

DAVID

AFTER GOD'S HEART





DAVID: PLAN NOW TO DIE WELL

RUSS WILSON

1 KINGS 1 & 2

I have had the opportunity to be with people on numerous occasions as they were saying goodbye to their loved ones in a death or dying situation. Have you ever been in that situation? What did you find challenging about it or what did you find comforting about the experience?

If someone has never gone through that before and was about to go through it for the first time what kind of advice would you give them?

My premise is the **keys to living well and the keys to dying well are right next to each other**. So let's try and look at this from as practical a standpoint as possible.

Key #1. Live Today For Today

Adonijah wanted tomorrow today. 1 Kings 1:5-10

It was a logical thought that he would become the next king as the eldest son in David's family. At that time in Israel's history, there were no clear succession patterns in place but Adonijah was about to establish his own plan.

However, David wasn't even dead yet. And David had made plans as we read in, 1 Chronicles 28:6 'Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.'

We have here: Adonijah who wanted to live tomorrow today and David who wasn't living in today the way he needed to live.

Adonijah was so busy trying to live tomorrow today that he tried to usurp his father's throne much like his brother Absalom did. Look at verses 7-10. There's a royal mess going on in the kingdom.

David's latter days were not a great example of living today for today.

David had some history here with this son and now it was coming back to haunt him. Richard Patterson in his commentary on I Kings writes this, "Verse 6 notes David's failure in the matter of disciplining Adonijah as a boy."

Each day we live, we have 24 hours. Those hours count because we are developing habits that we will reap at some point further down the road.

1. You have a canvas of your life to paint your today. But all you have is, today. Tomorrow is not a guarantee.

David missed the boat with Adonijah and look what happened. He had a son who at the end of David's life was trying to live tomorrow, today.

2. David finally takes ownership of the situation after Nathan points out how far things have gone awry. In chapter 1:30 we read, "I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the Lord the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place."

3. We need to learn from both David and Adonijah. David messed up years ago and hadn't corrected his mess, but it did catch up with him. Adonijah wanted what wasn't his and he tried living tomorrow today.

Eugene Peterson in his book *Leap Over a Wall* writes this about Adonijah, "In treating David's imminent death as an opportunity for a larger life for himself, Adonijah precipitates his own death. In failing to honour David's death, Adonijah hastens his own.



Shortly after Adonijah's coronation, David dies, but by then Solomon has been anointed and crowned king by David's orders, and Adonijah is exposed as an opportunistic usurper." P. 222

We have the canvas of today, so live today!

Take Home:

- How do we do this living today for today thing?
- How do you and I not get stuck in the past like it seems David did with some of his mistakes?
- How do we not get all wrapped up and rush ahead to tomorrow while we're still here in today?

I believe the key is found in Paul's letter to the Galatians in chapter 5:16, "So I say walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. Verse 18; But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law.

Verse 25; Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."

Getting back to these few truths:

We all only have 24 hours each day.

It's a canvas that we get to paint on.

We can't go back and paint over yesterday.

David is a reminder of that. We can't jump ahead to tomorrow, Adonijah is a picture to keep in mind about that.

We have today so we keep in step with the Spirit of God today and paint on the canvas God gives us, today. Some days will be pretty routine, and others will be masterpieces. Do you believe that?

Key #2. Live Today For Others.

When David set up Solomon, he was doing the right thing. **1 Kings 1:32-48**

1. Listen as we start reading in **verse 33**, "Take your lord's servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, 'Long live king Solomon!'"

2. **David was setting Solomon up for success.** He was little bit late in doing this and needed some prodding from Bathsheba and Nathan but today he was stepping up to the plate to do it.

David finally made sure Solomon had everything he needed to build the temple. **Make today count for others.**

We cultivate a life of praise now to prepare us for whatever may come next. 1 Kings 1:47-48 Psalm 22

The royal officials come to David in 1 Kings 1:47 to let him know that Solomon has been officially put on the throne replacing David. We read these words, "And the king bowed in worship on his bed and said, Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has allowed my eyes to see a successor on my throne today."

We live today for others and if we live a life of praise, we will point others to our Saviour. It was this same David who penned Psalm 22. Jesus quoted this Psalm when he cried those words of verse 1, "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" while he was on the cross paying the price for our sin. At that very moment Jesus was living for others.

Live today for others so that future generations will be told about the Lord. As we praise God, we announce today that He is worth serving both today and tomorrow.



Key #3. Live Today For God's Glory.

Psalm 23 and Hebrews 12

The focus of our living is Jesus Christ. Psalm 23:3

David reminds us that our lives are not about us. That we live this life for someone else which truly does make this life a beautiful experience.

"Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."

- Psalm 23:6

There may be dark times and hard times, but I know for whom I'm living, and I know where I'm going. How do we do it? **Hebrews 11 and 12**

We run with perseverance and joy knowing that others have gone before us.

It's possible to die well because Jesus made it possible. We start by living well. The keys are right next to each other. We do it one day at a time because that's all we have. It's a canvas God gives us.

Remember the keys to living well are right next to the keys to dying well.

**We Live Today for Today
We Live Today for Others
We Live Today for God's Glory**



REFLECTION *summary*

KEY#1. LIVE TODAY FOR TODAY.

Adonijah wanted tomorrow today. 1 Kings 1:5-10.

Instead of just living today he tries to live in tomorrow. Ever been there? Discuss how that works in your life.

David's latter days were not a great example of living today for today.

If I put off today what needs to be done I don't get it back tomorrow. If I think my child will learn the lessons of dignity and respect tomorrow, I'm missing out by not teaching them dignity and respect today.

What are some other examples you can think of in other areas of life of things we put off today for tomorrow?

We are all given 24 hours. Think of it as a canvas that we get to paint on. Our co-artist is the Holy Spirit.

Galatians 5:16-25. Key in on verses 16, 18 and 25. What is the key instruction in those 3 verses?

KEY #2. LIVE TODAY FOR OTHERS.

When David set up Solomon he was doing the right thing. 1 Kings 1:32-48; 1 Chronicles 22:7-10;

When it comes to those around us how do we set them up for success and don't think just from a financial standpoint?

We cultivate a life of praise now to prepare us for whatever may come next. 1 Kings 1:47-48 & Psalm 22.

Verse 30-31 remind us that how we live affects the following generations. We are announcing to those following us that God is worth praising today and tomorrow!

KEY #3. LIVE TODAY FOR GOD'S GLORY.

The focus of our living is Jesus Christ. Psalm 23

CONCLUSION

If you have the time and technology listen to the song by Mercy Me, "**Almost Home**". I trust it will be an encouragement to you!





”

***WE LIVE TODAY FOR
TODAY***

***WE LIVE TODAY FOR
OTHERS***

***WE LIVE TODAY FOR
GOD'S GLORY***

“