



Theme: The Many Faces of David ***“Poetry and Legacy”***

Weekly Memory Verse:

***¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the Lord.” – Psalm 122:1***

Monday, September 12 – Read 1 Chronicles 28:1-7; 29:10-17. King David had a dream: to build a Temple to honor his God. We first read about that dream in 2 Samuel 7:1-5. But God indicated he was not the person to build the Temple. David didn’t sulk about that. He eagerly set out to gather what his son Solomon would need for the building and started by setting aside a large chunk of his personal fortune. It wasn’t a one-man project—he gave all Israel a chance to give. David and the people saw the giving as a privilege, not a burden. They were giving back what came from God’s hand for God’s purposes.

🔱 1 Chronicles 29:9 said the people rejoiced, not because they’d reached a fixed financial goal, but because, “they had presented their offerings to the Lord so willingly and wholeheartedly.” How much do the words “willingly and wholeheartedly” apply to paying for health insurance and/or medical bills? Buying birthday or Christmas gifts? Paying to fix your roof or plumbing? Giving to God?

🔱 In his psalm of praise, David told God, “Since everything comes from you, we have given you that which comes from your own hand.” He went on to say that we humans are all, “immigrants without permanent homes,” which is language that anticipated Hebrews 11:13-16 by almost 1000 years. Do you agree that whatever you have, ultimately comes from God, or do you see it as something you created or earned? Do you think of any giving you do as “giving back,” or more as giving up something that is yours?

Prayer: *Lord God, thank you for the gift of life and all that comes with it. Grow in me a heart that fills with joy when I have the privilege of giving back some of what you’ve given me. Amen.*

Tuesday, September 13 – Read 1 Kings 5:1-6 and 8:10-11. King Solomon set out to carry out his father David’s plans for a Temple in God’s honor in Jerusalem. He built a building of massive scale and great beauty. Just before his prayer at the Temple’s dedication, Solomon made it plain that the original idea for the Temple had been his father David’s that we find described in 1 Kings 8:14-21. And the God of the universe honored David and Solomon’s Temple, filling it with glory.

(Meditation Moments –September 10-11, 2022 – For more, go to www.summitdurango.org)

✠ In what ways was the Temple David dreamed and Solomon built a good “fit” for the conditions in which Israel lived in their days, as the desert Sanctuary had been for the conditions when Moses led Israel out of Egypt? What do you learn about God’s grace, God’s willingness to meet us where we are, as you read of God’s presence hallowing two such very different places of worship?

✠ At the Temple dedication, Solomon said to God in 1 Kings 8:13, “I have indeed built you a lofty temple as a place where you can live forever.” Like most things human, though, the Temple did not last anywhere close to “forever.” We learn in 2 Kings 25:8-9 that Babylonian soldiers destroyed it some 400 years later. That didn’t mean it was a waste to build the Temple. What makes it important that we give our best to honor and worship God today, even if circumstances and ways of worshipping may well change some time later?

Prayer: *Lord, how awesome it must have been to see your glory fill that majestic Temple so tangibly! Even if in quieter, more “ordinary” ways, fill my life, too, with your glory. Amen.*

Wednesday, September 14 – Read 2 Samuel 23:1-5 and 1 Chronicles 29:26-28. As we saw last week, David’s life included serious faults and, which at times even looked as though they might end his reign as king prematurely because of the hurt he caused. But because he made peace with God, as we read about in Psalm 51, and honorably picked up his kingly responsibilities, they didn’t end his service to God and his people. Just before today’s passage about David’s, “last words,” the historian(s) who wrote 2 Samuel 22 quoted the lengthy, exuberant Psalm 18.

✠ Pastor and scholar Eugene Peterson wrote of the end of David’s life in *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*, “David...never got around to loving his enemies the way his descendant Jesus would do it; his morals and manners left a lot to be desired. These aren’t narrated ...to legitimize bad behavior but are set down as proof that we don’t first become good and then get God. First, we get God—and then, over a patient lifetime, we’re trained in God’s ways.”

✠ Whether you’ve been living your life with God for a few weeks or months or for several decades, think of some ways in which God has changed you, inside or outside. In what dimensions of your life are you currently most actively being “trained in God’s ways”?

