I Samuel 27-29

Review…

- **Chapter 25-26 – Foolish decisions…**
  - Samuel died and all of Israel gathered at his funeral…
    - Meanwhile David and his 600 men moved to the wilderness of Paran…
    - There a rich man called Nabal – was sheering his large flocks…
    - David had helped protect his shepherds – so asked to be a part of the celebration…
    - Nabal refused and insulted David – in response David set out for revenge!
  - Abigail – the wife of Nabal – found out about the foolishness of her husband…
    - She ran out to meet David on the road with gifts of food and drink…
    - When she met him she apologized for her husband's insults – his name means fool…
    - She did not want David to take vengeance – and do something he would regret…
    - When Abigail returned home and told Nabal – he had a stroke and died…
    - David found out and thanked the Lord – then went and married Abigail
  - Saul was told where David was hiding and set out with 3000 men to capture him…
    - David went into the camp of Saul and night and took his spear and water jug…
    - When David showed how he had spared Saul again – Saul let David go

When God is silent… (*3 things*)

- **1st – Living a double life… vs. 1-12** Read: I Samuel 27:1-4 / 8-11
  - 1st – David knew Saul would never stop hunting him… vs. 1-4
    - And perhaps one of these times Saul might just catch up with David and kill him…
      - So he took his 600 men – and 2 wives – and went to the city of Gath…
      - He asked King Achish for protection from the wrath of Saul…
      - David and the Philistines shared a common 'enemy' – making them 'friends'…
      - And when Saul heard that David had fled to Gath – he stopped looking for him
    - David had tried this once before – **I Samuel 21:13** - and it had failed…
      - He had ended up drooling on himself and scratching at doors to escape…
      - Yet somehow David convinced himself this time would be different…
      - I am often amazed at how people keep trying the same failed path in life…

- They go and get a boyfriend or girlfriend / hang out at the drinking table…
- Only to have things go horribly wrong – and come back wounded to Jesus…
- But after a few weeks / months – they fall right back into the same habits!
- How many times do we have to make the same mistake – in order to learn…
- The answer is ALWAYS Jesus – only in Him will we find peace and joy!

▪ God had specifically told David to remain in Israel – **I Samuel 22:5**

- David had nothing to fear from Saul – God had protected him every time!
- But since David did not fully trust in God – he was afraid to stay in Israel…
- Yet David was too close to God – to be happy living with pagans…

- I have met so many believers who are miserable – there is no joy in their lives…
- They have too much love for the world – to be happy in the Lord…
- The problem is they think the world has something to offer them…
- Yet every time they try to 'have fun' the Holy Spirit is there to convict them…
- So they are not happy in the world – cause they know too much about the Lord…
- They are miserable wherever they are – because they are divided in their heart!
- **Luke 16:13** – "No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other."

○ 2nd - David did not want to stay in Gath – he was only pretending to be a 'friend'… vs. 5-12

▪ The closer he was to the King – the more likely it was the king would figure it out…

- David moved to Ziglag – a Philistine town near the southern part of Judah…
- And David lived there in the territory of the Philistines for 1½ years…
- David was living double life – living in the world / but still trying to follow God!
- There are many Christians who live double lives – try to blend in...
- When we are at church / Bible study – we know how to act like Christians…
- But when we are out in the world – we look and act just like they do!

▪ David and his men would go out on raids …

- They would attack the cities of the Geshurites / Girzites / and Amalekites…
- These nations were supposed to be conquered by Israel – **Joshua 12:12 / 13:2**
- So to justify his time with the Philistines – David tried to 'serve' the Lord…
- It is easy to justify ourselves - even as we are drifting away from the Lord...
- We reassure ourselves that we attend Bible studies along with everyone else...
- But where is our heart - are we excited / or just going through the motions...
- **II Corinthians 13:5 –** "Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you."
- If we are not drawing closer to the Lord - then we are drifting away...

▪ David and his men would completely wipe the towns out…

- They left no one alive – but took all the livestock and plunder back to Ziglag…
- When David returned – King Achish would ask where he had been…
- David would lie – and say he had been attacking the towns of Judah…
- Since they left no one alive – there was no one to tell the truth to Achish…

- He assumed the people of Israel now hated David for raiding their towns…
- As a result Achish had complete confidence and trust in David and his men!
- We might be able to fool the world – but we cannot fool God…
- We might sing in the choir / help with the children / carry a big Bible…
- God is not impressed by the outside – the Lord looks at the heart – **I Samuel 16:7**
- No matter how 'good we look' - if the heart is not right – we are not right with God!

○ 3rd – The Philistines gathered together to go to war with Israel… vs. 28:1-2

- Achish came to David to test him – would David go to war with his people…
- David was quick to answer – 'You will see for yourself what we can do!'
- Impressed by the answer – Achish made David his personal body guard…
- The problem with living a double life is – eventually we will have to choose…
- The danger of living life on the fence – is falling off on the wrong side!

