

Theme: When David does not seek God and trust in His Word but instead acts based on his internal fears, he wanders into a period of exile and sin.

I. Intro - Oedipus - Driven to ruin by fear

- A. Oedipus born to King Laius and Queen Jacosta
- B. Oracle - Laius son would kill him - left Oedipus to die
- C. Servant gives to another couple; eventually told he would kill his father and marry his mother
- D. To avoid this, he flees; argues with stranger & kills him
- E. Goes to Thebes; mourning loss of king; marries Queen
- F. The woman he married was Jocasta - his own mother
- G. Fear prompted by oracle caused him to fulfill prophecy
- H. Today we see David act out of fear - creates trouble

II. God's Faithful Protection of David

- A. God protected David the shepherd
But David said to Saul, "Your servant has been keeping his father's sheep. When a lion or a bear came and carried off a sheep from the flock, ³⁵ I went after it, struck it and rescued the sheep from its mouth. When it turned on me, I seized it by its hair, struck it and killed it. ³⁶ Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine." 1 Samuel 17:34–37
 - 1. God had protected young David from lion and bear
 - 2. This was not David's skill - the LORD delivered me

- B. The Spirit anointed David with power
So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came upon David in power. 1 Samuel 16:13
 - 1. David was then anointed as king, and with Spirit
 - 2. The Spirit was on David in power
 - 3. David is no ordinary man - the anointed king!
- C. God delivered David from Goliath
David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but **I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.** ⁴⁶ This day **the Lord will hand you over to me, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head.** Today I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds of the air and the beasts of the earth, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷ **All those gathered here will know that it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's, and he will give all of you into our hands.**" 1 Samuel 17:45–47
 - 1. David's confidence before Goliath was in the Lord
 - 2. It is not the strength or experience of the warrior, nor the amount of weapons - for the battle was the Lord's & he would determine victory.
 - 3. David struck down Goliath by the strength of God
- D. God delivered David from Saul for many years
 - 1. God delivered David from Saul's spears
 - 2. He kept David safe through years as a fugitive

3. He guided David away from danger time and again
4. He delivered Saul into David's hands in the cave
5. In Nabal incident He showed David the the Lord would deal with things - David did not need to put his own hands to evil
6. He delivered Saul into David's hands again [1 Sam 26]

a. Saul again totally vulnerable before David

So David and Abishai went to the army by night, and there was Saul, lying asleep inside the camp with his spear stuck in the ground near his head. Abner and the soldiers were lying around him. ⁸Abishai said to David, "Today God has delivered your enemy into your hands. Now let me pin him to the ground with one thrust of my spear; I won't strike him twice." 1 Samuel 26:7-8

b. David knows God will destroy Saul - He is sovereign

But David said to Abishai, "Don't destroy him! Who can lay a hand on the Lord's anointed and be guiltless? ¹⁰ As surely as the Lord lives," he said, "the Lord himself will strike him; either his time will come and he will die, or he will go into battle and perish. ¹¹ But the Lord forbid that I should lay a hand on the Lord's anointed. Now get the spear and water jug that are near his head, and let's go." 1 Samuel 26:9-11

c. Yahweh had put Saul & his men into a deep sleep

So David took the spear and water jug near Saul's head, and they left. No one saw or knew about it, nor did anyone wake up. **They were all sleeping, because the Lord had put them into a deep sleep.** 1 Samuel 26:12

d. God is sovereignly protecting David - Saul can not harm him no matter how long or hard he tries

7. Saul knew David was blessed and would triumph
Then Saul said to David, "May you be blessed, my son David; you will do great things and surely triumph." So David went on his way, and Saul returned home. 1 Samuel 26:25

E. David is sovereignly blessed and protected. He does not need to fear, for the Lord will care for and deliver him from all dangers.

III. The Fugitive Gives Way to Fear

A. The path of fear

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." 1 Samuel 27:1

1. Ominous words - "But David thought to himself"
2. No note of David seeking God in these chapters
3. Fear arises because David looks within himself rather than looking to Yahweh. Fear takes root because David trusts in his own thoughts rather God's Word.
4. Looking within does not lead to faith but fear; faith is found but looking outside of ourselves to God and His covenant promises.

