



1 Samuel 27:1-30:6

Living for Self Sunday, May 28th 2006



Discouragement, Depression, Distress, Despair, Down, Dejected, Downhearted, Despondency...

- Wonder why so many such words begin with D?
- Other words – old words-melancholy, fainting fit
- Describe times – when all seems black, hopeless, pointless, pressing in on us
- Feels hard to move forward, mud

Such times, feelings...are normal

- Most people go through them to some extent
- Often we hide such times from others, embarrassed ...feel that “Godly” people shouldn’t face
- Not true, most in this room do...even, often most Godly
- History records many of greatest saints did
- Bible many faced this –Paul, Elijah, Jeremiah, etc
- In list, have to include David. Psalms talk of often

Today, we are going to see David in such a time- Despair

- Open to 1 Sam 27 – will find David in despair

I. David's Despair

1. David is in despair, David is discouraged

- a. Been on the run from Saul...8½ years – old
- b. Tired, tired of waiting, tired of the trials
- c. It wears on him...and he feels worn out
- d. If asked him – he would tell you, that God thinks too much of me if He things I can handle this

2. In David's Despair – he doubts

- a. He doubts God's word, God's promises
- b. God promised David the throne, to care...but David in this moment of doubt, does not believe it

3. David wants to escape

- a. David wants out...not for a moment, not a nap
- b. David wants out and out permanently
- c. David wants to quit on God

4. David backslides on what God has been teaching

- a. If you have been with us last 3 weeks – we have seen that the consistent lesson God has been teaching David – denying self – key lesson
- b. Here...David turns and does opposite – lives for self. Note the words – “nothing better for me”

II. David's Decision

1. David makes a life changing decision

- a. Quick advice, never make a life changing decision when you are in the pit of despair

2. Also note...most often, David doesn't go this route

- a. Beautiful Psalms of wrestling...and trusting, often

3. Also...need to note...only takes one time to mess up

4. David runs away – escapes...quits

- a. David runs away from God's people
- b. David runs away from God's call on his life
- c. David runs away from God

5. Notice how David makes this decision – consulting self

- a. Consults self- doubles his ignorance
- b. Lack here of prayer, of Godly counsel

6. David's Decision – has immediate results

- a. Tired of the battle, of the waiting 8½ years
- b. David's escape – causes Saul to stop pursuing**
 - i) Spiritual picture – true of Christians
 - ii) Running from God, causes satan to leave alone
 - iii) The Christian life is a battle, spiritual one
 - iv) When we pull back, is away from front lines
 - v) It gets easier...part of reason – what satan wants
 - vi) Old adage – satan is never too busy that he won't stop and rock the cradle of a sleeping saint
- c. David's escape brought immediate fulfillment**
 - i) Got a city...no more caves, no more wandering
- d. Choosing the way of sin, the way of the flesh does often have immediate results**
 - i) But what we need to understand – passing 📺

7. This decision will cost David 16 months

- a. 16 months of wasted time
- b. Interesting Ziklag means winding, wandering

8. David's decision cost others

- a. Brought 600 with him into disobedience

III. David's Double Life

1. David lies, turns to lies, to his own strength

- a. To run from God, is to run from His power, provision
- b. It is to look to yourself as a source – **Pro 14:14** 📖
- c. Honestly, most often will be deception. The Devil is the father of lies...under girds this world

2. For 16 long months – David lives two lives

- a. One-w/ “God’s people” attacking Israel’s enemies
- b. Two- w/God’s enemies saying attacking God’s people
- c. Two more opposite lives, lies could not exist
- d. Sadly – David is good at it – good liar
- e. Achish believes him...hook, line, sinker for 16 months

3. What would this look like today

- a. Here living one life, rest of week another

IV. David's Dilemma

1. God is patient...but not forever

- a. God allows David to make this mistake
- b. But then brings into David’s life a crises
- c. David’s lies catch up to him...always will

2. David’s lies hook him into going to war against Israel

- a. David’s choices
- b. Goes to war against Israel – lose everything
- c. Turns on Philistines–Israel prob turn on him–dead
- d. Tells truth now...dead
- e. No way out...interesting to note word “forever”
- f. Find myself wondering what David is thinking

3. God rescues David

- a. Note – has nothing to do with David's doing, simply God's marvelous grace
- b. But David sees end coming for dual life
- c. Either – totally turn from God, lose everything
- d. Or he is going to have to turn back

V. David's Distress

1. As return to city...it is been taken

- a. As David has done...done to him

2. More – Amalakities – always a picture of the flesh

- a. What you sow, you reap
- b. Flesh comes back with a vengeance

3. Know this – flesh robs us

- a. John 10:10 – Rob, kill and destroy
- b. Way of the backslider is hard
- c. Wish I could fully convince you

Conclusion

Thank God, David will turn back to the Lord

- That is for next week

Today...just want you to see folly of self life

- Jesus said if you seek your life, lose it
- David just about does

Some here today are already on this course

- Living a dual life....but it will come to an end
- God is gracious...but not forever
- Forced to choose...God, world, heaven, hell, life, or death, abundance or misery

Some here are teetering on this path

- Discouraged, tired, tired of waiting on God
- Tempted to go down this course – don't

Don't make decisions when discouraged

Take your discouragement to the Lord

- Believe Him...He is trustworthy