

## I. A Believer Motivated By Fear (27:1-7)

**A. David's cowardice (1a)** - "Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul..."

**B. David's cleverness (1b)** - "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."

**C. David's compromises (2-7)**

1. **He compromised his followers (2)** - "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"
2. **He compromised his family (3)** - "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."
3. **He compromised his integrity (5-7)** - "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?" 6 So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. 7 And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months."
4. **He achieved his purpose (4)** - "And when it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath, he no longer sought him."

## II. A Believer Mired In Falsehood (27:8-12)

**A. Secretly serving God (8-9)** - "Now David and his men went up and made raids against the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites, for these were the inhabitants of the land from of old, as far as Shur, to the land of Egypt. 9 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." **Unwilling to battle Israel's enemies openly, David fought by stealth, taking his own reward**

**B. Subtly speaking lies (10)** - "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." **David openly lied about his doings. He wasn't true to Israel, nor to the world.**

**C. Strongly safeguarding his story (11-12)** - "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.'" Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. 12 And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant." **In deception, the tracks must be covered. David slaughtered all who might expose his lie.**

## III. A Believer's Marred Faithfulness (28:1-2, 29:1-2)

**A. David became comfortable (27:7)** - "And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months."

**B. Circumstances became undesirable (28:1-2)** - "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." 2 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." **David was thrust into a situation that would remove his self-created comfort**

**C. Decisions became inevitable (29:1-2)** - "Now the Philistines had gathered all their forces at Aphek. And the Israelites were encamped by the spring that is in Jezreel. 2 As the lords of the Philistines were passing on by hundreds and by thousands, and David and his men were passing on in the rear with Achish..." **David positioned himself as far from the battle as possible. What would he choose to do?**

#### IV. A Believer's Merciful Father (29:3-11)

A. **What the unbelievers discerned (3-5)** - "...the commanders of the Philistines said, "What are these Hebrews doing here?" And Achish said to the commanders of the Philistines, "Is this not David, the servant of Saul, king of Israel, who has been with me now for days and years, and since he deserted to me I have found no fault in him to this day." 4 But the commanders of the Philistines were angry with him. And the commanders of the Philistines said to him, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place to which you have assigned him. He shall not go down with us to battle, lest in the battle he become an adversary to us. For how could this fellow reconcile himself to his lord? Would it not be with the heads of the men here? 5 Is not this David, of whom they sing to one another in dances, Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands?" **Even they could clearly see that David was fighting on the wrong side**

#### B. What David's lifestyle declared (6-9)

1. **David had lived to appease the enemies of God (6)** - "Then Achish called David and said to him, "As the Lord lives, you have been honest, and to me it seems right that you should march out and in with me in the campaign. For I have found nothing wrong in you from the day of your coming to me to this day. Nevertheless, the lords do not approve of you."
2. **David had greater loyalty to God's enemies than God's people (7-8)** - "So go back now; and go peaceably, that you may not displease the lords of the Philistines." And David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"
3. **David had created unholy communion (9a)** - "And Achish answered David and said, "I know that you are as blameless in my sight as an angel of God."

C. **What David's God determined (9b-11)** - "Nevertheless the commanders of the Philistines have said, 'He shall not go up with us to the battle.' 10 Now then rise early in the morning with the servants of your lord who came with you, and start early in the morning, and depart as soon as you have light." 11 So David set out with his men early in the morning to return to the land of the Philistines. But the Philistines went up to Jezreel."

**God sovereignly prevented David from making an utterly disastrous decision to fight Israel**