

Reflection and Discussion

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| Sermon Series | Pursuit, A study of David |
| Sermon Title | Compromise |
| Bible Texts | 1 Samuel 27, 29 |
| Date | November 5, 2023 |

CONNECT – Getting to know one another

- Question 1: Have you ever doubted God's protection?
- Question 2: Was there a time when God seemed far away in your life? Afterward, could you look back and see how God protected and provided for you?

EQUIP – Understanding God's word

David's dilemma - This was a difficult time for David. Israel was ruled by a deranged king who was preoccupied with killing his rival, and most of the towns in Israel remained loyal to this king. David also now had an army of 600 men, together with their families, that he was responsible for. How could he keep them all safe? (27:1-7)

- Question 3: Why did David choose to hide among the enemies of Israel? Did his strategy work? (27:4)
- Question 4: A time in the wilderness can seem like it will never end, and David was unaware that Saul would soon die in battle. Was he having a crisis of faith when he said Saul would kill him?
- Question 5: Did David seek God's will or was he acting on his own?
- Question 6: In what ways was David's life compromised by his decision to live in Philistine territory?
- Question 7: How did God use this time to prepare David for becoming king?

**Pretended loyalty - David remained fiercely loyal to Israel and (amazingly) to Saul. (26:23-24)
But to live in Philistine territory, he had to pretend loyalty to Achish. As he was raiding villages among the enemies of Judah, he reported something entirely different to Achish. (27:8-12)**

- Question 8: Which were the tribes that David was raiding? Which regions did he report to Achish that he was raiding?
- Question 9: Was David acting as a war-time king protecting his country? Was he right in lying to Achish?
- Question 10: Did David's subterfuge work? Did Achish want David as an ally?

(In between - 1 Samuel 28 describes Saul as he was starting to realize that his own time of reckoning was near and inescapable.)

The decisive battle ahead - By moving into Philistine territory and deceiving Achish about his loyalties, David was temporarily safe from both Saul and the Philistines. But a critical test was coming. (29:1-11)

- Question 11: The Philistines gathered for war. Who were they preparing to attack?
- Question 12: Why did the Philistine leaders refuse to have David fight alongside them?
- Question 13: Was David actually willing to fight for the Philistines against Israel, or were the Philistine leaders onto something that Achish couldn't see?
- Question 14: How was God protecting David in this situation? Why was this important for his future as king?
- Question 15: Where did David and his men go when Achish told them to go in peace?

DISCIPLESHIP – Becoming and doing

- Question 16: Faced with his dilemma, David made the choice to flee to a place where Saul would surely not dare to go. It worked. In what ways was this the wrong decision?
- Question 17: What can you learn from David's experiences that will help you make the best decisions?
- Question 18: Are there situations you have faced where you feared that God would not come through for you? Have you made choices you regretted?
- Question 19: What do we learn about God from this passage?
- Question 20: What are some ways you can strengthen your trust in God?