

David, A Man After God's Own Heart

Narrator: One of the most awesome passages of Scripture that profiles the astounding attributes of our God is David's Psalm 139. It's difficult for our finite minds to grasp its significance. Before we were even born, God saw our lives as if they were already lived. He knows every word we will speak before we say it, every thought before we think it, every blooper we'll make before it happens. David beautifully elaborated on this in this psalm as in his own words he depicts the watchful eye of God overseeing the miracle of his birth from the moment of conception as well as that of every other baby born into this world.

Psalm 139 (NLT - First Quoter)

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my every thought when far away. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, Lord. You both precede and follow me. You place your hand of blessing on my head. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too great for me to know!

I can never escape from your spirit! I can never get away from your presence! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. If I ride the wings of the morning, if I dwell by the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, and your strength will support me. I could ask the darkness to hide me and the light around to become night — but even in darkness I cannot hide from you. To you the night shines as bright as day. Darkness and light are both alike to you.

You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous — and how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed.

How precious are your thoughts about me, O God! they are innumerable! I can't even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up in the morning, you are still with me!

O God, if only you would destroy the wicked! Get out of my life, you murderers: They blaspheme you; your enemies take your name in vain, O Lord, shouldn't I hate those who hate you? Shouldn't I despise those who resist you? Yes, I hate them with complete hatred, for your enemies are my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts. Point out anything in me that offends you, and lead me along the path of everlasting life.

Narrator: Not a lot is known about David's early years. We know that he was the youngest of 8 brothers who seemed to relish belittling and ridiculing him - as is common in many families. In his early years he spent days and nights out in the fields caring for his father's sheep. This provided many hours

of solitude for meditation and undoubtedly provided the basis for Psalm 23, his best known and best loved psalm. It may even have written it on the very same Shepherd's Field where, 1000 years later, the Angel Choir would announce the birth of Israel's Messiah.

Solo - Psalm 23 (King James Version)

The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures; he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake.
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head
with oil; my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Narrator: In David's boyhood, Israel was going through a time of unrest and was unwilling to continue in submission to the Lord's direct guidance. They insisted that the Lord give them a king so they could be like other nations around them. The Lord reluctantly granted the request but warned that there would be dire consequences. Saul was chosen as the first king of Israel. Although he began his 40-year reign humbly and with God's blessing, pride and jealousy grew to consume his life. God ultimately rejected him and commanded Samuel to anoint David as his successor.

I Samuel 16:1-13 (Second Quoter)

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king."

But Samuel said, "How can I go? Saul will hear about it and kill me."

The Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate."

Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him. They asked, "Do you come in peace?"

Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The

Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?"

"There is still the youngest," Jesse answered, "but he is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent and had him brought in. He was ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features.

Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; he is the one."

So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power.

Narrator: It would be years, though, before David would actually become king of Israel. When he killed the giant, Goliath, and later performed other unusually brave feats in Saul's army, his popularity soared in the eyes of the people. This aroused Saul's anger and jealousy. It became an obsession for him to pursue David in a relentless effort to see him killed. So crazed was Saul with this fetish that when some priests aided David in his flight, Saul murdered 85 priests along with all the residents of the town where they lived. David lived as a fugitive for years and some of his psalms written during that time express his fears and apprehensions, as well as his steadfast confidence in God's watchcare over him.

Psalm 27 (Third Quoter)

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?

When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh,
when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.
Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear;
though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek:
That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek Him in His temple.
For in the day of trouble He will keep me safe in His dwelling;
He will hide me in the shelter of His tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.
Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me;
at His tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the
Lord.

Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.
My heart says to you, "Seek His face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.
Do not hide Your face from me, do not turn Your servant away in anger; You have been my
helper.

Do not reject me or forsake me, O God my Savior.
Though my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will receive me.
Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path because of my oppressors.
Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,
for false witnesses rise up against me, breathing out violence.

I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Narrator: Although David had opportunity to kill Saul on more than one occasion, he refused to stoop

to such treachery in order to become king. However, during a battle with the Philistines Saul was severely wounded and rather than surrender to the enemy, he committed suicide by falling on his own sword. Now, after years of living as a fugitive, David was finally declared King of Israel. He was 30 years old at that time and reigned over Israel for a total of 40 years, 7 1/2 years over Judah and 33 years over all of Israel. Saul was born in Gibeah of Benjamin and this had been his capital during his reign. Shortly after becoming king, David took the fortress of Jebus which he renamed Jerusalem. As his capital it became known as the City of David.

