

# Kingdom News

Yours is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever... (Matt. 6:13)

Volume 3, Issue 4

April 2009

## After God's Own Heart

*Could that be You?*

When you hear the phrase, "...after God's Own heart..." what types of thoughts does it provoke? A hope ... a dream ... a desire ... a man, perhaps? Would that man, by any chance, be King David?

Why? Why was King David called "a man after God's Own heart?" Can we be men and women "...after God's Own heart?" Well, in order to answer this particular question, we'd have to understand what it means to be "...after God's Own heart," right?

Let's take this journey together. Let's discover what it means to be "...after God's Own heart." Then we can each determine, on a personal level, if it's something that we'd be interested in doing or becoming.

Is it okay with you if we investigate this concept from a *behavioral perspective*? What did King David do and say, that might give us a hint as to where he might have gotten the title "...man after God's Own heart."

Listening to the voice of King David, I hear him breathe out the following declarations:

...God's Own Heart

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## The Leadership Corner Leadership Living, Inc.

*Catch the Baton*

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April is the month that Christians celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a time of repentance and rejoicing. It is also a time of transition in our history, as well as for our futures.

Jesus' resurrection marked a "*passing of the baton*" of sorts. Jesus told his disciples that he came to fulfill all that was written about Him in the law of Moses, the prophets and the psalms (Luke 24:44 KJV), which He did (up to and including) dying on the cross for the sins of humanity. His sacrifice satisfied the "wages" of sin. (see Romans 6:23 KJV)

When Jesus rose from the dead and was preparing to go back to glory, he let his disciples know that **now** it would be their turn. The disciples were to "receive the baton" and live out the calling of God on their lives - to spread the good news that all people can have a personal relationship with God. All people can walk in the awesome destiny God has planned for them, if they allow God to lead and guide them. In Jesus' words, the disciples were to become His witnesses (see Acts 1:8 KJV).

Today, we as believers have the same calling on our lives. We are to walk in the individual destinies God has placed in our hearts. As we do this, seeking and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, God is glorified and people get to "see God

Leadership

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**TRUST**

I will both lay me down in peace ... for You Lord; only make me to dwell in safety. (Ps. 4:8)  
Oh Lord, in You do I put my trust ... (Ps. 7:1; 16:1)

The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my strength ... (Ps. 18:2)

Blessed is the man that makes the Lord his trust. (Ps 40:4)

Etc.

**WORSHIP**

I will love You, Oh Lord, my strength ... (Ps 16:1)

Oh Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth ... (Ps. 8:1, 9)

As for God, His way is perfect ... (Ps 18: 30)

The heavens declare the glory of God ... (Ps. 19:1)

I delight to do Your will, my God... (Ps 40:8)

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart; be acceptable in Your sight... (Ps 19:14)

Oh God, You are my God. My soul is thirsty for You; my flesh longs for You ... (Ps 63:1)

Etc.

**APPRECIATION**

I will sing to the Lord, because He has dealt bountifully with me ... (Ps 13:6)

I will bless the Lord, Who has given me counsel ... (Ps 16: 7)

Etc.

**SEARCHING & DESIRE**

Lord, who shall abide in Your tabernacle [or presence]? (Ps. 15:1)

When You said, "Seek My face;" my heart said, "Your face will I seek." (Ps. 27:8)

Etc.

**REPENTANCE**

For Your name's sake, Lord, pardon my iniquity; for it is great. (Ps 25: 11)

Blessed is he, whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. I acknowledged my sin ... my iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions ... and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. (Ps 32:1, 5)

Against You, and You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight. (Ps 51:4)

Create in me a clean heart, and renew a right spirit in me. (Ps 51: 10)

Etc.

in action." This human representation of God allows the Holy Spirit to minister to the hearts of the people we come in contact with.

As we step into this 2009 celebration of the Resurrection, let's also be mindful to recommit to "*catch to baton*." Let us set aside time to chat with God to understand what each of us should be focusing on as we move forward in this year. God has a lot on His calendar for us (even if we do not yet have these events on our calendars). He may be waiting for some of us to "get with His program." Oh, I'm sorry, am I reading your mail? God has been tugging at your heart urging you to move in the direction of your *true* desires and passions. What better time than now?

He does this because your true passions are actually His passions that he wants to manifest through your human vessel. "*Catching the baton*" means we will begin by spending time with God *this* month to refocus our attention on what He wants us to do. We will release to Him our worries and cares knowing that when we take a step of obedience to His will, He guides us in a path that has been meticulously prepared for each of us (see Psalm 37:23 KJV).

