

1 Samuel 27 “When We Come Off the Mountain Top”[\[1\]](#)

Series: “*Learning to Wait on God: The Life of David Before He Became King*”

1 Samuel 16-31

In our current series on the life of David, we have been challenged by the life of a man in whose life God was REAL. Circumstances were tough, but David trusted God and saw Him do the impossible. David's #1 foe was the king of the country, Saul. 1 Samuel is the narrative of what happened when David was being hunted down by Saul. How did David feel during those long nights of loneliness? We find out in the Psalms.

See: Ps 18 (see the heading--"when the Lord delivered him...from Saul")

Q: What were the first words out of David's mouth? V 1 "I love You, O Lord, my strength."

Q: How did he describe his problem in vv 4-5? "The cords of death..."

Q: What did God do for him, acc to vv 16-17? "He reached down...He rescued me."

I love David's testimony in the first three words of v 46, "The Lord lives!" This conviction is what made David tick. We serve a living Lord who is involved in our lives. Our foes are His foes. He is involved. He is real.

Now, lest we read testimonials like this and think David never struggled, I want you to realize this. David had another foe besides Saul. It was *himself*. We see him wrestling with personal doubts in 1 Samuel 27.

1 Samuel 26 was somewhat of a mountain top experience for David. He experienced divine deliverance. He went right into Saul's camp, and left unharmed with Saul's spear and jug.

Review: From 1 Sam 26, Because God is sovereign...

1. I can be sure that things that are out of MY control are not out of HIS control.
2. I must live my life with my focus on God, not on others, nor on self.
3. I can DO what's right even if I don't FEEL like it.

David must have been encouraged as chapter 26 ended. God had delivered him once again. Then in 1 Samuel 27, David came down off of the "mountain."

**“When We Come Off the Mountain-Top: 1 Samuel 27**

Let's look at ch 27 from two perspectives...

## I. What David did

Q: What did David do in v 1? He “thought to himself” (KJV “he said in his heart”). Look out when that happens, when we start trying to figure out situations on our own!

### **A. He doubted (1a).**

Q: What thought did David entertain in his mind? V 1 One day Saul will kill me.

Q: Was that true? Could that happen? Could Saul kill David? Not if what God said back in 16:12-13 was true-- David would be king!

Q: What did David decide to do in v 1b?

### **B. He detoured (1b-7).**

1. *He decided to take matters into his own hands (1b).*

Q: In what way did he do this?

2. *He left the Promised Land (1b).*

Q: Where did he go?

3. *He moved to Gath (2-3).*

Q: Note he wasn't alone; his 600 men went too. Who else joined David? V 3 His family

Q: Why is this surprising that David went to Gath? He'd been there before, hadn't he? And what happened that time? See 21:10

4. *He settled in Ziklag (6-7).*

Q: How did this take place? V 6

Q: How long did David stay there? V 7 16 months

Q: What did David do while in Ziklag...

### **C. He destroyed the enemies of God (8-9).**

Note: The Geshurites were on the south border of the Philistines. The Girzites were between Philistia and Egypt. This region is the modern Gaza strip, east of the Suez canal.

### **D. He misled Achish (10-12).**

Q: How?

1. *He said he attacked the people of Judah (10).*

Q: David said he was fighting his own people. Was he? No.

Q: Why would he say this to Achish? So he wouldn't think he would be a turncoat.

2. *He left no survivors who might inform on him (11).*

3. *He won the confidence of Achish (12).*

Why did God preserve this account? The key is to look for God in the story. God was at work. God is the main character in 1 Samuel. What was God doing?

## II. What God did

Actually, God isn't mentioned in this chapter. If you look for Him in the words of the story, He's not there. But He was there. Behind the scenes, God was doing at least three things...

### **A. He used adverse circumstances to develop David.**

1. *Combat skills*

2. *Leadership skills*

Even though out of the Promised Land, David was fighting Israel 's enemies.

### **B. He blessed David in whatever he did.**

1. *He protected him from Saul (4).*

2. *He gave him success in battle (9).*

3. *He gave him favor in the eyes of Achish (12).*

Discuss: This story illustrates God's grace for us. How so?

[Read observation by Dale Ralph Davis, pp. 231-2: "By now you may have become an angry reader. You may be angry at David... Did you ever think that perhaps the writer is trying to correct *your* mistake? Yes, you, Bible reader that you are..."]

Discuss: What does Davis mean when he says, "The Bible does not claim that God's servants are dipped in Clorox"? What effect should this truth have on us?

### **C. He didn't let David get too comfortable outside the Promised Land (ch 29).**

This was a temporary arrangement (as with the case of Abraham moving to Egypt ), not a permanent one.

Discuss: What does this teach us about God?

Lessons:

1. *Even great men and women of God wrestle with feelings of doubt. The challenge is to choose to:*
  - a. Claim the unchanging promises of God.
  - b. Do what pleases God regardless how we feel.
  
2. *Being down is not a sin. Being down and out is.*
  
3. *Even when we blow it, God is still in control. He can use our failures to accomplish good in and through our lives.*

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[\[1\]](#) These are unedited teaching notes used initially for a Wednesday evening Bible study at Wheelersburg Baptist Church . They are provided for your edification as you personally study God's life-changing Word. Pasto r Brad Brandt