I Chronicles 10:13-11:9 (NLT - Fourth Quoter)

So Saul died because he was unfaithful to the Lord. He failed to obey the Lord's command, and even consulted a medium instead of asking the Lord for guidance. So the Lord killed him and turned his kingdom over to David son of Jesse.

Then all Israel went to David at Hebron and told him, "We are all members of your family. For a long time, even while Saul was our king, you were the one who really led Israel. And the Lord your God has told you, "You will be the shepherd of my people Israel. You will be their leader." So there at Hebron David made a covenant with the leaders of Israel before the Lord. They anointed him king of Israel, just as the Lord had promised through Samuel.

Then David and all Israel went to Jerusalem (or Jebus, as it used to be called), where the Jebusites, original inhabitants of the land, lived. The people of Jebus said to David, "You will never get in here!" But David captured the fortress of Zion, now called the City of David.

David had said to his troops, "Whoever leads the attack against the Jebusites will become commander of my armies." And Joab son of David's sister Zeruah, led the attack so he became the commander of David's armies.

David made the fortress his home, and that is why it is called the City of David. He extended the city from the Millo to the surrounding area, while Joab rebuilt the rest of Jerusalem. And David became more and more powerful, because the Lord Almighty was with him.

Narrator: According to Scripture, David was very physical and handsome, a man of many talents. He was a brilliant general, a man of unusual courage and strength, an accomplished musician and a godly man. But he was just a man. Someone has said he was as "gigantic in his faults as in his virtues". Scripture makes no effort to conceal his great disgrace of adultery with Bathsheba and ultimate murder of her husband, Uriah, in an effort to conceal his shame.

II Samuel 12:1-13 (Fifth Quoter)

The Lord sent Nathan to David. When he came to him he said, "There were two men in a certain town, one rich and the other poor. The rich man had a very large number of sheep and cattle, but the poor man had nothing except one little ewe lamb he had bought. He raised it, and it grew up with him and his children. It shared his food, drank from his cup and even slept in his arms. It was like a daughter to him.

Now a traveler came to the rich man, but the rich man refrained from taking one of his own sheep or cattle to prepare a meal for the traveler who had come to him. Instead, he took the ewe lamb that belonged to the poor man and prepared it for one who had come to him."

David burned with anger against the man and said to Nathan, "As surely as the Lord lives, the man who did this deserves to die! He must pay for that lamb four times over, because he did such a thing and had no pity."

Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! This is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. I gave your master's house to you, and your master's wives into your arms. I gave you the house of Israel and Judah. And if all this had been too little, I would have given you even more. Why did you despise the word of the Lord by doing what is evil in His eyes? You struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and took his wife to be your own. You killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. Now, therefore, the sword will never depart from your house, because you despised me and took the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your own.'

This is what the Lord says: 'Out of your own household I am going to bring calamity upon you. Before your very eyes I will take your wives and give them to one who is close to you, and he will lie with your wives in broad daylight. You did it in secret, but I will do this thing in broad daylight before all Israel.'"

Then David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord."

Narrator: In several of his psalms David tries to express in words, his regrets, his remorse and the consuming guilt that finally drove him to the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

Psalm 51 (Sixth Quoter)

Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love; according to Your great compassion
Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin,

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.
Against You, You only, have I sinned and done this evil in Your sight,
so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge.
Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.
You teach me wisdom in the inmost place.

Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.
Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones You have crushed rejoice.
Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me from Your presence or take Your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me

Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will turn back to You.
Save me from bloodguilt, O God, the God who saves me,
and my tongue will sing of Your righteousness
O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise.
You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;
You do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.
The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not

despise.

In Your good pleasure make Zion prosper; build up the walls of Jerusalem.
Then there will be righteous sacrifices, whole burnt offerings to delight You;
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

Psalm 32 (Seventh Quoter)

Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no
deceit

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.
For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was sapped as in the heat of
summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to You and did not cover up my iniquity.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord — and You forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let everyone who is godly pray to You while You may be found;
surely when the mighty waters rise, they will not reach him.
You are my hiding place;
You will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch
over you.

Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding
but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you.
Many are the woes of the wicked, but the Lord's unfailing love surrounds the man who
trusts in him
Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart!

Narrator: God forgave David but pronounced a fearful sentence. He told him "*The sword shall never depart from your house*" and it never did. David reaped exactly what he had sown and his blatant sin resulted in a long, hard and bitter harvest. His daughter Tamar was raped by her brother Amnon, who in turn was murdered by their brother Absalom. Later Absalom led a rebellion against his father David. David's concubines were violated in public, as he had secretly violated the wife of Uriah. Thus, David's glorious reign was clouded with seemingly endless woes.

But even though David fell into blatant sin and suffered dire consequences, the great spiritual strength that shines through all of his life was that his heart was always toward the Lord. Whatever the circumstances, he never let them drive him away from God. When he fell short he looked to the Lord to make up the difference — for strength, for answers, for forgiveness. Perhaps this is why the Lord says that David was *a man after His own heart*.

The Jewish temple was a imposing structure and symbol of faith and Judaism. As such, it is still prominent in the news, even today. Although it was David's great dream to build a house for the Lord, and although he made great preparations for it, its construction would not be part of his legacy. Instead of David building a house for the Lord, the Lord told David that He would be the One to build an eternal house for His servant.

I Chronicles 17:1-15 (Eighth Quoter)

After David was settled in his palace, he said to Nathan the prophet, "Here I am, living in a palace of cedar, while the ark of the covenant of the Lord is under a tent."

Nathan replied to David, "Whatever you have in mind, do it, for God is with you." That night the word of God came to Nathan, saying:

"Go and tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord says: You are not the one to build me a house to dwell in. I have not dwelt in a house from the day I brought Israel up out of Egypt to this day. I have moved from one tent site to another, from one dwelling place to another. Wherever I have moved with all the Israelites, did I ever say to any of their leaders whom I commanded to shepherd my people, "why have you not built me a house of cedar?"

Now then, tell my servant David, "This is what the Lord almighty says: I took you from the pasture and from following the flock to be ruler over my people Israel. I have been with you wherever you have gone, and I have cut off all your enemies from before you. Now I will make your name like the names of the greatest men of the earth. And I will provide a place for my people Israel and will plant them so that they can have a home of their own and no longer be disturbed. Wicked people will not oppress them anymore, as they did at the beginning and have done ever since the time I appointed leaders over my people Israel. I will also subdue all your enemies.

"I declare to you that the Lord will build a house for you: When your days are over and you go to be with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring to succeed you, one of your own sons, and I will establish his kingdom. He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever. I will be his father, and he will be my son. I will never take my love away from him, as I took it away from your predecessor. I will set him over my house and my kingdom forever; his throne will be established forever."

Narrator: It was David who selected the site where the temple would be built, but only after he was judged for a grievous sin. Although taking a census may not seem to be a serious transgression to us, David's decision to do so provoked a harsh response from the Lord. Perhaps he was motivated by pride or he may have been seeking his security in the strength of his armies rather than the promises of God. But it was the judgment that was levied for his actions that ultimately led to the selection of the temple site

I Chronicles 21:1- 22:1 (Ninth Quoter)

Satan rose up against Israel and incited David to take a census of Israel. So David said to Joab and the commanders of the troops, "Go and count the Israelites from Beersheba to Dan. Then report back to me so that I may know how many there are."

But Joab replied, "May the Lord multiply his troops a hundred times over. My lord the king, are they not all my lord's subjects? Why does my lord want to do this? Why should he bring guilt on Israel?"

The king's word, however, overruled Joab; so Joab left and went throughout Israel and then came back to Jerusalem. Joab reported the number of the fighting men to David: In all Israel there were one million one hundred thousand men who could handle a sword, including four

hundred and seventy thousand in Judah.

But Joab did not include Levi and Benjamin in the numbering, because the king's command was repulsive to him. This command was also evil in the sight of God; so he punished Israel.

Then David said to God, "I have sinned greatly by doing this. Now, I beg you, take away the guilt of your servant. I have done a very foolish thing."

