

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?