

Theme: Despite David's sin and unfaithfulness, God was faithful to save David and fulfill His covenant promises.

I. Intro - Deus Ex Machina

- A. Referred to method of resolving conflict in Greek plays
- B. Seemed like no way out - and then the god's would descend to stage by a machine
- C. The Greeks loved this - many today have not liked it
- D. In our story, David is in a real mess; how will he get out?

II. The Fugitive's Failures

- A. David had foolishly listened to his doubts and fears
But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand."... ⁷ David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months. 1 Samuel 27:1, 7
 - 1. David did not seek God but rather looked within himself for guidance - and was led astray
 - 2. Rather than doubting his doubts, David doubted God's covenant promises
 - 3. Driven by fear, David began to think and act in irrational and sinful ways
 - 4. This period lasted for 16 months!
- B. Reached a crisis when the Philistines attacked Israel
In those days the Philistines gathered their forces to fight against Israel. Achish said to David, "You must understand that you and your men will accompany me in the army." ² David said, "Then you will see for

yourself what your servant can do." Achish replied, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life." ¹ Samuel 28:1-2

- 1. David's fears have driven him between a rock and a hard place, between the hammer and the anvil
- 2. It appears there is no good way out of this mess
 - a. If David turns on the Philistines, he will be in the hands of Saul
 - b. If David fights, he is fighting against God's people
 - c. If the Philistines win David is reduced to a bodyguard for Achish
 - d. If the Philistines lose, David looks like a traitor
- C. The inevitable outcome of sin is increasing sin and problems. Sin is never contained, but spreads like a contagion.

III. The Fugitive's Faithful Father

- A. God works to deliver David
The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. ² As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish.
³ The commanders of the Philistines asked, "What about these Hebrews?" Achish replied, "Is this not David, who was an officer of Saul king of Israel? He has already been with me for over a year, and from the day he left Saul until now, I have found no fault in him." ¹ Samuel 29:1-3
 - 1. The Philistine leaders begin to object to David
 - 2. Achish "David has been faultless for over a year"

But the Philistine commanders were angry with him and said, "Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men? ⁵ Isn't this the David they sang about in their dances: " 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?" ¹ Samuel 29:4-5

3. The Philistine rulers continue to object to David
4. They think David will betray them to go back to Saul
5. Recount the chant from David's victory over Goliath
6. God is sovereignly working through these unbelievers to do his will and deliver David

So Achish called David and said to him, "As surely as the Lord lives, you have been reliable, and I would be pleased to have you serve with me in the army. From the day you came to me until now, I have found no fault in you, but the rulers don't approve of you. ⁷ Turn back and go in peace; do nothing to displease the Philistine rulers." ¹ Samuel 29:6-7

7. Achish regrettably informs David
8. He even takes a vow in Yahweh's name!
9. He sends David away in peace (shalom)!
10. Surely David will breathe a sigh of relief!!
"But what have I done?" asked David. "What have you found against your servant from the day I came to you until now? Why can't I go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?" ¹ Samuel 29:8

11. David does not see God's hand at work in this
12. He misses several clear signs pointing to Yahweh's deliverance
 - a. The victory chant from defeating Goliath
 - b. The vow taken in Yahweh's name
 - c. The blessing of "peace" to send him away
 - d. The miraculous way out of this mess!
13. We don't know what he is thinking, but he is being foolish
14. When we have been driven by fear and sin, we often do not see God's hand at work in our situation - but He is always at work!

Achish answered, "I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, 'He must not go up with us into battle.' ¹⁰ Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light." ¹ Samuel 29:9-10

15. Achish still speaks well of David, but will not let him go to battle
16. David does not realize it, but God has sovereignly worked through unbelievers to rescue David
17. David does not know it, but God is at work to remove Saul from the throne to clear the way for David
 - a. If David had turned on the Philistines, Saul would not have died in battle, clearing the way for David
 - b. If David fought against Israel, he might have faced Saul or Jonathan in battle!

- c. If David fought against Israel he would be a traitor, not the next king

18. Despite David's sin and unfaithfulness, God was faithful to save David and fulfill His covenant promises.

B. God faithfully speaks when David calls out to Him

1. More trouble - town burned; everyone taken captive
David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ²and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. ¹ Samuel 30:1–2

- a. When they get home - it had been attacked!
- b. Town burned; everyone taken captive

2. The trouble deepens - the men turn on David
When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God. ¹ Samuel 30:3–4, ⁶

- a. Everyone wept until exhausted
- b. Then the men turned on David - they had enough!
- c. They were actually talking about killing David
- d. We finally read about David turning to God
- e. David finds strength in God - he has reached the end of his rope

3. David seeks God - and God answers him
Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, ⁸ and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." ¹ Samuel 30:7–8

- a. This is the first time since 1 Samuel 23!
- b. We expect God to not answer David - but He does
- c. Human parents and friends often make us wallow in the mire and refuse to forgive - but God is not like that to His children. He is quick to forgive and restore us to fellowship with Him.
 - 1. Be like God in this way - don't repeatedly throw people's failures up to them
 - 2. Even when there are consequences for past behaviors, we should be characterized by graciousness, love and restoration
- d. God is like the father of prodigal son - waiting for first sign of return
- e. God does not turn away from His children when they turn to Him
- f. He is faithful - even when we have been unfaithful

IV. Applying the Word of Our Faithful Father

- A. Do we see how faithful our Heavenly Father is to us?
 - 1. We live in a world where people are unfaithful
 - 2. Business people break contracts, friends forsake us, spouses break their vows
 - 3. We have to use locks and lawyers because people are unfaithful and can not be trusted

4. This can give us a jaundiced view of life - and God
5. But God is not like this - He is utterly faithful and full of integrity
6. Even when we have fallen short - He does not
7. Do we see this - or do we think God is like others?
8. When I sin do I think God will not forgive?
9. When I have not called out to Him - do I think He will ignore me?
10. When we have been prodigal sons, do we think God is like the father, or the older brother?

B. The Table of Our Faithful Father

1. This Table shows the depth of our Father's faithfulness
2. He did not spare His own Son, but gave Him up for us
3. He did this while we were still sinners!
4. Come to the Table today to freely confess
5. Come to the Table today to receive grace and mercy

The Fugitive's Faithful Father

1 Samuel 28:1-2; 29:1-30:8 (30:1-8)

January 3, 2016

Communion

Jude 1:24-25

Teaching keywords: God's character; biblical characters; sin; sovereignty of God; correction; salvation and deliverance; exile and return

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—²⁵ to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen. Jude 1:24–25

1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, ² and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

³ When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴ So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵ David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God.

⁷ Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, ⁸ and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." 1 Samuel 30:1–8