

SUNDAY SCHOOL MATERIALS FOR ADULTS

LESSON 11

Create in me a



clean
heart,

O God;
and renew a

right
spirit

within
me.



Psalms 51:10

KING DAVID'S DEEP REVERENCE

Scripture Texts: 2 Samuel 23:1-17; 2 Samuel 22:1-30

God held David in a higher position than all the kinds of the earth. He showed great reverence and fear to the God of Israel, because he remembered His greatness at all times. Read **Psalm 89:1-37**. God promised an everlasting Saviour. He saves every repentant sinner as He did David. A good ruler rules in the fear of God. We must reverence holy things.

MEMORY VERSE: *God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be had in reverence of all them that are about him.* — **Psalm 89:7**

What a Ruler Should Be

2 Samuel 23:1-2 Last words of David—presumed to be his last preserved writings. David had been chosen and placed by God in his position as leader of Israel (**1 Samuel 16**). **The Spirit of the Lord spake by me. . . .** David was a prophet, a spokesman for God (**Acts 2:30**). Who can read his Psalms attentively and not recognize the voice of God, sometimes in foretelling events, or in revealing His nature, or in promises, etc.? These are things David did not learn from a Bible. He wrote them. He could have learned them only from the Spirit of God, for **the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God**. God reveals them to men **by His Spirit**. David received them because he was a prophet and in contact with God. For **the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God . . . they are spiritually discerned** (**1 Corinthians 2:9-14**). It was the Holy Spirit who spoke personally with David, not a mere influence impressing him.

2 Samuel 23:3-4 **The Rock of Israel** told David that rules **must be just**—honest, impartial, right, fair, judging a matter solely on its merits, never by self-interest. **Ruling in the fear of God**. How would the world be changed if all rulers acted as those who will give account to God? For they surely will. This applies not only to kings and presidents, but to governors, judges, mayors, clerks, school board members, and all. Rulers of this kind are a blessing to the people whom they represent. They are as welcome as a cool breeze on a hot day, or a cold drink of water when one is very thirsty. David said they are as welcome as the dawn, a cloudless morning, or tender growing grass.

2 Samuel 23:5 David modestly disclaims measuring perfectly to the standard he had just spoken. Yet, in spite of his shortcoming, God had made the covenant with him (**2 Samuel 7**). He clearly saw it as an established and everlasting promise and plan. He knew it meant his salvation in the promise of a Saviour, a King with an everlasting kingdom. In this covenant, David anchored his deepest hope and desire.

David accepted the promise by first accepting the Promiser. His wholehearted acceptance of Him opened the way for God to reveal to him the truths he expressed prophetically in his writings. Unless we accept God wholeheartedly, none of His promises belong to us.

An Offering of Water

2 Samuel 23:13-15 There was war again with the Philistines. David was with his soldiers hiding and resting in the cave of Adullam. He had used this cave as a refuge long before when fleeing from King Saul (**1 Samuel 22:1-2**). Being thirsty, he remembered the cool, refreshing water he used to drink when a boy from the well at Bethlehem. Now Bethlehem was in the hands of the enemy. David's men heard him speak his great desire for a drink from that well.

2 Samuel 23:16-17 David's people loved him. His **three mighty men**, Adino, Eleazar, and Shammah, unknown to David, managed to slip through the enemy lines and draw some water from that well. If we truly love the Lord, we will go to any length to accomplish what we know He desires.

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When the water was brought to David, he realized the risk of life it had cost the men. This was more than mere water. It was blood and life, a gift too precious for him to use. It was the sacred symbol of **the blood of the men that went in jeopardy of their lives**. David treated it just as the law of God said blood must be treated (**Deuteronomy 12:16**). He **poured it out unto the Lord**, an offering in worship to Him.

Hope for Sinners

Much about David is revealed in **2 Samuel 22**. **The Lord is my rock . . . fortress . . . deliverer. . .** Here is trust. **Horn of my salvation . . . my Saviour. . .** From what was David saved? Is there any joy, strength, or confidence here? Did David experience the Presence of God, and personal contact with Him, or not? Find words in the Scripture to support each answer. David had sinned grievously. Does anything here suggest whether or not God forgave him?

David was a sinner. In **2 Samuel 12:13** and **Psalms 51** we find his confession and repentance. What do repentance and faith always bring? David's faith was placed in God, the Father, and in the promise of a Savior Who was to come. This was the equivalent of our faith now which is placed in the Saviour Who has come, the Lord Jesus Christ. Was David's sin covered? What hope for sinners now is seen in David's experience (**1 John 1:9**)?

Reverence

David was a man of fine sensibilities. His heart was easily touched. Common things spoke to him a message of their Maker To him the stars spoke of the glory of God. Caring for sheep reminded him of the Father's care for him. The strength of the waves of the sea turned his thoughts to the greater power of God. He had a keen sense of his own responsibility to God. In times of trouble or of joy, he turned to the Lord.

With David's love for God was coupled reverence for Him. He walked carefully in God's Presence and kept his hands from careless touching of sacred things. No doubt these attitudes of heart were strong influences helping turn him back to God when he fell into sin. As much as our reverence for God and holy things is lost, so much is our chance of being saved lost.

In these days of much and growing blasphemy and disrespect for holy things, how can we teach and be taught reverence? For the Church of God? For God's property? For the true pastors of God's people? For the people of God? For our home and parents? For the Sunday school teacher? There is no substitute for reverence.

JUST A THOUGHT

**No one is a failure in this world who lightens
a burden for someone else.**

This lesson is adapted from a lesson by Mary Lehmann.
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