Ok, now that we have our marching orders, let's celebrate the finished work of Christ (the death, burial, and resurrection). Who knows, we may run into a stray Easter egg or two along the way, not a problem. Then, let us "*catch the baton*" by (re)committing to continue what Jesus (and then his disciples) began, that is the ministry of accomplishing God's plan and purpose in the earth through His people. So, whatever God has placed in your heart, no matter how grand or small, begin to prayerfully move in that direction. Remember, God is waiting, and so is the rest of the world.

Happy Resurrection Day!!!

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*Leadership Living, Inc.*

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I think we all know that this list could go on indefinitely, but you get the point. So ... what does all of this tell us? Well, there are historical accounts of King David's activities throughout the books of the Kings, the Chronicles and elsewhere. These records tell us about King David almost from the vantage point of an on-looker; as it were from a third-person perspective. Whereas the book of Psalms has the microphone pointed directly at King David's heart ... I mean his mouth. Of the 150 chapters of Psalms, about 73 chapters comprise King David's yearnings and longings after God. Some of his sighs are almost too intimate for words. If you really enter into his feelings, into his expressions, it's enough to make one blush. "Blush??" Now there's a word that I haven't heard in a clip.

King David talked *to* God and he talked *about* God. Isn't this what you do when you love someone? When your heart refuses to rest in their absence. Isn't that what you do, when you really ... I mean really ... *want* someone? Have you ever lay awake at night and thought about how everything you saw or heard that day somehow reminded you of that Special Someone? Have you ever noticed how difficult it was to try and "stop" thinking about the one your heart adores? Do you not hear their voice in every conversation, it seems? Does not everything seem to be shades of their favorite color? I mean, how many shades of **blue** are there really? Do you not sneak away, into thoughts of ecstasy about them? Then you understand what King David was saying.

An observant man once said, "There are three things that are too wonderful for me [one of which is] ... the way of a man with a maid" (Prov. 30:18-19). It is probably foreign to us today, to conceptualize the fervor of a man in hot pursuit of a woman that his heart adores. But let's awaken our imaginations, shall we. Women ... what do you imagine would be the behavior of a man in pursuit of your heart? What could he do to win your heart? Men ... what do you imagine would be your behavior if you came upon a woman worthy of your affections? One for whom your heart yearned? To what lengths would you go to win her?

When our hearts long for something (or someone), no one has to give us a map and a compass. There seems to be a straight line etched between our hearts and the object of our pursuit. It probably could not be told, the expense that we would incur to be in either one of

those situations ... to be the pursuer or to be the object of pursuit.

From where, pray tell, comes such a fountain of passion? We, most certainly, didn't create it ourselves. It seems, of its own volition, to well up from deep within us; when provoked. The yearning to love and to be loved; to pursue and to be pursued has a transcendent origin. Was it not written upon the heart of every one of us by the Creator of the ends of the earth; the Eternal One? Why? Why such a strong and often overwhelming passion as this? In the words of Paul, "... that I may know Him ... that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:10a, 12b) There you have it; the pursuit of the Pursuer. He pursued and apprehended me; thereby provoking in me a passion to pursue and to apprehend Him. The Law of Reciprocity in all of its pomp and circumstance.

Although it is not required, by now, here you have both a map and compass for your journey to the "heart of God." What you will find there, cannot be spanned for breath, nor plumbed for depth. It is an inexhaustible fountain of love, overwhelming the soul and the senses to the point of rapture ... ecstasy even.

As you begin your journey, here is our prayer for you:

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that you may be rooted and grounded in love; that you may be able to comprehend...what is the breadth and length and depth and height of the love of Christ that passes all knowledge, and that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. (Eph. 3:17-19)

Safe travels.



## DIAMONDS



Life is hard.  
 God is good.  
 Try not to get the two confused.

- Anonymus  
 (quoted by Stuart  
 McAllister)



## Jesus Came for the *Lost Sheep*

By David L. White

All scriptures are paraphrased or quoted from KJV Bible

The Lord asks “if a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them goes astray, does he not leave the ninety nine, and go into the mountains, and seek that which is gone astray (lost)?” The term “sheep” is commonly understood to reference “people;” and it should be interpreted this way.