The Lord said to Gad, David's seer, "Go and tell David, 'This is what the Lord says: I am giving you three options. Choose one of them for me to carry out against you.'"

So Gad went to David and said to him, "This is what the Lord says: 'Take your choice: three years of famine, three months of being swept away before your enemies, with their swords overtaking you, or three days of the sword of the Lord — days of plague in the land, with the angel of the Lord ravaging every part of Israel.' Now then, decide how I should answer the one who sent me."

David said to Gad, "I am in deep distress. Let me fall into the hands of the Lord, for his mercy is very great; but do not let me fall into the hands of men."

So the Lord sent a plague on Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell dead. And God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem. But as the angel was doing so, the Lord saw it and was grieved because of the calamity and said to the angel who was destroying the people, "**Enough!** Withdraw your hand." The angel of the Lord was then standing at the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite.

David looked up and saw the angel of the Lord standing between heaven and earth, with a drawn sword in his hand extended over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders, clothed in sackcloth, fell face down.

David said to God, "Was it not I who ordered the fighting men to be counted? I am the one who has sinned and done wrong. These are but sheep. What have they done? O Lord my God, let your hand fall upon me and my family, but do not let this plague remain on your people."

Then the angel of the Lord ordered Gad to tell David to go up and build an altar to the Lord on the threshing floor of Ornan, the Jebusite. So David went up in obedience to the word that Gad had spoken in the name of the Lord.

(Note: This is a long passage. You may want to break it here and have another person resume the story.)

While Ornan was threshing wheat, he turned and saw the angel; his four sons who were with him hid themselves. Then David approached, and when Ornan looked and saw him, he left the threshing floor and bowed down before David with his face to the ground.

David said to him, "Let me have the site of your threshing floor so I can build an altar to the Lord, that the plague on the people may be stopped. Sell it to me at the full price."

Ornan said to David, "Take it! let my lord the king do whatever pleases him. Look, I will give the oxen for the burnt offerings, the threshing sledges for the wood, and the wheat for the grain offering I will give all this."

But King David replied to Ornan, "No, I insist on paying the full price. I will not take for the Lord what is yours, or sacrifice a burnt offering that costs me nothing."

So David paid Ornan six hundred shekels (about 15 pounds) of gold for this site. David built an altar to the Lord there and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings. He called on the Lord and the Lord answered him with fire from heaven on the altar of burnt offering.

Then the Lord spoke to the angel, and he put his sword back into its sheath. At that time, when David saw that the Lord had answered him on the threshing floor or Ornan the Jebusite, he offered sacrifices there. The tabernacle of the Lord, which Moses had made in the desert, and the altar of burnt offering were at that time on the high place at Gibeon. But David could not go before it to inquire of God, because he was afraid of the sword of the angel of the Lord.

Then David said, "The house of the Lord God is to be here, and also the altar of burnt offering for Israel."

Narrator: Throughout the remainder of his life David took great joy in assembling workmen as well as collecting funds and materials for constructing the temple that his son Solomon would build.

I Chronicles 22:2-4, 6-7, 14-16 (Tenth Quoter)

So David gave orders to assemble the aliens living in Israel, and from among them he appointed stonecutters to prepare dressed stone for building the house of God He provided a large amount of iron to make nails for the doors of the gateways and for the fittings, and more bronze than could be weighted. He also provided more cedar logs than could be counted, for the Sidonians and Tyrians had brought large numbers of them to David.

Then he called for his son Solomon and charged him to build a house for the Lord, the God of Israel. David said to Solomon . . .

I have taken great pains to provide for the temple of the Lord a hundred thousand talents of gold (about 3,750 tons), a million talents of silver, (about 37,500 tons) quantities of bronze and iron too great to be weighted, and wood and stone. And you may add to them. You have many workmen: stonecutters, masons and carpenters, as well as men skilled in every kind of work in gold and silver, bronze and iron — craftsmen beyond number. Now begin the work, and the Lord be with you."

Narrator: David died at the age of 70, after 40 years of reigning as king. His last psalm is recorded in II Samuel 23. Halley's Handbook sums it up well. "It shows what David's mind was on, at the close of his glorious but troubled life; the justice of his reign as king; his creation of the Psalms; his devotion to God's Word and God's covenant with him of an eternal dynasty."

