

**"WHAT'S IN YOUR HEART?" : SYNOPSIS OF AN ADDRESS BY DAVID KLEIN,
PRESENTED AT FBC ON SUNDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2009**

INTRODUCTION

The media has recently had a field day in dealing with the ascent to kingship of Barack Obama in the United States and, in our own country, Jacob Zuma : two individuals who, at some time, would have each set their hearts on assuming the supreme position of political power in their respective countries.

It is sobering to compare the way modern secular leaders aspire to becoming kings with the way in which the biblical King David rose to his position of kingship.

When the Lord sent Samuel to seek out his chosen one for kingship over Israel from amongst the sons of Jesse, Samuel immediately assumed that because of his appearance and height Eliab would be the one. But the Lord rejected Eliab for "(t)he Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." (1 Samuel 16 : 7b).

Eventually David was brought in from the fields, where he was tending the sheep, "ruddy, with a fine appearance and handsome features." (1 Samuel 16 : 12). It was he who was chosen.

DAVID'S HEART

What was in David's heart?

This is what he wrote:

"How can a young man keep his
way pure?
By living according to your
Word.
I seek you with all my heart;
Do not let me stray from
your commands.
I have hidden your Word in my
heart
That I might not sin against
you." (Psalm 119 : 9 – 11).

And this he wrote:

"Oh, how I love your law!
I meditate on it all day long.
Your commands make me
wiser than my enemies,
for they are ever with me.
I have more insight than all
my teachers,
For I meditate on your
statutes.
I have more understanding
than the elders,
for I obey your precepts.
I have kept my feet from

every evil path
 so that I might obey your
 word.
 I have not departed from
 your laws,
 for you yourself have taught
 me.
 How sweet are your words to
 my taste,
 sweeter than honey to my
 mouth!
 I gain understanding from
 your precepts;
 therefore I hate every wrong
 path. " (Psalm 119 : 97 - 104).

Here was a young man who looked after sheep, was not sophisticated nor educated. He was the least in the family of Jesse.

When war broke out and the others left, he stayed on and wrote and composed songs on the hills whilst he looked after the sheep. There he found God. He pondered the meaning of life, read God's law, mulled it over, thought, memorised, composed, allowing God's word to become ingrained in him.

His only downfall came when he set his heart not on what God wanted but on what he wanted. But all the time he had his heart set on God, he was successful. God found him to have a heart after God's own heart.

CONCLUSION

We need to hide God's Word in our hearts. This involves taking the Word of God seriously.

There is no reason we should be any different from David.

We are blessed today with the widespread availability of the bible. Certainly we have much more opportunity than David ever had to read God's Word : we have the Word of God in its fullness – "the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints. To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory." (Colossians 1 : 26 – 27).

David hid God's Word in his heart. Let us this year do that and then wait for God to engineer circumstances in which He may use us, as he did in the case of David.

It is true, as we sang to our Lord:

"There is none like you
 No-one can touch my heart like you do
 I would search for all eternity long
 and find
 there is none like you".