● **2ND – NO ANSWER FROM THE LORD… VS. 1-25** READ: I SAMUEL 28:5-20

○ 1st – King Saul had banned all mediums and psychics from Israel… vs. 3-6

- But the Law commanded that they be put to death – **Exodus 22:18**
  - Saul again had only been partially obedient in obeying the commands of God…
  - And it would again come back to harm him – in his moment of weakness…
  - We like to think we are strong - that we will make the right decisions...
  - And most of the time we may be right – but it only takes one moment of weakness…
  - If we allow temptation to be around us – we will end up making bad choices!
  - Be wise and keep yourself in the Word so we can resist temptation when it comes!
  - **Psalm 119:11** –_ "I have hidden your word in my heart, that I might not sin..."
- When Saul saw the size of the Philistine army – he was terrified of the coming battle…
  - When he prayed to the Lord for help – God would not answer him…
  - He did not answer him through dreams / the Urim / or through prophets…
  - Heaven was shut to Saul – because Saul had shut his heart to heaven!
  - It is sin that keeps us from hearing from the Lord – leaves prayers unanswered…
  - Our prayers hit the ceiling of our sin - and we end up talking to ourselves!
  - **Isaiah 1:15** – "Even though you make many prayers, I will not hear."

○ 2nd - In desperation Saul had his men look for a medium… vs. 7-10

- A mistress of Ob – bwa tleb - someone who was possessed by an evil spirit!
  - They found a woman in Endor – so Saul disguised himself and sent to see her…
  - Saul asked her to call up the spirit of Samuel from the grave…
- Even though we do not see it – the spirit world is very real around us…
  - It is possible to contact spirits - but what a person is contacting is a demon…
  - A demon can disguise itself as different persons – pretend to be someone else…

- These demons having lived for ages – and seen many things…
- So they can tell you facts about your life / your past that nobody else ever knows…
- Usually people are drawn in by these kinds of things – they are tricked…
- A psychic tells them experiences that they had as a child only your mother knew…
- People think - 'I am actually contacting the spirit of my mother'…
- No so – it is just lying spirits disguising themselves as one of your dead loved ones!

- 3rd - Samuel appeared to the woman – and immediately she recognized Saul … vs. 11-19

  - She wanted to know why Saul had deceived her – Saul asked what she saw…
    - A god (*eloheem*) ascending out of the earth – an old man covered in mantle…
    - Saul knew it was Samuel – and bowed down with his face to the ground…
  - Samuel came up out of the earth – the suggestion is he came from Sheol…
    - Before the cross - no one could go to heaven - the price for sin not yet paid...
    - Hell was divided - one side a prison for those who reject salvation…
    - The other comfort for those who died in faith - Abraham's bosom - **Luke 16:22**
    - Samuel came up from Abraham's bosom – and told Saul he would follow soon…
    - Likely not to Abraham's bosom – more likely Saul ended up on the others side…
  - Samuel asked Saul why he had summoned him from the dead…
    - Saul told him about the war with the Philistines – and God's refusal to answer him…
    - But Samuel told Saul – 'Since God has abandoned you – why ask me for help'…
    - If God is not listening to you – there is no one you can go to who can help…
    - We can look at horoscopes / we can ask our friends for advice…
    - But even a prophet of God coming back from the dead could not help Saul!
    - Our only option is to humble ourselves – and cry out to God in humility…
    - **Psalms 51:17** – "A broken and repentant heart, O God, you will not despise."
  - This is the only time in the Bible we read of the spirits of the dead coming back…
    - 1st – The medium was a charlatan – it was all a hoax on her part…
      - It is possible she recognized Saul – Saul was famous and VERY tall…
      - With the Philistines about to attack – and the man asking for Samuel – obvious…
      - So she faked the whole message as a mean trick on Saul for banishing her…
      - This is possible but unlikely – because of the accuracy of the predictions…
      - Israel would loose the battle – and Saul and his sons would die!
    - 2nd – The medium was communicating with her demon…
      - This is also unlikely – because she was surprised / frightened by what happened
      - The woman did not see 'her demon' – she saw something else!
    - 3rd – God actually sent Samuel to tell Saul he was going to die…
      - When the medium called on Samuel – she saw him coming up from the earth…
      - She was expecting to see her demon – so was frightened by Samuel…
      - A special trip – the only one in the Bible – that God allowed just for Saul…

- **3RD – SAVED BY THE LORD… VS. 1-** READ: I SAMUEL 29:2-7
  - David and his men were with the Philistines preparing for battle… vs. 1-5
    - But the princes of the Philistines were upset by the presence of David…
    - What if he 'changed sides' in the middle of the battle…
    - What better way for him to win back the favor of King Saul…
    - This was the same David best known for killing his ten thousands of Philistines…
    - He could attack the Philistines from behind and help bring their defeat!
    - So King Achish agreed to send David home – keep him from the battle
  - David wanted to know why he was being sent home… vs. 6-11
    - David argued he had been faithful to the King as long as he had been with him…
      - An out right lie – David had been lying to the King all along…
      - David was still playing the role – pretending to be a loyal subject…
      - David was so lost in his lie – he did not know how to safely get back out!
    - Had David gone through with the war with Israel it would have been the end…
      - If David had fought against Israel - they would never have accepted him as King…
      - If David had turned on the Philistines – they would likely have killed him…
      - But it was God who hardened the hearts of the Philistines leaders…
      - The Lord miraculously gave David a way out of the trouble he got himself into…
      - **I Corinthians 10:13** – "When you are tempted, God will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it."
      - God is always fighting for us – trying to keep us from the dangers of this world…
      - He will always gives us a way out – if we are willing to take it…
      - He gives us a ladder to climb out of the holes we seem to always fall into!