II Samuel 23:1-5

These are the last words of David:

The oracle of David son of Jesse, the oracle of the man exalted by the Most High,
the man anointed by the God of Jacob, Israel's singer of songs:

The Spirit of the Lord spoke through me; His word was on my tongue.
The God of Israel spoke, the Rock of Israel said to me:
When one rules over men in righteousness, when he rules in the fear of God
he is like the light of morning at sunrise on a cloudless morning,
like the brightness after rain that brings the grass from the earth.'
Is not my house right with God?
Has he not made me with an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part?
Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?

Narrator: The promise of an Eternal King to rise in David's family was repeated over and over: to David himself, to Solomon, again and again in the Psalms, and by the prophets, Amos, Isaiah, Micah, Jeremiah and Zechariah — over a period of some 500 years. But it would be approximately a thousand years before David's promised son would be born.

The New Testament bursts forth with this proclamation. "**A record of the genealogy of Jesus Christ THE SON OF DAVID** and son of Abraham. Dr. Luke recorded the announcement of his birth:

Luke 1:26-33 (Eleventh Quoter)

In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named **Joseph, a descendant of David**. The virgin's name was Mary. The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. But the angel said to her "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God. you will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the son of the Most High. The Lord **God will give him the throne of his father David**, and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever; his kingdom will never end."

Narrator: But the eternal kingdom could not be claimed until a ransom **had been paid** for man's sin. In His first coming, Jesus, David's promised Son, was born to die. He was destined to pay the price for David's sin, for your sin and my sin—and for the sins of the whole world. Many of the details describing the horrible death he would suffer were revealed in one of David's Psalms recorded in history about 1000 years before the crucifixion actually took place.

Psalms 22:1-21 (Twelfth Quoter)

My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?
Why are You so far from saving me, so far from the words of my groaning?
O my God, I cry out by day, but You do not answer, by night and am not silent.

Yet You are enthroned as the Holy One; You are the praise of Israel.
In You our fathers put their trust; they trusted and You delivered them.
They cried to You and were saved; in You they trusted and were not disappointed.

But I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people.

All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads;
"He trusts in the Lord; let the Lord rescue him. Let Him deliver Him, since he delights
in Him."

Yet You brought me out of the womb; You made me trust in You even at my mother's
breasts.

From birth I was cast upon You; from my mother's womb You have been my God.
Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

Many bulls surround me; strong bulls of Basin encircle me
Roaring lions tearing their prey open their mouths wide against me.
I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint.
My heart has turned to wax; it has melted away within me.
My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to the roof of my mouth;
You lay me in the dust of death.

Dogs have surrounded me; a band of evil men has encircled me,
they have pierced my hands and my feet.

I can count all my bones; people stare and gloat over me.
They divide my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing.

But You, O Lord, be not far off; O my strength, come quickly to help me.
Deliver my life from the sword, my precious life from the power of the dogs.
Rescue me from the mouth of the lions; save me from the horns of the wild oxen.

Narrator: But the grave could never hold the King of Glory! He rose from the dead, victorious over death and hell. And He lingers even now in the wings waiting to make His grand entrance as King of all kings and Lord of all lords. David also wrote of this anticipated coming on that glorious day.

Psalm 24:1-10 (Thirteenth Quoter)

The earth is the Lord's and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;
for He founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Who may ascend the hill of the Lord? Who may stand in His holy place?
He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to an idol or swear by what is false.
He will receive blessing from the Lord and vindication from God his Savior.
Such is the generation of those who seek Him, who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may
come in.

Who is the King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.
Lift up your heads, O you gates; lift them up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may
come in.

Who is he, this King of glory?
The Lord Almighty — He is the King of glory. Amen

Narrator: David was a man of many strengths and many weaknesses, but his unwavering faith and confidence in the integrity, love and mercy of the Almighty God of the universe earned for him the title — **a man after God's own heart.**

In conclusion, have someone (other than the narrator) present a short, pithy challenge emphasizing the joy and blessing of memorizing Scripture. Be sure to counter the "Oh, I could never do that!" syndrome, by stressing that the participants are not just a gifted few, but only people like them who committed to memorizing God's holy Word for themselves..

