

24. Where did David ask Achish to let him and his people live? (Read 1 Samuel 27:5-6)
25. To whom had Ziklag once belonged? To which tribe did David belong? (Read Joshua 15:20 & 31)
26. How long did David stay in Ziklag? (Read 1 Samuel 27:7)
27. What three nations did David and his men attack? (Read 1 Samuel 27:8)
28. Who were the children of Israel to drive out of the land of Canaan? (Read Numbers 33:52)
29. Were the Geshurites and Gerzites driven out when Israel entered the Promise Land? (Read Joshua 13:2,13)
30. Who was commanded to kill the Amalekites, but didn't? (Read 1 Samuel 15:1,3,19)
31. Would you conclude from Numbers, Joshua and Samuel that the Geshurites, Gerzites, and Amalekites were Israel's enemy? How about God's?
32. Why did David kill all these people? (1 Samuel 27:9 & 11)
33. What did David tell Achish about his raids? Was it true? (Read 1 Samuel 27:10 & 12)
34. Why was Achish glad to hear that David was raiding his own people? How did this destroy David's testimony with the Philistines?
35. How was David's testimony damaging to his men?
36. Although God had commanded that the Geshurites, Gerzites and Amalekites to be killed, had God called David at this point in his life to carry out God's plan?
37. Although it appears that David was successful during this time by destroying God's enemies, do you think God was pleased with him? Why?

Second Baptist Church
Sunday School Lessons
Week 7 out of 18

THE TENDER WARRIOR, THE LIFE OF DAVID

1 Samuel 27 & 30

DAVID'S DEEP DEPRESSION

Depression. Even the sound of the word is discouraging. Have you ever noticed that depression usually comes after you have had an exhilarating experience? After you have felt such great joy? We know that depression is an emotion, and we also know that when we make decisions based solely on our emotions, we get into trouble. There are a few tools of Satan so effective as depression. Now don't get me wrong. There is no sin in becoming depressed. The problem occurs when we allow depression to make our decisions, and that's easy to do. God knew this when He wrote, "My brethren, count it all, joy when ye fall into divers (various) temptations (trials)." (James 1:2). Consider depression and discouragement joy? That sounds assured. But God knew because of a sin-cursed world, we would have discouragement and depression. But He also knew He would use these things to help us become more like Him. That's where the joy comes in. If still in doubt, read verses 3 and 4 of James 1. If we allow God, He will use these moments of despair to perfect us. Remember, God always balances our lives. For every burden, there is a blessing. For every loss, there is a gain. For every pain, there is a pleasure.

1. Think about the last time that you were depressed or felt discouraged. How did you handle the situation?
 2. What was David's complaint? Was it true? (Read Psalm 10:1, 13:1, 22:1)
- I. THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF DAVID'S DEPRESSION. David didn't just fall into depression. He is coming off a spiritual and emotional high. He could have killed Saul twice, but didn't. He could have killed Nabal, but didn't. And in all three cases, David had experienced spiritual victories and joy. He is in a vulnerable spot.**
3. With whom did David talk the situation over? From whose perspective was David looking at the situation? (Read 1 Samuel 27:1)

A. *He Had An Enemy He Could Not Master.* Although Saul had promised twice to stop pursuing David, he never kept his word. Saul was a liar, and David knew it.

4. Describe the event that took place in this passage? (Read 1 Samuel 26:7-9, 16-17)
5. What future event did David predict for his life? Was he right?. (Read 1 Samuel 27:1)
6. How did David decide to solve his problem? What do you see is wrong with David's plan? (Read 1 Samuel 27:1)
7. Have you ever had a "Saul" that "dogged your heels" day and night?
8. Who is your real enemy? (Read Ephesians 6:12)

B. *David Had An Expectation He Could Not Meet.* When David retreated into the territory of the enemy, he didn't go alone. What an awesome responsibility David had! It was almost more than he could bear.

9. How many households was David responsible for? How do you see this as an overwhelming problem for him? (Read 1 Samuel 27:2-3)
10. To which Philistine territory did they go? What was significant about it?
11. What has God's prophet told David about going into Philistine territory? (Read 1 Samuel 22:5)
12. Did David look to the Lord or to the world for help?
13. What pressures do you have in your life that pushes you toward "defecting" the faith?

II. THE COST OF DAVID'S DEFECTION. We often think that the pleasures of sin are obvious, but sometimes the pleasure is simply the release from pressure. When we are sometimes under the great responsibility of walking with God, and then we choose the wrong direction, suddenly there can be a great release of pressure. We think this is great, but beware! Trouble is always ahead when you step out of God's will.

A. *He Deceived Himself.* The repetition of disobedience shows us the power of sin. Though it has made a fool of us before, we often still return to it.

14. When David fled to Gath, what happened? (Read 1 Samuel 27:4)
15. Was David really safe in Gath? Why?
16. Does running away from your problems ever solve them?

B. *He Dishonored God.* David was God's anointed and yet he joined himself with an idolater. You cannot befriend the world and bring honor to the Lord.

17. Who had anointed David king of Israel? (Read 1 Samuel 16:13)
18. Who confirmed David's kingship? (Read 1 Samuel 18:4)
19. Did Saul know that David would replace him as king?
20. What had David once believed about the Lord? (Read Psalm 37:39-40)
21. Was David looking at his circumstances or to the Lord?
22. What does God want us to do in order to please Him? (Read Hebrews 10:38 & 11:6)
23. How did David dishonor the Lord? How can we dishonor the Lord?

C. *He Destroyed His Testimony.* In order to remain in the land of the Philistines, David had to deceive Achish by pretending. And pretending leads to lying, and lying leads to covering up so you won't be found out or made accountable. David was good at all three.

38. Does zealous service for the church and the Lord compensate for a sinful heart?

III. DEALING WITH PRESSURE AND DEPRESSION. We have watched David allow depression to drag him further and further into sin. And sin always requires payment. But God is faithful to hear our cries of repentance.

39. What happened to families of David and his men?
(Read 1 Samuel 30:1-3,5)

40. What now caused David to be depressed? Had his men lost trust in him? Where did David now go to get help?
(Read 1 Samuel 30:4,6-8)

41. Did the Lord come to David's aid? (Read 1 Samuel 30:17-20)

42. How did David reward those of Israel who had been loyal to him? What does this passage say to you about what kind of king David would be? (Read 1 Samuel 30:26-31)

43. Look carefully at verse 26. David called the Amalekites God's enemies, not his. Is David's perspective now in the right place? Where is his depression?

CONCLUSION: Perhaps you have known the joys and the delights of walking with Christ, but in a moment of despondency you've opted for the wrong fork in the road. But, like David, you have grown tired of feeling displaced and the depression is killing you. Reach up. Come home. The Father is waiting at the door, ready to forgive and willing to restore. It's time to return and to strengthen yourself again in the Lord.

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