

## OUR PICTURE OF GOD

### Once Upon A Time, Part 5

October 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011

1 Samuel 8:18-20 (NIV) "When that day comes, you will cry out for relief from the king you have chosen, but the LORD will not answer you in that day.' But the people refused to listen to Samuel. 'No!' they said. 'We want a king over us. Then we will be like all the other nations, with a king to lead us & to go out before us and fight our battles.'"

The nation of Israel quickly forgot all the incredible things God had done for them – just like us

King Saul lacked the character and heart to truly lead God's people

David was passionate for God throughout his life

There is a time in almost every Christian's life where the God of the universe took central focus; all else is on the peripheral of our lives

Unfortunately that is something we most often look back on instead of something that is a normal way or part of life

It doesn't take long for all of the "things" in our lives to become our central focus and for God to become peripheral in our lives

God allows us to decide how we relate to Him

David was able to sustain his passion for God over the long haul of life

#### Major Obstacles To Sustaining Passion

- Our emotions are inconsistent
- Distractions

Psalms 36:5-7 (NIV) "Your love, O LORD, reaches to the heavens, Your faithfulness to the skies. Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, Your justice like the great deep. O LORD, You preserve both man and beast. How priceless is Your unfailing love! Both high and low among men find refuge in the shadow of Your wings."

Everyone of us in the core of our being has a picture of who we think God is and how we relate to Him

That picture determine how we trust, obey, and relate to God throughout our lives

"The most important thing about a person is what comes to their mind when they think about God." A.W. Tozer

Our picture of God is often messed up

Question must ask: "Is my picture of God, the picture found in the Bible?"

We are tempted to define what God looks like based on our temporal ability to determine life's circumstances

David committed to define who God was based on how He had revealed Himself

We must take the necessary steps to get to know the God of the Bible as He has revealed Himself to us through Scripture

We must ask God to take His truth off the pages of Scripture and help us put it in our minds and hearts so that is the picture that comes to our mind when we think of God

Romans 8:2

4 key words God uses to describe Himself through David: l oving, f aithful, r ighteous, and j ust

The circumstances of life won't always tell us this description of God is true

If we do not have an accurate picture of how God has revealed Himself through Scripture and history, the junk of life we face will throw us into a tail spin

When we understand who God really is, He is worthy of our sustained passion

What does your picture of God look like?

**My Next Step Today Is:**

- God, I commit to developing an accurate picture of You as You have revealed Yourself through the Bible and time.
- I will stop trying define who God is based on my circumstances
- I will memorize Psalm 36:5-7
- I/we plan to attend the "Meet the Pastor's" lunch on Sun, Oct 30<sup>th</sup> after the 11:15 service