

David Is Deceived

Texts: I Samuel 27:1-11

This is a far departure for the man described by God as "...a man after mine own heart..." (Acts 13:22b). David is not the brave young lad standing alone in the Valley of Elah facing the giant Goliath; this is a man now consumed for his own preservation. C. I. Scofield entitles this chapter, "David's lapse of faith. He goes to Philistia."

I. DAVID IS DECEIVED BY HIS OWN HEART.

I Samuel 27:1, 2. Already God had delivered David twice out of the ruthless hand of Saul who has every intention on murdering David. Now, rather than continuing to trust God to keep His word by placing David on the throne, he listens to his own heart over the revealed will of God by the Word of God. I Samuel 27:1a: "And David said in his heart, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul..." Of all people, David should have known this was not true. Three years earlier I Samuel 16:1 records, "And the LORD said unto Samuel, How long wilt thou mourn for Saul, seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel? fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons." The story continues in verse 13: "Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah." David was aware of his special anointing to be the once and future king of Israel. The Bible informs us the "the Spirit of the LORD came upon David." How could David not know that he was operating in a very special dispensation, having received the anointing of the Third Person of the Holy Trinity? David should have been walking in faith, knowing that he was destined by God to sit upon the throne of Israel. Even Jonathan, David's best friend and Saul himself knew that David would live to sit upon the throne. I Samuel 23:16, 17: "And Jonathan Saul's son arose, and went to David into the wood, and strengthened his hand in God. And he said unto him, Fear not: for the hand of Saul my father shall not find thee; and thou shalt be king over Israel, and I shall be next unto thee; and that also Saul my father knoweth." Why did David then embrace the lie? The answer is found in Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

So when faith is put aside, we rely on our own wits, powered by man's faulty wisdom. Observe David's reasoning in I Samuel 27:1b: "...there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines...." Oh! But there were so many better ways!

When faith is put aside, we forget to count our blessings and be content with the Lord's provision. I Samuel 27:2a: "And David arose, and he passed over with the six hundred men that were with him unto Achish...." David had six hundred loyal men, more than enough to give the future king cover and protection. He did not need to run to Philistia.

II. DAVID IS DECEIVED BY HIS OWN REASONING.

I Samuel 27:3-7. David is now embedded with the enemy. It is true, when Saul was told that David was in Gath, he temporarily gave up his hunt, but he was in no way pacified. Peace does not always confirm the will of God for our lives. Case in point is found in Jonah 1:5, 6: "Then the mariners were afraid, and cried every man unto his god, and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them. But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and he lay, and was fast asleep. So the shipmaster came to him, and said unto him, What meanest thou, O sleeper? arise, call upon thy God, if so be that God will think upon us, that we perish not." Jonah was peacefully asleep in the midst of the storm, but totally out of the will of God. The wind obeyed God. The sea obeyed God. The lots the sailors cast obeyed God. The great fish obeyed God. The gourd obeyed God. Even the worm obeyed God. And ultimately even the people of Nineveh obeyed God. The only one not obeying God was Jonah. We discover God's will by three confirmations:

- A. Peace in prayer. I John 5:14, 15.
- B. A word from the Word. Psalm 119:105.
- C. An open door of opportunity. Revelation 3:8.

I call these the three "Green Lights in the Will of God." Don't move until all three lights turn green. Peace alone is not confirmation. Wait on the Lord in prayer. Be open to a word from the Word in either a phrase, a command or principle in the Bible that tells you to go or stay. Then God will miraculously open the door of opportunity in His perfect timing.

III. DAVID IS DECEIVED BY HIS OWN GIFTINGS.

I Samuel 27:8-12. In Jeremiah 10:2, the LORD tells Israel, "...learn not the way of the heathen..." David leads a massacre against the Gershurites, the Gezerites and the Amelekites. Although these nomadic people were natural enemies to Israel, we do not see where God gave David an order to make this raid. King Achish asked David whom he raided and David answered, "...Against the south of Judah..." (I Samuel 27:10b), deceiving Achish to believe it was against his fellow Jews. Furthermore, David made sure there were no survivors to tell the whole truth. Was David trying to help Israel out as a double agent? The Bible doesn't say. We do see David trying to curry favor with Achish. David is not obeying the very words he wrote in Psalm 1:1, for he now is walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners and scorning the truth.

I would suggest that God gives us insight to the toxic environment David was now involved in with these words: "Now Samuel was dead..." (I Samuel 28:3). There was not a prophetic voice to call David back to his senses. See I Thessalonians 5:20.

What has taken place in these verses is no easier to explain than to explain how Saul maintained his anointing through his extreme backslidings. In the book, *A Tale of Three Kings* by Gene Edwards, what he says about Saul could at this time be applied to David: "There is a vast difference between the outward clothing of the Spirit's power and the inward filling of the Spirit's life. In

the first, despite the power, the hidden man of the heart may remain unchanged. In the latter the monster is dealt with....A man can be living in the grossest of sin and the outward gift will still be working perfectly. The gifts of God, once given, cannot be recalled. Even in the presence of sin....The gifts cannot be revoked. Terrifying, isn't it? If you are young and have never seen such things, you may be certain that sometime in the next 40 years you will see. Highly gifted and very powerful men...reputed to be leaders in the Kingdom of God, do some very dark and ugly deeds. What does this world need: Gifted men, outwardly empowered? Or broken men, inwardly transformed? Keep in mind that some of the men who have been given the very power of God have raised armies, defeated the enemy, brought forth mighty works of God, preached and prophesied with unparalleled power and eloquence...and thrown spears, and hated other men, and attacked other men, and plotted to kill, and prophesied naked, and even consulted witches."

The temptation for people who have been used of God is to believe that since God has blessed them in the past, therefore everything he does must be right, even in the face of rebellion. In my youth an old preacher friend gave this warning to myself and another young preacher: "There may come a time in your life and ministry when men may still praise you, but God cannot use you."

Conclusion:

A. God never blesses the lapse of faith:

Romans 14:23c: "...for whatsoever is not of faith is sin."

Hebrews 11:6: "But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him."

B. David's choices during his lapse of faith cost him dearly:

I Chronicles 22:7, 8: "And David said to Solomon, My son, as for me, it was in my mind to build an house unto the name of the LORD my God: But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Thou hast shed blood abundantly, and hast made great wars: thou shalt not build an house unto my name, because thou hast shed much blood upon the earth in my sight."

-Pastor Pope-