

The Philistines Reject David

I Samuel 29

Introduction:

- In this chapter we leave Saul, and go back in time a few days to pick up with David
- David and his men are still caught in a dilemma- they are a part of the Philistine army preparing for attack on Israel.
- Review: I Sam 27:5-12, 28:1-2- David is here because he was discouraged and was straying from God's will

- I. The Philistine Commanders Object to David's presence- v. 1-5
 - a. Then the Philistines gathered together all their armies: The battle lines were drawn in the previous chapter when the Philistines made a deep incursion into Israelite territory. The Philistines intended to deliver a death-blow to Israel and the two armies squared off in anticipation of battle.
 - b. V. 3- "What are these Hebrews doing here?" Leaders among the Philistines looked at David and his men and said, "They aren't one of us. They are Hebrews. They worship another God. We don't belong together!"
 - c. The Philistine leaders could see what David was blind to. David started to think and act like a Philistine, and seemed ready to fight with them against the people of God. But the Philistine leaders could see that this wasn't right
 - d. The Philistine leaders knew who David really was – that is, a Hebrew, part of God's people. David seems to have forgotten this but the Philistine leaders knew. David would have never slipped into this sinful place if he remembered who he really was and what his destiny was.
 - e. FB Meyer: "It is very terrible when the children of the world have a higher sense of Christian propriety and fitness than Christians themselves, and say to one another, 'What do these Hebrews here?' "

- f. V. 3- Achish defends David.
 - i. Achish presents David and his band of men as mercenaries who have proven themselves as dependable
 - ii. He defends him three times- which is an emphatic irony for us readers
 - iii. It is a sad thing that a Philistine ruler defended David so confidently.
 - David identified himself so much with the ungodly that Achish knew he had David in his pocket
- g. (1Sa 29:4-5) The Philistine leaders reject David.
- h. The other Philistine leaders were not in agreement with Achish at all. They didn't trust David and they feared he would turn against the Philistines in battle, to bring himself back into Saul's favor.
- i. The faith-filled victory over Goliath seemed like a distant memory for a backslidden David, but the Philistines apparently remembered it well
- j. Separation and distinction- II Cor. 6:14-18, Ex 11:7
- k. We weren't saved to fit in, but to stand out!
- l. We are not to be isolated but insulated," said Vance Havner, "moving in the midst of evil but untouched by it." Separation is contact without contamination. Jesus was "holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners" (Heb. 7:26), yet He was "a friend of tax collectors and sinners" (Luke 7:34).
- II. Achish delivers the news to David- v. 6-8
 - a. "As the Lord liveth"- most likely being courteous to David in not swearing by Philistine gods. David was likely not witnessing and seeing the Philistines converted at this time in his life.
 - b. Note: Pagan Achish is the only one to mention God in this text
 - c. This is a humorous scene. We have Achish apologizing and defending David for being faithful to him- praising him with no real reason to be praised. Then David protests the rejection he has no reason to protest. Keep your mouth shut, David!
 - d. Davis- "The deceived defends his deceiver, and the relieved disputes his relief!"

- e. David thought he couldn't be happy or at peace in the land of Israel. Now he finds that his "Philistine friends" won't accept him either. David has no home; he is trying to live in both worlds, so he has no home in either world.
 - f. No doubt, David didn't like being rejected by the Philistine rulers. Not many people like rejection. But **God would use the rejection** of ungodly people in David's life
 - g. In many ways, David was in the worst place for any child of God. He had too much of the world in him to be at peace in the Lord, and he had too much of the Lord in him to be at peace in the world.
 - h. What happens when we straddle the fence? We end up hurting ourselves!
 - i. V. 7- That you may not displease the lords of the Philistines: David used to displease the lords of the Philistines all the time. He used to be a mighty warrior for the cause of God, and he used to strike fear in the heart of every enemy of God. Now, David is concerned about displeasing the lords of the Philistines.
 - j. Is this the same David who fought Goliath? Could you imagine someone coming to David before that battle, and saying, "Excuse me David, I don't think you should do that. You might displease the lords of the Philistines."
 - k. This should have woken David up! It will take a dramatic crisis to bring David back to where he should be.
- III. David returns back to Ziklag- v. 9-10
- a. God's pursuing mercy- this was not just a lucky break in David's life
 - b. God's uncanny protection on David
 - c. Has God ever graciously intervened while you were making a mess?
 - d. Would David have fought? Who knows? But God wouldn't let him go fight Israel. David's heart is in a bad place, but God didn't abandon him. We should praise God for the times when He keeps us from sinning as bad as we may want to.
 - e. God is trying to wake David up, but he still doesn't get the message- he returns back to the land of the Philistines.

Conclusion:

- This text does not explicitly tell us: God delivered David- but it is very evident as we look over what happened. Similarly, in our lives we may/may not notice God's silent mercy. It is not always blatant or obvious, but it is still there. We should look over our lives and take note of those moments that were gloomy and filled with twists and turns yet there God was all along.
- God's ways are surprising- using the commanding officers of the Philistine army to deliver His servant David.
- How should we take this?
 - It does not mean what God did for David He will always do for me. It does not promise me that if I get myself in a tangled mess God will automatically make everything okay.
 - What it does teach is that our sin and our mess are no match for God's mercy
 - We never minimize sin, but we maximize God's mercy!
- God not only prepares a table for us in the presence of our enemies- sometimes he even uses the enemies to set the table! See Romans 11:33
- Our bungling does not evaporate God's mercy. What a contrast between David and Saul, the end of ch. 28 and ch. 29. One ends without hope and in darkness, the other ends with hope and with the light of morning. David's night is not like Saul's night.
- David was not delivered by his own savviness but by the mercy of God!