



Faltering Faith: **David's Life among the Philistines**

1 Samuel 26 - 29

Study Notes Handout: Week Fifteen

But David thought to himself, 'One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines... So David went...' 1 Samuel 27:1

Man is the only animal that runs faster when he has lost his way. (Rollo May)

Introduction:

Many have tried to diagnose David at this stage of his life. Was he depressed, afraid, anxious, stressed, or all of the above? In today's Scripture we see him on the run again and we ask ourselves if we, like David, are also prone to run. Knowing our Deliverer, being conscious of what drives us and seeing the consequences of a double-life can deter us from running.

Sermon Notes:

1. David's Deliverer - God

(17:47; 18:14; 19:10, 19; 20:32; 21:15; 22:5; 23:10, 14, 16, 27; 24:22; 25:33; 26:25; 29:9; 30:6 - 9)

2. David's Default - Plan

(19:10 - 12, 18; 20:1; 21:1, 10; 22:1, 3, 5; 23:13, 29; 24:22; 25:1; 27:1 - 2, 7)

3. David's Double - Life

(21:2, 12 - 13; 25:21 - 22; 27:1, 7; 29:3, 9; 30:3 - 6)

Questions for Reflection / Discussion:

1. What would you identify as your default plan when you stop living by faith?
2. What indications are there in your faith journey that you have lived the double-life at times?
3. What is a key lesson that you learn from David as you witness him running the wrong direction?



David's Fear of the Lord: The Righteous are Rewarded

Key Verses:

Afterward, David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the corner of Saul's robe.

1 Samuel 24:5

However, because of the LORD, I will never lift my hand against the LORD's anointed. Instead, take the spear and the water jug by his head, and let's go."

1 Samuel 26:11

Friends, do not avenge yourselves; instead, leave room for His wrath. For it is written: Vengeance belongs to Me; I will repay, says the Lord.

Romans 12:19

[First Samuel 26](#) is in many ways reminiscent of chapter 24. As we have seen, chapter 24 described Saul's inadvertent visit to the very cave in which David and his men were hiding, and how David not only refused to take Saul's life but also prevented his men from doing so. . . . The most prominent parallel is David's refusal to lift up his hand against the Lord's anointed on both occasions ([24:6](#), [10](#), [12](#); [26:9-11](#), [23](#)). The focus of the narrative in chapter 26, however, is different from that of chapter 24. In chapter 24, the central theme was a test of David's leadership. Would David take advantage of an unexpected opportunity to seize the throne prematurely? In chapter 26, the focus is more on Saul and his followers, and the question is whether or not they will persist in refusing to recognize David as the one whom the Lord had chosen to replace Saul as king.¹

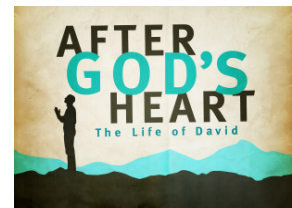
David Spares Saul at the Hill of Hakilah (26:1-25)

SUPPORTING IDEA:

David again refuses to kill Saul, whom he referred to as "the Lord's anointed," when he could easily do so.

Questions or Insights for Discussion:

- 1)
- 2)



1. *Cornerstone Biblical Commentary – Volume 4a: 1-2 Samuel: 1 & 2 Samuel*, (Carol Stream, Illinois: Tyndale House, 2009), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 230.