



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 14

**Lesson Title:** A Man After God's Own Heart

**Take Home Point:** God is looking for someone after his own heart.

#### Warm-Up:

Suppose a friend of yours says, "I know the President's plan for our nation!" You likely would ask, "How do you know? Did you meet him and talk with him? Did he tell you?" "Well, no, we haven't met," your friend replies. Somewhat disappointed, you might ask, "Oh, so you've read his writings and understand what he intends to do and how he will do it." "I haven't done that either," is the response. By now you are exasperated. "How can you say you know his plan when you haven't spent time with him or read anything he's written?" Your friend calmly answers, "Oh, I just listen to others talk about him and let my feelings tell me what is true." Will you believe he knows the President's plan?

**Read:** Acts 13:22

#### Observation (What happened?):

Why did the Israelites want a king even though Samuel had been a just and fair judge for them throughout his life?

What was David's response to temptation on the two occasions he could have killed Saul?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

How would you describe Samuel's heart? How about Saul's heart? How about David's heart?

What does it mean to be "after God's heart?"

#### Insight:

To be a person "after God's heart" means to want to know him, love him, obey him, and become more like him. God tells us the characteristics of his heart throughout the Bible. Isaiah 1:17-18 says, *"Learn to do good. Seek justice. Arrest oppressors. Defend orphans. Plead the case of widows. 'Come on now, let's discuss this!' says the LORD. 'Though your sins are bright red, they will become as white as snow. Though they are dark red, they will become as white as wool.'*" David describes God's heart in Psalm 103. Paul gives the traits of a heart after God in Galatians 5 (NIV): *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control."* Best of all, these traits are a gift from God when we seek him: "God's divine power has given us everything we need for life and for godliness. This power was given to us through knowledge of the one who called us by his own glory and integrity." (2 Peter 1:3).

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

How can you know the heart of God? How has he revealed his heart to you?

Write down one thing you will do this week to get closer to God and know his heart.