

No Reason to Doubt

1 Samuel 27:1-12

INTRO:

Are we simply the product of the decisions we make? What if we make a wrong decision? Isn't God still working all things together for good in my life if I am one who loves Him and am one of the called according to His purpose? This passage is here to answer this question for us.

I. David Lied To Himself (v. 1)

II. David's Actions (v.2-4)

III. David's Deception (v. 5-12)

I. David Lied To Himself (v. 1)

1 Samuel 27:1 *“And David said in his heart, ‘Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.’”*

A. We saw the foreshadowing of this decision in the last chapter. Still, the reasoning we read here is flawed and brought David to a wrong conclusion. It caused David to doubt Yahweh his God. This is a terrible sin we too are often prone to commit. It is wrong because it calls God a liar and accuses Him of deception.

B. The first thing we need to discover here is that there is a conversation that we carry on with ourselves. David spoke to his heart. Achish did this too.

v.12 *“So Achish believed David, saying, ‘He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever.’”*

When we talk to ourselves we need to be sure we are telling ourselves the truth. The only way we can do this is by making sure we are thinking Biblically.

C. David told himself something that was not true.

“And David said in his heart, ‘Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines;”

1. Was there one piece of evidence to demonstrate this was true? Several times David face trials and terrors the likes of which we have never experienced. Yet, God had never forsaken His servant. Several times Yahweh delivered David right at the nick of time. Remember how he reasoned with Saul when he prepared to face Goliath?

1 Samuel 17:37 *“Moreover David said, The LORD, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ And Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you!’”*

Should David not reasoned like this? “The LORD delivered me from Doeg who tattled on my going to the priests. Yahweh who delivered him from the hand of Achish the King the first time he fled into Philistia. Yahweh even defeated the evil desires of the Ziphites who keep betraying him and even delivered King Saul into his hand these two times. Will not he continue to deliver me from Saul’s hand?” This would have been good and truthful reasoning. But David let the difficulties he lived through pile up and tempt him to doubt God’s loving kindness.

2. Was there any evidence to demonstrate it was untrue? There was much evidence in David’s experience to demonstrate that what he told himself was untrue. Samuel, the prophet of Yahweh, anointed David to be the next king in Israel. It was by God’s providence He ended up in the palace. It also was through Yahweh’s protection and provision David took on and killed Goliath. God delivered David every time Saul sought him. Perhaps the greatest evidence against this thought is found in David’s own writings as in **Psalm 23:4**.

“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.”

II. David’s Actions (v.2-4)

vs.2-4 “Then David arose and went over with the six hundred men who were with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, each man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal’s widow. And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.”

A. When we tell ourselves lies, we will likely act on that lie. David did. Remember how the true and living God kept David from making a big mistake in **1 Samuel 25**? Now, Yahweh allows David to make an error. He let him act on his faulty thinking.

B. A second thought we need to see is that while what David did looked wise on the surface, it really wasn’t. David also told himself in **verse 1**,
“Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.”

We find in **verse 4**

“And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.”

The pragmatist in us says, “See it was a great decision.” Before we buy this we need to see the rest of the story.

III. David’s Deception (v. 5-12)

vs.6-9 “So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months. And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations

were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.”

A. Because of David’s decision built on as lie, he became allied with Achish the enemy of Israel and God.

B. Because he made a wrong decision, he lived a life of deception and murder in Philistia.

“David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt. Whenever David attacked the land, he left neither man nor woman alive, but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish”

David deceived Achish and killed the people they attacked so no one could tattle on them.

C. Finally, in **28:1-2**, David got himself in a very difficult situation which God had to providentially deliver him.

“Now it happened in those days that the Philistines gathered their armies together for war, to fight with Israel. And Achish said to David, ‘You assuredly know that you will go out with me to battle, you and your men.’ So David said to Achish, ‘Surely you know what your servant can do.’ And Achish said to David, ‘Therefore I will make you one of my chief guardians forever.’”

David was stuck. How could he get out of lifting his sword against the LORD’s anointed? Yahweh got him out of it.

What Do We Learn Here?

1. We must believe God’s promises. Do you remember what the Apostle Paul wrote to us right before he underlined the promise nothing could ever separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus? He wrote in **Romans 8:32**, *“He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?”*

2. When Satan tempts you to despair and says, “See God is letting you down again.” Ask yourself, “Where is the evidence?” You will find yourself identifying with Peter when Jesus said to him. *“Oh yes of little faith, why did you doubt?”*

3. Finally, see the point of Joseph’s statement in the **Romans 8:28** of the Old Testament, **Genesis 50:20**. *“But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.”* God never stops working on our behalf to make us what He wants us to be.

Hymn #208 *Alas, and did My Savior Bleed?*