

Introduction: Leadership Matters

- Isaiah 55:3–4 points us to David as an **example of leadership** that reflects God's heart.
- In contrast to Saul (force) and Absalom (manipulation), David led **as a shepherd**, not as a tyrant or a politician.
- We are all leaders in some way—**of ourselves, families, or others**—and must choose how we lead.

Point 1: Bad Models of Leadership

- **Saul's leadership** was driven by **force and fear** (1 Samuel 19:9–10).
 - Always had a spear in hand—a symbol of control.
- **Absalom's leadership** was based on **manipulation and deceit** (2 Samuel 15:1–6).
 - Used charm and grievance to steal people's hearts.

Point 2: David's Leadership - Like a Shepherd

- David's model: **guard, guide, provide**.
- Psalm 23 shows that David both **saw God as his Shepherd** and **modeled shepherd-like leadership**.
- He cared for others at personal cost (e.g., risking his life for sheep; delegating responsibility even in absence).

Point 3: Five Godly Traits of David's Leadership

- **Humility** – Saw himself as a sheep under God (Psalm 23:1).
- **Responsibility** – Answered to God as his judge (Psalm 9:7–9).
- **Respect for others** – Honoured Saul despite injustice (2 Samuel 1:11–12); allowed critics to speak (2 Samuel 16).
- **Diligence and integrity** – Led with skill and heart (Psalm 78:70–72); made decisions based on righteousness.
- **Worship and obedience** – Listened to God (1 Samuel 30); lived as "a man after God's own heart" and did God's will (Acts 13:22).

Conclusion & Life Applications

- Leadership is very important - God wants us to be leaders like David
- Avoid the mistakes of Saul and Absalom, and lead like David - like a Shepherd

Questions

1. What does it mean to you that David saw himself as a sheep before he saw himself as a shepherd?
2. Can you think of a time when someone led you like a shepherd—caring, guiding, or protecting you? What stood out to you?
3. Which of David's five leadership traits (humility, responsibility, respect, diligence, worship) do you most want to grow in, and why?

Verses Used in this Sermon

God wants us to lead like David - like a **sheep** and a **shepherd**

Isa 55:3-4 NKJV - "3 Incline your ear, and come to Me. Hear, and your soul shall live; And I will make an everlasting covenant with you--The sure mercies of David. 4 Indeed I have given him as a witness to the people, A leader and commander for the people."

2 wrong but common types of leadership:

- Bullying - Saul
- Manipulation and deceit - Absalom

Both try to override people's freewill and don't respect people or trust God

David Started As The Shepherd & Caretaker Of Jesse's Sheep

1Sa 16:11 NKJV - "11 And Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all the young men here?" Then he said, "There remains yet the youngest, and there he is, keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him. For we will not sit down till he comes here.""

1Sa 17:20 NKJV - "20 So David rose early in the morning, left the sheep with a keeper, and took the things and went as Jesse had commanded him. And he came to the camp as the army was going out to the fight and shouting for the battle."

He Became The Shepherd & Caretaker Of God's People

5 Traits of David's Leadership

1. **Humble** - He was a **sheep** and a **shepherd**. Shepherding is a humble profession. **Ps 23:1**
2. **Responsible** - A healthy awareness of judgement day - shepherds are always accountable to their boss.

Psa 9:7-9 NKJV - "7 But the LORD shall endure forever; He has prepared His throne for judgment. 8 He shall judge the world in righteousness, And He shall administer judgment for the peoples in uprightness. 9 The LORD also will be a refuge for the oppressed, A refuge in times of trouble."

3. **Respectful** - of authority AND other people. **2Sa 1:11-12, 17, 19** NKJV - "11 Therefore David took hold of his own clothes and tore them, and so did all the men who were with him. 12 And they mourned and wept and fasted until evening for Saul and for Jonathan his son, for the people of the LORD and for the house of Israel, because they had fallen by the sword. ... 17 Then David lamented with this lamentation over Saul and over Jonathan his son, ... 19 "The beauty of Israel is slain on your high places! How the mighty have fallen!"

1 Sam 24:1-6 - David spares Saul's life and shows respect

4. **Diligent** - Shepherds must be skilled and diligent. Sheep die if I fail. **Psa 78:70-72** NKJV - "70 He also chose David His servant, And took him from the **sheepfolds**; 71 From following the ewes that had young He brought him, To **shepherd** Jacob His people, And Israel His inheritance. 72 So he shepherded them according to the integrity of his heart, And guided them by the skillfulness of his hands."

Ps 23:3 - he led people in "paths of righteousness"

5. **Worshipping and listening** for His will - **Act 13:22** NKJV - "22 "And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'"

1 Sam 16:14-23 - David the worshipper causes demons to leave Saul

1 Sam 30:8 - Ziklag and David inquiring of God for guidance

This played out in his relationships and contrast with two other "kings" - Saul and Absalom.

Saul:

1Sa 19:9-10 NKJV - "9 Now the distressing spirit from the LORD came upon Saul as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing music with his hand. 10 Then Saul sought to

pin David to the wall with the spear, but he slipped away from Saul's presence; and he drove the spear into the wall. So David fled and escaped that night."

1Sa 18:10-11 NKJV - "10 And it happened on the next day that the distressing spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied inside the house. So David played music with his **hand**, as at other times; but there was a spear in Saul's **hand**. 11 And Saul cast the spear, for he said, "I will pin David to the wall!" But David escaped his presence twice."

Absalom:

Absalom acted manipulatively:

2Sa 15:1, 4-6, 10 NKJV - "1 After this it happened that Absalom provided himself with chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him. ... 4 Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice." 5 And so it was, whenever anyone came near to bow down to him, that he would put out his **hand** and take him and kiss him. 6 In this manner Absalom acted toward all Israel who came to the king for judgment. So Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel. 10 Then Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, "As soon as you hear the sound of the trumpet, then you shall say, 'Absalom reigns in Hebron!' ""

2 Sam 15:14 - David flees Jerusalem rather than engage in a destructive war with Absalom

2 Sam 16:5-14 - Shimei curses David. David doesn't stop him, but trusts God to bless him - see verse 12 and compare 1 Pe 4:14 - the Spirit of God and glory rests on you when you are insulted for Christ

2 Sam 18:5 - David instructs his men not to harm Absalom

2 Sam 18:33 - David mourns for Absalom

A Summary of Shepherd Leadersjip

Psa 23:1-6 NKJV - "1 A Psalm of David. The LORD is my **shepherd**; I shall not want. 2 He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. 3 He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name's sake. 4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever."