of waiting...so he went elsewhere!

1 Samuel 28:5-7 (Here is the account)

- 5 And when Saul saw the host of the Philistines, he was afraid, and his heart greatly trembled.
- 6 And when Saul enquired of the LORD, the LORD answered him not, neither by dreams, nor by Urim, nor by prophets.
- 7 Then said Saul unto his servants, Seek me a woman that hath a familiar spirit, that I may go to her, and enquire of her. And his servants said to him, Behold, there is a woman that hath a familiar spirit at Endor.

3.) You haven't asked!

James 4:2 – “Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”

Often we decide to do things because we heard someone else had done it a certain way...or that God told us to do it a certain way before.

BELOVED: We must live a life of INQUIRING!

Sometimes we just complain or nag God about stuff...and we don't inquire!

Conclusion

If you will learn to INQUIRE of the LORD consistently in your life...then you can and will step into victory after victory...favor after favor...blessing after blessing in your life!