

# A Man After God's Own Heart – 1 Samuel

1 Samuel 29:1-11

"David on Trial" – November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2017



## Introduction

The life of Joseph is one of the most beloved stories in the Old Testament. Joseph does what's right, but is wronged by his brothers, wronged by Potiphar's wife, and forgotten by Pharaoh's cupbearer. Then, he's vindicated: released from prison, Joseph rises to 2<sup>nd</sup> in command of all Egypt and is used by God to save his family and countless others from starvation. Near the end of Genesis, Joseph reflects and encourages his brothers, 'you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good' (Genesis 50:20). God's sovereignty meant that what seemed to be lost is far from hopeless – He is able to turn things around for good. We can appreciate seeing how God's sovereignty offers hope to someone like Joseph who did what's right...but what if the reason we're in trouble is because of our sin and folly? What hope does God's sovereignty offer the guilty? 1 Samuel 29 teaches that because of God's sovereign *mercy*, we can have reason to hope if we're willing to trust.

## 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: God's sovereign mercy can turn disaster into salvation.

Lesson #1 – The Christian is not of the world, but sent into it.

Lesson #2 - God's mercy is greater than your sin.

## Read & Discuss

1) Read [1 Samuel 29:1-11](#)

In 1 Samuel 27, David had a lapse of faith and started trusting himself. Following his own plan, David ended up seeking refuge in the enemy territory of Philistia. For a while, his plan worked: he was able to play both sides: earning the favor of the Israelites by fighting their enemies and earn the favor of the Philistines by convincing them with the lie that he was out fighting Israel. The plan worked for about 16 months, until David ended up in a pickle. In 1 Samuel 28:1-2, Achish (the Philistine king of Gath) recruits David to be his bodyguard and go into battle with him against Israel! If he goes, he can kiss his kingship goodbye; if he refuses he and his men could be put to death for treason. There seems to be no way out. In chapter 29, we see how David escapes. Not because of his brilliant plan or military might...but God's sovereign mercy. Because God is sovereign, He is able to use the enemy commanders ([29:3-4](#)) as His instrument to get David home. Because God is *merciful* David is rescued.

When the military commanders see David and 600 Israelites about to go into battle with them, they raise an objection, 'What are these Hebrews doing here?' They understood (better than naïve Achish) that you can't play both sides when it comes to following God. God in His mercy, uses the enemy commander to admonish David and remind him of this truth he seems to have forgotten. In the same way, the Bible teaches us that we are aliens and strangers in this world (see [1 Peter 2:11](#)). Why is it important for believers to remember their identity when it comes to dealing with the temptations of the world? How does having our expectations rightly established by our identity in Christ help us deal with the frustrations and challenges of life? What is the connection between our holiness and our witness? In other words, how does our holiness help to show the superiority of Christ and truth that He alone saves?

God's mercy means He doesn't give us what we deserve. God's mercy is the '*I'm sticking with you and not giving up on you*' nature of His love. God's mercy is greater than we can imagine – where sin abounds, grace abounds all the more (see [Romans 5:20-21](#) and [Psalm 103:8-14](#)). When it comes to our experience of God's mercy, the problem is not God's reluctance. David is running from God in chapter 29; it's God who is pursuing David in His mercy. But as merciful as God is, even in the mess of our sin, it's not enough for us to know this about God we must respond (That's a key difference between Saul and David). Do you believe in God's sovereign mercy? What makes it difficult for you to believe and rest in? God's mercy is meant to lead us to repentance (see [Romans 2:4](#)), that we turn from our sin and trust in Christ. How do you need to respond to God in this way, even now? Take some time to reflect on God's mercy in 1 Samuel 29 and respond to Him in prayer...

Additional reading: Ephesians 1:11, Proverbs 16:9, 33; Matthew 6:24; John 17:14-19

\*On Sunday we sang "His Mercy is More" by Matt Boswell and Matt Papa. I'd encourage you to review and even sing the lyrics as a reminder that God's rich mercy. You can listen to the song [here](#).

### **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>