

Day 48 – Apr. 5

And thus ends the reign of David, a “man after God’s own heart.” At the men’s retreat this winter, our speaker wondered about the translation of this phrase, when it could as easily be translated, “a man *because of* God’s own heart.” This, he said, makes more sense given both our and OT theology. David, as we have read the past few days, was hardly a man who earned God’s respect with his amazing actions, faith, or behavior. It makes more sense that God would have chosen Him of God’s own will – God’s own heart – regardless of David’s faith. Why not Nathan, or Samuel who seem to be more focused on God’s heart than David? Good questions to ponder.

David is now old, and we see the approach of the end of his days. As we discussed earlier, David lost his moral authority with his family when he stole Bathsheba and killed Uriah. We’ve seen this godless ambition in Absalom and his defeat, and now we see it in his next son Adonijah. Both handsome, both ambitious, and both politically savvy, unsurprising growing up in the King’s palace under David. Yet all of these attempted coup’s fail. David remains on the throne, and Solomon is hurried to succeed him. And God’s promise is once again fulfilled – David’s family lives by the sword and his own household rebels against him again and again (see this promise at the top of p.152).

For us, we don’t teach this part of sin in our lives. We teach that sin gets us sent to hell rather than its effects in the here and now. For us like David, sin strips away our moral authority. And this is not just for famous figures who fall from grace. Our kids, our friends, our communities, and our world are watching us to see if we’ll live up to what we say we believe. If not, they know we are hypocritical and without moral authority. If we are to be examples to this world, to our communities, to our friends, and especially to our families, we need to live by the ethic we teach and claim. We cannot claim to be about truth and then lie consistently. We cannot claim to be about grace and then hold grudges. We cannot claim to be holy, separate from the ways of this world, and then live a worldly life; not if we expect to have any moral authority at all.