

1 Samuel 27:1-28:2 – Wandering From God

November 6, 2022

Background

What happens when I wander from God?

1. I will start trusting in my wisdom instead of God's Word.

Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand." 1 Samuel 27:1 (ESV)

*...and Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.
1 Samuel 23:14a (ESV)*

- David's spiral into depression and sin began when he listened to the negative self-talk of his heart.
- The way to counter negative self-talk is not by reminding myself how good I am but by reminding myself how good God is to me.
- Relying on myself may appear to work, but it will lead me to places I don't want to go, and I will do things I never thought I would do.

So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 1 Samuel 27:2 (ESV)

And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow...

1 Samuel 23:5 (ESV)

And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow. 1 Samuel 27:3 (ESV)

- Before I criticize someone's sinful choices, walk in their shoes and have compassion, so I better understand their world.

And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him.

1 Samuel 27:4 (ESV)

2. I will try to justify my sinful choices by pointing out the positive outcomes of my bad decisions.

Then David said to Achish, "If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be given me in one of the country towns, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?" 1 Samuel 27:5 (ESV)

So that day Achish gave him Ziklag... 1 Samuel 27:6a (ESV)

...therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. 1 Samuel 27:6b (ESV)

And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months. 1 Samuel 27:7 (ESV)

3. I will become increasingly selfish and deceptive.

Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites,... 1 Samuel 27:8 (ESV)

...for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. 1 Samuel 27:8 (ESV)

And David would strike the land and would leave neither man nor woman alive, but would take away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the garments, and come back to Achish. 1 Samuel 27:9 (ESV)

When Achish asked, "Where have you made a raid today?" David would say, "Against the Negeb of Judah," or, "Against the Negeb of the Jerahmeelites," or, "Against the Negeb of the Kenites." 1 Samuel 27:10 (ESV)

And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'" ... 1 Samuel 27:11a (ESV)

Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. 1 Samuel 27:11b (ESV)

And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant." 1 Samuel 27:12 (ESV)

4. I will end up trapped by my sin.

In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army." David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."

1 Samuel 28:1–2 (ESV)

Applications

1. **When I wander from God, it will lead me to places I do not want to go, and I will do things I didn't want to do.**
2. **If I fill my mind with negative self-talk, I will eventually believe it and live it.**
3. **No matter how cleverly I manage my lies, I will always regret where they lead.**

...be sure your sin will find you out. Numbers 32:23 (ESV)

4. **Don't be guilty of Bible character hero worship! The only perfect person in the Bible is Jesus. Take comfort in the fact that no Bible character is perfect. All of them had massive failures. God still forgave them, loved them, and used them for God's good purposes, just like He offers to forgive, love, and use me when I turn back to Him through Jesus.**

Life Group Questions

1. Read 1 Samuel 27. What sticks out as important?
2. In a time of depression, have you ever wandered from God and trusted your wisdom on how to live instead of God's Word? How did it end up?
3. In a desperate time, David filled his mind with negative self-talk. Do you struggle with negative self-talk during tough times? How does the Bible teach us to break free from that addictive cycle? For help beyond the sermons, see: Philippians 4:8, 2 Corinthians 10:5, Proverbs 4:23, Psalm 119:11.
4. David tried to justify his sinful choices by pointing out the positive outcomes of his sinful decisions. Have you ever done that? Provide an example.
5. When David wandered from God, he became increasingly selfish and deceptive. How did those characteristics display themselves in his life? When we wander from God, in what ways do selfishness and deception show up in our lives?
6. This chapter reveals a massive failure in David's life. Why is it important to know about the failures in the lives of Bible characters, not just their successes?
7. It is easy to be critical of David's choices in this chapter without understanding the stress he faced. What does this chapter teach us about balancing compassion for those suffering with the unwise or sinful choices people make as they seek relief from their pain?