Prayer: *Lord, thank you for welcoming me, “warts and all,” just as you welcomed David. Keep training me in your ways all my life long. Amen.*

Thursday, September 15 – Read 1 Samuel 16:17-19, 23 and 1 Chronicles 25:1, 7. Almost at the very start of David’s story, we learned that he was a gifted musician. But he also took the lead in enlisting many gifted musicians to lead Israel in worship and praise. Chronicles said his “praise choir” included 288 skillful singers!

✠ The three principal heads of the families of singers were Asaph, Heman, and Jeduthun. They were responsible for composing the temple psalms and believed they had some claim to divine inspiration. This part of their work may have continued throughout the generations as new psalms were added to the liturgy. In their singing, these Levites (the priestly class or pastors) were proclaiming the praises of God. Using these hymns, they instructed the people about God. Our Summit musicians continue this wonderful tradition—not just playing and singing, but also creating new songs of worship and praise. What songs have touched your heart when it comes to worship? Can you find a recording of this and listen to it this week?

Prayer: *Lord Jesus, thank you for loving imperfect me with perfect love. Thank you for gifting David, and all his successors in music ministry, to lead and teach me about you. Amen.*

Friday, September 16 – Read Psalm 27 and Psalm 40. David, a man of many gifts, was a poet/lyricist as well as a musician, an administrator, warrior, and king. The Biblical collection of 150 psalms preserved beautiful poems of praise and trust, some of which David surely wrote, though it is impossible to know precisely how many, since editors included titles for many psalms, and the phrase “of David” could also be translated “dedicated to David,” or, “for David,” or, “in honor of David.”

✠ Israelites who prayed and sang Psalm 27 saw Babylon destroy Jerusalem, saw Greece and then Rome overpower their land—yet they still trusted. Christians who prayed and sang Psalm 27 saw Jesus crucified, the apostles Paul and Peter martyred by Rome, prayed the psalm in dim Roman catacombs—yet they still trusted. What difficulties test your trust, and try to make you afraid? How can you trust that in the end God will always keep the promise to set you up high, safe on a rock?

✠ “Those who put their trust in the Lord...are truly happy,” said Psalm 40. Claims that nearly everything, from whitening toothpaste to a luxury cruise to the latest automotive technology, will make us truly happy fill the world around us. To what extent do you believe Psalm 40 more credibly points to the source of true happiness than the ads that barrage you from all sides? In what ways have you found a greater depth of true joy by trusting in God?

Prayer: *Eternal Father, strong to save, I put my trust in you however shakily or solidly. I look beyond the shallow, temporary joys of this world to your eternal promises as my foundation for a truly good life. Amen.*

Saturday, September 17 – Read Matthew 1:1, 21:9-15 and Romans 1:2-3. Remember that one of the threads that ran through David’s story, and we read about in 2 Samuel 7:16 and 1 Kings 9:3-5 was a promise that his royal dynasty would last “forever.” To human eyes, that promise failed—the Davidic line of kings could not and did not continue through and after the exile in Babylon. But the New Testament writers traced both Joseph and Mary’s ancestry back to David. And in varied and repeated ways, people who met and followed Jesus hailed him as the true “Son of David,” the one who could and did make God’s promise come true at last.

✠ In Israel, according to 1 Kings 1:33-44, donkeys or mules were for kings, as well as common people. Zechariah 9:9-10 also noted that a king on a donkey came in peace, unlike a conqueror with war horses and chariots. Some who watched Jesus’ ride into Jerusalem no doubt hoped he would lead a drive to kill Romans and restore Israel’s power. His ride on a donkey pointed to a different path. When the chief priests and legal experts saw the amazing things he was doing, and the children shouting in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were angry.” They didn’t want the “Son of David” to be a gentle king who said to love your enemies and gave his life rather than taking the lives of others. Do you?

Prayer: *Jesus, Son of David, so much in our world, globally and locally, tugs me toward hopelessness. Renew and reinforce my ability to live in hope, in confidence that your good reign will indeed last forever. Amen.*