



**November 7, 2024**

***Messy People – David: Overcoming the Mess of Criticism***

**Social Time**

**Thanks to those who brought Treats!**

**Prayer Requests and Update Prayer List**

**Opening Prayer**

**Billy Graham's Prayer for Our Nation**

*Our Father and our God, we praise you for your goodness to our nation, giving us blessings far beyond what we deserve. Yet we know all is not right with America. We deeply need a moral and spiritual renewal to help us meet the many problems we face. Convict us of sin. Help us turn to you in repentance and faith. Set our feet on the path of your righteousness and peace. We pray today for our nation's leaders. Give them the wisdom to know what is right and the courage to do it. You have said, "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord." May this be a new era for America, as we humble ourselves and acknowledge you alone as our Savior and Lord. This we pray in your holy name, Amen.*

**Hymns**

- ELW 800 – *Spirit of God Descend Upon My Heart*
- ELW 789 – *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*
- ELW 881 – *Let All Things Now Living*

**Bible Study Business**

**David – A Short Bio**

**Preparing for Discussion**

Look through your book and notice any scriptures that stick out for you. Make note of them here:

Also notice any stories that struck you, quotes that prompted you to think, questions this raised, or insights you gained over this past week that you might like to share. Make a note here:

## Discussion

1. What stories or scriptures in this week's readings really stood out for you?
2. How did David's faith guide his interactions with King Saul?
3. David wrote Psalm 62 including verses 5-7 found on p. 138
  - <sup>5</sup> *I depend on God alone; I put my hope in him.*
  - <sup>6</sup> *He alone protects and saves me; he is my defender, and I shall never be defeated.*
  - <sup>7</sup> *My salvation and honor depend on God; he is my strong protector; he is my shelter.*
4. When have you turned to God in times of difficulty or criticism by others?
5. Trusted friends can provide useful perspective in challenging times. Nathan gave David constructive criticism intended to help him. (Speaking Truth to Power)
  - What did Nathan do that was helpful in how he spoke with David?
  - What can we learn from David's response?
6. Jesus faced much criticism and hurt. On p. 141 the author cites 1 Peter 2:23  
*"When he (Jesus) was insulted, he did not answer back with an insult; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but placed his hopes in God, the righteous Judge."*
  - Why did Jesus remain quiet in the face of criticism?
  - Are there times when the best response is to remain quiet in the face of criticism?
  - Are there times when it is important to defend yourself?
7. We have choices to make when faced with criticism and hardship – how will we respond to it? What guides your responses in such situations?

## Key Take Away

When God gives us an important assignment, there are sure to be naysayers telling us that we're the wrong person, we've got the wrong idea, we're doing it the wrong way, or we're just not good enough. But like David, if we keep our eyes on God we can overcome criticism with confidence.

**For next time** Read and reflect on *Messy People*, pages 169-199 – the final chapter!

## Birthdays

### Closing Prayer

Dear God, thank you for good friends who tell us the truth about where and how we need to grow in our walk with you. Make us aware of your presence in our lives and teach us to listen for your voice above all the messiness of life.

### Lord's Prayer

## Upcoming Schedule

Date	Topic	Prior to the Session Read and Reflect on:
11/14	<i>Messy People</i> – Daniel Thriving in Messy Circumstances	Pages 169-199
11/21	<i>Honoring Our Neighbor's Faith</i> – Introduction	
11/28	Thanksgiving Break	

## David – A Short Bio

David was the most powerful king of Israel as recorded in the Bible.

- He ruled from 1010 BC to 970 BCE (40 years)
- His story is recorded in 1 Samuel 16 – 31, 2 Samuel 1 – 24, 1 Kings 1-2, 1 Chronicles 3, & 11-29 -- that's 60 books of scripture!
- He also is credited with writing many of the psalms.

### Young David

- David was the youngest son of Jesse and served as a shepherd during his youth. He is the great grandson of Ruth and Boez (Ruth 4:8 & Matthew 1:5).
- He played the harp and was devoted to God.
- The prophet, Samuel, acted on a message from God to anoint David as king while he was a boy (1 Samuel 16).
- At that time, King Saul was on the throne, and David didn't actually ascend to the throne as king until after Saul's death many years later (when he was 30 years old) (2 Samuel 1 & 2).
- David came to be known through the courage that he showed in killing Goliath, a Philistine (giant) who was threatening the people of Israel (1 Samuel 17).
- He served as a musician for King Saul, playing his lyre to soothe Saul's nerves.
- He became close friends with Saul's son, Jonathan, and married Saul's daughter, Michal (1 Samuel 18-20).



### David the Warrior

- Although King Saul admired David, he also felt threatened by him because of his success in battle. At one point people reportedly said, "Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands!" (1 Samuel 18:7) which made Saul jealous and fearful of David.
- Warned by Michal and Jonathan of Saul's plans to have him killed, David fled to the wilderness, (1 Samuel 19) where he gathered a team of warriors who worked with him to fight against the Philistines. He hid from Saul and was on the run for years.
- On several occasions David came in close proximity to King Saul and could have killed him, but chose not to out of respect for the fact that Saul was serving as God's anointed king (1 Samuel 24 and 26).



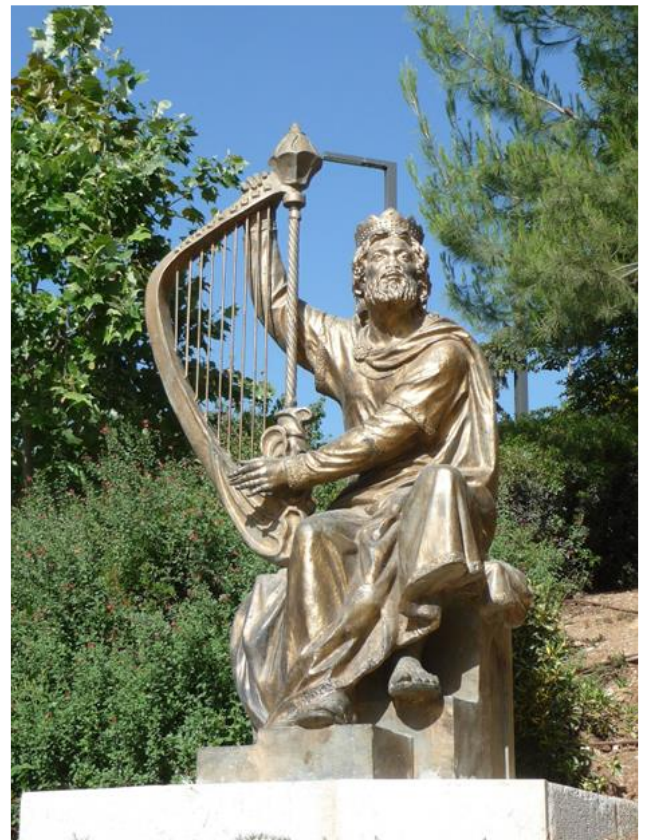
**Matteo Rosselli, 1620**  
**The triumphant David**  
**Galleria Palatina, Florence**

## King David

- After Saul and his son Jonathan are killed in battle, David is anointed king by the tribe of Judah and eventually by all the tribes of Israel (2 Samuel 1-2& 5).
- He conquers Jerusalem, makes it the capital of a united Israel, and brings the Ark of the Covenant to the city (2 Samuel 5&6).
- He abuses his power as king and commits adultery with Bathsheba, then to cover it up, arranges the death of her husband, Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 11-12).
- David's son Absalom later tries to overthrow him, but David returns to Jerusalem after Absalom's death to continue his reign (2 Samuel 13-19).
- David desires to build the Jerusalem temple but is denied because of the bloodshed of his reign (2 Samuel 7).
- He dies at age 70 and names Solomon, his son with Bathsheba, as his successor (1Kings 1&2).
- Despite his flaws, David is honored as the most successful and beloved king of Israel and listed as a forefather of Jesus in the Bible (Matthew 1:6).



**David (bust)  
Michelangelo**



**King David Sculpture  
on Mt. Zion**