



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH ORILE IGANMU

Praising the Father, Raising His Children, Reaching the World

A Man After God's Own Heart

Preacher:	Rev'd Olubayo Afolabi Akanmu
Date:	September 27, 2026
Scripture:	Acts 13:22
Description:	This sermon encourages every Christian to live up God's expectations for them by showing their readiness to do the will God at all times no matter the situation.

"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" - 2 Timothy 3:16

Sermon Transcript

Introduction

When God rejected Saul as king He was not looking for a more handsome man, a taller person, a brave or talented man. He was looking for someone with a different heart. This is because what makes a man acceptable or unacceptable before God is not his appearance, but his heart. God knows our innermost thoughts and why we do what we do. Every child should desire to be his father's beloved. Ditto every child of God. We should do everything within our capacity to win God's heart. Why was Saul rejected and David preferred?

Why Saul was rejected? (1 Samuel 15:20-24)

1. Saul was a fame-seeking man (v 20): Capturing a king alive in battle was a significant act in ancient Near Eastern warfare. The act of capturing a king was often seen as a demonstration of power and dominance, and it was a way to

assert one's superiority over the defeated. It was also a way to legitimize the conqueror's right to rule the conquered land and levy tribute. The act of capturing a king was a way to prevent future revolts and to serve as a living evidence of defeat. It was a way to ensure that the defeated king would not be able to claim kingship for himself or to foment trouble. Saul captured Agag king of the Amalekites not because he wanted to glorify God, but self-glory. Christian ministry is not for self-aggrandizement. It is meant to glorify God.

2. He was a blame shifter (v21): Instead of taking responsibility for his sins he shifter the blame to his men, who were under his authority. They would not have acted otherwise if so commanded. A man that not be rejected by God will learn to take responsibility for his actions and inactions.

3. A partially obedient person (v22): Truly Saul and men destroyed the Amalekites, but completely as instructed by God. Partial obedience is equal to disobedience. Every child of should develop the habit of total obedience to their heavenly father.

4. He was rebellious and arrogant (V23): Every sinful is a rebellion against God. You know God is everywhere and He is all-knowing, yet you choose to disobey. It is pride and rebellion combined. No one can compete with God and win. Humble yourself under his mighty power and he will exalt you in due time.

5. A Man of Shallow Repentance (v24): He felt sorry, but not truly remorseful. Such a shallow repentance cannot win the heart of God.

Why Was David Preferred? (Acts 13:22)

1. Readiness to do the whole will of God (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22): David rose where Saul fell. What Saul could not do David was fully ready to do. When you genuinely yield yourself to doing the will of God at all times no matter the situation it will endear you to God's heart.

2. Faith and Trust in God (1 Samuel 17:47): David's faith is exemplified in his defeat of Goliath, where he credited God for victory even before the battle began, saying, "the battle is the Lord's"

3. Humility (2 Samuel 7:18): Despite his successes, David remained humble. When offered Michal's hand in marriage, he acknowledged his lowly status, and later, after becoming king, he praised God for his accomplishments rather than taking personal credit.

4. Integrity and Respect for God's Authority (1 Samuel 24:12-13; 26:9-11): David repeatedly spared Saul's life, respecting him as God's anointed, even when he had the opportunity to kill him. This demonstrated his commitment to God's principles over personal gain.

5. Genuine Repentance and Devotion (Psalm 51:10, 17): Although David committed serious sins, including adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11), he openly confessed and sought God's forgiveness. His willingness to repent and restore his relationship with God reflects a heart aligned with God's desires. Repentance should produce restoration into smooth relationship God. Otherwise, it is no repentance at all.

6. Love for God's Law and Worship (Psalm 40:8; 63:1-4; 119:47-48): David delighted in God's statutes, expressed through his psalms, prayer, and worship. His life was marked by a deep desire to honor God in all circumstances.

Conclusion

We are all children of God. All of us can be men and women after God's own heart if we are always willing to do His whole will. Total obedience, faith in God, humility, respect for God's authority, genuine repentance and love for God's law are ingredients that can endear us to God's heart. Beloved, are you ready to become a man after

God's heart?

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"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them." - Matthew 18:20