At three years old, when you looked up, you saw the bottom of the kitchen table, and that was sufficient at that point in your life. At eight years old, your perspective changed from the bottom of the kitchen table to the top; again sufficient to enable you to navigate through that time in your life. Neither perspective is better; but both alike are necessary to facilitate a comprehensive perspective of the kitchen table. “When I was a child, I spoke, I thought and I saw as a child ...” (Ref. 1 Cor. 13:11). Our lives bear witness, that as we grow; we come into positions where we see more and we see differently.

At this point in my life I've come to see more in the parable of the lost sheep, mentioned above. I've not come to see contrarily, I've only come to see more. This is what I've come to understand. In addition

to Christ coming for the lost sheep (people), Christ has also come for something else, not already committed to His authority.

There is a sense in which the “lost sheep” can also reference all of our desires, ambitions, ideas, habits, etc. that we have not given over to His Lordship, in our lives. The desire to be rich, socially accepted, attractive, ambitious, ungodly thoughts and imaginations, the need to get revenge, etc. are all things that we have not committed to the authority of God. These are all things that can herein be referenced as “lost sheep.”

Go with me, I am headed somewhere (*smile*). You may recall that often in the scriptures, mountains or hills represent places of authority. In the reference scripture (above) we see that the shepherd “goes into the mountains,” searching for this lost sheep. This is to say he goes into places of “other” authority. This reveals in more direct language that these things are under the authority of someone other than the seeker, who is ultimately Christ. We see here and understand truly that Christ is looking, reaching, and searching for those things that we have not brought under His authority. He seeks these things verily and fervently, as He knows that the very things that are not under His authority work to destroy us every day; whether we know it or not. He knows that those things that don't dwell in His light reside in darkness. Christ said in John 14:6 that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. By inference we understand that whatever is *not* of Christ is not a way, opposes truth, and is void of life.

Let's take inventory. We have an obligation to continually look for and allow the Spirit to reveal to us the things (in our lives and hearts) that we have not placed under the Lord's authority. We need to seek those lost sheep within ourselves as fervently as Christ came for us. We need to place those things under the Lordship of Christ. This is to say that the things that are unacceptable to Him, we must relinquish. The things that are misplaced or out

## JASPER

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If the heart of a man is not in the gospel that he preaches; then he cannot hope to win the heart of a man by the gospel that he preaches.

- JoAnn C. White

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of sequence we need to submit to the Lord's placement and scheduling. The things that belong within the marital covenant, we leave there. The things that belong to the old man, we crucify. The things that we should be exercising dominion over, we need to bring under subjection.

And so you may be asking, is it not lawful for us to pay homage to our desires, passions and appetites? After all the desires are natural aren't they? I'll answer that with another question. Whose image and superscription is upon these unrestrained passions? Here's a hint: All that is in the world is the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye; and the pride of life. (Ref. 1 John 2:16)

However, you (my friend) belong to God. You have God's image and superscription written all over you; so render unto God what is God's (Ref. Luke 20:22-25).

[JCN]



## A Journey to Intimacy

### The Journey Continues – Prayerfully

Father,

Open our understanding that we may understand the scriptures; so that our faith will not stand in the wisdom of man, but in the power of God.

(Luke 24:45; 1 Cor. 2:5)

Amen

◇ JCN ◇



## Song of Our Redemption

"Our past sins are part of the lyrics to the song of our redemption." Others may not likely be inclined to believe the gospel we live, until they see the "nail prints in our hands."

Often people are familiar with the nail prints in Jesus' hands. They now want to see the nail prints in our hands.

By this they know that our flesh has been crucified with Christ. And (in the words of Paul) the life that we now live; we live by the faith of the Son of God Who loved and Who gave Himself for us.

- JoAnn C White



## My Personal Creed as a Child of God

- JoAnn White

Who we are as Christians, determines what we do.

*Example:* I am created in the image of God (Gen. 1:26); therefore I am committed to love the Lord with all of my heart, soul, mind and strength and my neighbor as my self (Luke 10:27). Now that I know who (and whose) I am; I no longer engage in contrary actions and attitudes of the heart. For this same reason I am also committed to refraining from lying, stealing, committing adultery, coveting, engaging in idolatry, dishonoring my parents, etc. (Deut 5:16-21) I am committed to meekness, pureness of heart, the giving of mercy (Matt. 5).

(Inspired by lecture by Ravi Zacharias entitled: *Leadership Seminar Workshop- Session 1*)



