



Dear heavenly Father, we worship You this morning with our tithe and offerings. We pray for the courage to put You first in our lives. In the name of Jesus, amen.

FEBRUARY 13, 2021

When David put God First

Putting God first can be difficult. What can we learn from David that will help us put God first in our lives today?

King David is remembered as a hero in the history of the Israelites. His greatest moments were those when he accepted the call to put God first. When his fellow Israelites were shaking in fear from the giant and his insults, David put God before his own protection. Picking up a few stones and facing Goliath in the name of Jehovah seemed foolish to others. But David put God first and God delivered him in that battle.

Later in the story, David had been anointed king, had defeated the giant, had worked in the palace and had even married the king's daughter. You would be excused for thinking his life went from glory to glory after all this. It did not. King Saul persecuted him as the greatest terrorist in the kingdom and every Israelite soldier who saw Goliath fall to the ground were now trying to capture David, dead or alive.

Nevertheless, even in these frustrating and confusing circumstances when all seems lost and God seems to have disappeared, David put God first. When he entered the camp where king Saul was sleeping, he could have killed the tyrant and taken over the throne. He did not. God would not have approved revenge in this way, so David put God first and went back into hiding.

David didn't always put God first. The adultery with Bathsheba and her husband's killing were clear examples of sins David committed when he put himself first. But eventually David takes responsibility for his sins, repents and puts God first again. By the end of his life, he cannot accept that his house looks better than the house of God. He vows to do everything he can so God's house is better than his palace.

David put God first. His example compels us to do the same. As the deacons collect our tithe and offerings, we are challenged to put God first.