B. The content of fear

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." 1 Samuel 27:1

1. Fear tells David that one day Saul will kill him
2. Ultimately, this is a denial of God's Word of promise, for God had promised that David would sit on the throne
3. In essence, David is hearing the serpents voice: "Hath God really said?" - and when he listens to this vice, faith melts and gives way to fear.
4. David gives way to fear - in spite of all the times God has kept His Word and delivered David!
5. Instead of doubting God's Word of promise, David should have doubted his doubts! And so should we all!

C. The plans of fear

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.**" 1 Samuel 27:1

1. There is nothing better for me to do than go to the enemies of God's people? How about trusting God who has made covenant with you and faithfully delivered you time and again???
2. How can this possibly work out - how will he live among the enemies of God's people? How will this not require sin upon sin?
3. When we begin to doubt God's Word and give way to fear, the insane and irrational will suddenly appear to be rational and sane.

D. The outcome of fear

So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maach king of Gath...

⁴When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him. 1 Samuel 27:2, 4

1. Driven by fear rather than led by faith, David settles among the enemies of God and His people.
2. He does receive the immediate desired end - Saul ceases to pursue him. But this temporary relief comes at a massive price. Fear always exacts a terrible price.
3. When we begin to doubt God's Word and give way to fear, the insane and irrational will suddenly appear to be rational and sane.

Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) ⁹ Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. 1 Samuel 27:8-9

4. David begins to raid other people - and to give the spoils to Achish - the ruler of God's enemies
5. David lies to Achish - who certainly appears foolish in this story. But the gullibility of Achish is no excuse for David's sin.
6. To cover up his actions, David kills every man and woman among the people he raids

7. The situation into which fear has driven him is requiring him to make increasingly serious moral compromises. Unrepentant sin always leads to further sin.
8. David the anointed deliverer has now become David the marauding destroyer - all because he listened to his doubts rather than God's Word, and thus gave way to fear.
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
9. Eventually the Philistines are going to attack Israel - and David will have to join them in fighting God's people!
10. How on earth did David think this could possibly end? His sin has put him between a rock and a hard place, between the hammer and the anvil.
11. Will David actually slaughter his own people? Will he now slay Saul in battle? Will he betray Achish - who has foolishly helped and trusted David? Will he really become a mere bodyguard for the ruler of God's enemies?
12. How will this mess be resolved? Tune in next week!

IV. Applying the Word of Our Faithful God

- A. Am I driven by fear - or led by faith?
 1. We are all tempted to be driven by fear at times
 2. Are there areas where fear is driving me?

- a. Fear about whether God will ever provide a spouse
 - b. Fear about my children
 - c. Fear about having enough money/job security
 - d. Fear about where our culture is going
 - e. Fear about tomorrow, flying, accidents, etc.
3. Am I nourishing my faith - or my fears?
 - a. Do I meditate on my own inadequacies - or God's sovereignty?
 - b. Do I meditate on my fears - on God's promises?
 - c. Do I meditate on uncertain future - or do I rehearse God's faithfulness to me in the past?
 - d. Do I listen to those who feed my fears - or those who stir my faith?
 4. Ultimately, those who feed their fear will be ruled and driven by fear, while those who feed their faith will be led by God's Spirit.

B. Feeding Our Faith at the Table

1. Here we are nourished in faith as we meditate on God's faithful promises
2. Come, confess your fears, and feed your faith

The Fugitive's Fear

1 Samuel 26-28:2 (27:1)

June 12, 2016

Communion

Psalm 20:1-4

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; fear; anxiety and worry; sin; sovereignty of God; faith; exile and return

1 May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

2 May he send you help and support from His sanctuary

3 May he remember all your sacrifices and worship, and grant you the desires of your heart. Psalms 20:1–4

1 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.”

1 Samuel 27:1