

A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 27:1-28:2

"A Lapse in Trust" – October 29th, 2017



Introduction

Some people delight in the mistakes of others so they can prove how smart and 'right' they are. In their insecurity, they make themselves feel better about themselves at the expense of others, at times saying the dreaded, "Well...I *told* you so!" We may fear that God is the same way; just *waiting* for us to mess up so he can rub it in our faces. But God is not that way. To be sure, God *does* at times remind us of the promises we've ignored (Deut. 1:43, Jn. 11:40, Acts 27:21) but it is not to make Him feel better about Himself at our expense – it's for our good. In 1 Samuel 27, David has a lapse of trust and God's patient mercy in his life teaches us about the same mercy the people of God know from Him today.

Pray

Before you begin, take some time to ask God to help you understand His word, to reveal what needs to change in you, and for the grace to follow Him in response.

Sermon Outline

Big Idea: Self-reliance leads to disaster, but God's patient mercy is our salvation.

Lesson #1 - Self-reliance may work for a while, but it's a dead end

Lesson #2 – We should be merciful as God is merciful

Read & Discuss

1) Read [1 Samuel 27:1-28:2](#)

After a victory of faith in chapter 26, David has a crisis of faith and formulates a plan to find security by running into the Philistine territory of Gath. It's not what God told him to do, but what he said to himself (v1). Though David's plan works for a while, he meets a dead end when king Achish recruits him to join his army in their fight against Israel. David's duplicitous politicking of both sides is exposed and both his life, his 600 men, their wives and children, and David's own family are put in harm's way. The problem with self-reliance is not that it *never* works. So, what is so wrong about self-reliance? How is our self-reliance similar to what Adam and Eve did in the Garden of Eden (see [Genesis 3:5](#))?

One reason David fell into self-reliance was that in his tired, weary state, he listened to himself instead of reminding himself of the truths of God's word. What does it look like for the Christian to preach to him or herself the truths of who God is *instead* of passively listening to our hearts (see [Psalm 42:5](#), [62:5](#) as examples). How can leaning on godly friends and taking care of ourselves physically (good rest, eating well, etc.) aid us in this when we are in the midst of hardship?

God is not mentioned once in 1 Samuel 27...and that seems to be part of the point. In his self-reliance, David has pushed God out of the script. And yet, when David wakes up to the trouble his self-reliance leads him to, the unchanging God with His unchanging promises will be a reminder that his doubt and fear was unnecessary. God's mercy to His children is the model and means by which we show mercy to each other as the people of God. The more we know of (and are aware of) His love, mercy and grace, the more we will show to others. How does the knowledge of God's mercy in your life shape the way you care for others? How does mercy look different in caring for someone who is fighting their sin, versus digging their heels in and refusing to turn from it?

Additional reading: Proverbs 28:26, Luke 15:11-32

*One book to read on the idea of preaching to yourself (or fighting for joy as a Christian) is D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones' book [*Spiritual Depression: Its Causes and Its Cure*](#)

Prayer of Response

Spend time praying together in response to God's word for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to come.

If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <http://firstbaptistum.com/media.php?pageID=6>