

David, Shepherd and King
#12 David's Dilemma - 1 Samuel 28-29
(3/21/10 AM)

David's life is a mirror, in many ways, of our lives. David slipped and fell but the mercy of God helped him to rise again. Proverbs 24:16, "For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again." David had to learn some hard lessons. Many of these lessons David, like us, had to learn the hard way.

1. David's Dilemma (28:1-2)

He Is Completely Out of Place

The Philistines' decision to attack Israel was most likely related to David's actions. They believed Saul's kingdom was being weakened as they saw men defecting to David.

• **David realized the irrevocable _____ of sin**

David found himself in a quagmire of his own making. What at first seemed like a good decision has gone horribly wrong.

We must always remember that the pleasure of sin is only for a season. Hebrews 11:25 calls them "the passing pleasures of sin".

He had deceived Achish who believed that David had already been fighting against his own people. David the Lord's anointed found himself on the wrong side. Proverbs 13:15, "The way of the unfaithful is hard." David's reply to Achish shows the turmoil in David's heart. (2) "So David said to Achish, 'Surely you know what your servant can do.'" David's reply was ambiguous, what exactly did he mean? Would Achish see what David would do against Israel or against the Philistines? Did David even know?

• **David realized the intrinsic _____ of sin**

Our sin has a way of mocking us. Numbers 32:23, "be sure your sin will find you out." Achish made David his bodyguard just as Saul had done. The irony is in the literal meaning, "keeper of my head". David has already kept a head of a Philistine, Goliath. What kind of testimony was David to this heathen king who trusted him? What of the true God did Achish learn from David during this time?

We Will Eventually Experience the _____ of Our Choices

2. David's Disgrace (29:1-5)

A Difficult Journey

David marched in the army of the enemies of the Lord.

David and his men marched 50 to 60 miles with the Philistine army. Every step had to have been increasingly difficult for David. Even if he acted as a rear guard he would still have contributed to the defeat of Israel and the death of Saul. He would have been a traitor to his own people. If he turns back from the battle he will be a coward and a traitor to Achish. David was learning that sooner or later you will be forced to choose sides.

• **David realized the inescapable _____ of sin**

David and his men are out of their place. This was more obvious to the Philistines than it was to the Israelites. This illustrates the principle of separation. Christians are to be set apart from the world. 2 Corinthians 6:14, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers." David had put himself and his men in a compromising position.

Achish had confidence in David because he had been deceived by David. The other four Philistine Lords were under no such delusion. It was clear to them that David had no business being there with them.

The Philistine lords had a clearer understanding of who David was than David did himself. This is the result of his decision to handle things on his own. Even at this point David did not inquire of the Lord.

Compromise Leads to _____

3. David's Deliverance (6-11)

God's Gracious Intervention

God used the distrust of the enemy to keep David from fighting against Israel. The parallels between Achish and Saul are ironic. Saul saw David as his arch enemy. Achish saw David as his faithful servant. Each had badly misjudged David.

- **David realized the inevitable _____ of sin**

David is the anointed of the Lord. When David faced Goliath he said "I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied", 1 Samuel 17:45.

Was this now the focus of David's life to "not displease the lord's of the Philistines"? David's life had literally turned upside down.

David even protested the decision of the lords.

(8) "So David said to Achish, 'But what have I done? And to this day what have you found in your servant as long as I have been with you, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?'"

Again we ask what David really meant by this. Did he mean Israel the enemies of Achish or the Philistines the enemies of Jehovah? David's speech betrayed his perplexity. His compromised living had distorted

his perspective. Achish tells David that he must leave and return to

Ziklag (9-10) "with your master's servants who have come up with you". Achish sees David and his men as his servants not Jehovah's servants.

Verse 11 is a vivid illustration of how compromise brought confusion into David's life. On the eve of battle between Israel and the Philistines "David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to

the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel."

David retreated to the place of compromise instead going into battle with the Lord's people.

Sin Results In _____