

DAVID IN THE FAR COUNTRY

A LESSON IN INFLUENCE

“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.”

1 Corinthians 15:33

Introduction:

1. Chapters 24 and 26 showed David’s great faith by his refusal to harm Saul.
2. Chapter 25 demonstrated his weakness by his desire to kill Nabal’s household.
3. Chapter 27 details a dark period in the life of David.
4. By fleeing into enemy territory, David began to become more and more like the Philistines and less like a follower of God.

- I. Dwelling among the Enemy (27:1-4)
 - A. David understood that no matter what Saul said, he could not be trusted.
 - B. However, David has become overwhelmed with discouragement.
 - C. Thus, he decided to flee into the land of the Philistines.
 1. Notice that David did not seek God’s guidance on this matter.
 2. Remember that David had attempted this previously with unrighteous consequences (21:10-15).
 - D. David was traveling with a large company – 600 men, plus their families.
 1. This may have been part of the motivation to flee Israel.
 2. David now had to care for two wives and the families of his 600 men.

- II. Compromising with the Enemy (27:5-7)
 - A. David humbly asked Achish for a town where his company might dwell.
 - B. Achish gave David the town of Ziklag, on the border of the tribes of Simeon and Judah.
 - C. Thus, David lived among the Philistines for 1 year and 4 months.

- III. Imitating the Enemy (27:8-12)
 - A. While dwelling in Philistia, David continued to attack the enemies of God’s people (cf. Joshua 13:13; 16:10).
 - B. However, David’s motivation was not simply to drive out the inhabitants of the land (cf. vs. 11).
 - C. Furthermore, David lied to Achish about the people he was fighting.
 - D. Thus, Achish saw David acting more and more like the enemy of Israel.

- IV. Fighting for the Enemy (28:1-2)
 - A. Finally, when the Philistines were gathering for battle with the Israelites, Achish requested David to fight on the side of the Philistines.
 - B. David did not deny this request, but answered with subtlety to deceive Achish again.
 - C. Thus, Achish chose David and his men to serve as his royal bodyguards.