

## When We Leave God Out 1 Samuel 27

### Introduction:

1. Chapter 26 ended with God once again delivering David from the hand of King Saul in amazing fashion. David proclaimed God's faithfulness and his own personal faith in vs. 23-24. The chapter ended by simply saying, "*David went on his way.*" vs. 25
2. It is hard to believe that this same man said what he said in 27:1. "I'm going to die at the hand of Saul. I'd better go into the land of the Philistines, God's enemies, and live there. There is nothing better for me to do." What a ludicrous thought and hasty decision.
3. Do you know Who is missing as we read the events of this chapter? **God is missing!** Not one time is David seen seeking God, or praying to God, or trying to discern what God would have him to do.
4. Here is the man who is supposed to be a man after God's own heart, yet God is missing. What a reminder that men are, at their best, still men. I think most of us can associate with David. We've walked in those same shoes.
5. Have there been times in your life when you have left God out? God seems to be missing in a lot of people's daily lives.
6. It wasn't always this way with David. When he was in the wilderness of Judah, David wrote Psalm 63:1. David was purposed in his trials to seek God and thirst after Him (cf. Psalm 27:8, 119:2) Every believer should seek God, even in the midst of trials.
7. But David was one discouraged puppy (gloom, despair, agony). He was down and depressed, and in this chapter he fails to seek God. God is left out. God is missing.
8. Why is it so crucial that we seek God? What happens when we leave God out?

### First, instead of walking by faith, we run in fear.

1. Faith and fear don't mix. They are like oil and water.
2. Do you know why we fear? We begin to reason in our minds, **instead** of trusting God's promises. This is what David did. Notice verse 1: "*David said in his heart...*"
3. This chapter doesn't begin with David seeking God, or David quoting God's promises. It begins with David having irrational, fearful thoughts.
  - "I'm going to die by the hand of Saul." What? God has, time and time again, protected David from crazy King Saul.
  - "...*there is nothing better for me...*" What a statement! God has nothing better for me other than for me to go down and live with God's enemies in the land of the Philistines, which is a picture of Satan's world system.
  - So, based on these fearful thoughts, David ran down to the wicked Philistines.
4. One of Satan's most powerful and effective tools is fear. Satan fills our minds with fearful thoughts, persuades us to question God, and then exploits our fears.

5. Remember, fear controls. If Satan can get us to fear, he knows he can control us. When Satan tempts us to fear, we have to stand on God's Word. 2 Timothy 1:7; Romans 8:15; Hebrews 13:6
6. The only way to explain why David would be filled with such fears is that he simply was not seeking the Lord. When you leave God out of your daily life, expect your heart to get filled with irrational fears.

**Second, instead of walking in wisdom, we stumble in foolishness.**

1. Paul commanded the Christian to "*walk in wisdom.*" There are many different types of wisdom: the wisdom of this world, the wisdom of men, fleshly wisdom, and then there is the wisdom of God.
2. In our text, we have an example of David exercising fleshy, human wisdom. Notice in verse 1 that "*David said in his heart...*" He didn't consult God's prophet; he didn't inquire of the Lord or seek God's Word. As a result, he made a foolish decision. vs. 2, 3a, 4
  - David was thinking, "My plan worked. Saul quit chasing me." But David was not where God wanted him to be.
  - God had already made it clear where he wanted David. God's prophet told David to hold up in the wilderness of Judah. 22:5
3. When we leave God out, we make very foolish decisions. Ask Abraham and Hagar about that! Ishmael was the product of a decision that left God out. There's been a lot of blood shed through the centuries over that foolish decision.
  - Ask Moses about hasty decisions that leave God out! He took care of that Egyptian man, and it cost him 40 years on the backside of a desert.
4. We desperately need spiritual wisdom as we walk through this wicked world. The only way to get it is to seek God. When we read God's Word, pray, and yield to Him, we make decisions that honor and glorify Christ. Hebrews 11:6
5. It is so easy to get wrapped up in the things of this world and make rash decisions, leaving God completely out of our decision-making processes. Here is the kicker - when things fall apart and people say, "Why is God doing this to me?"
6. This is why Paul admonished the believer to seek God (Colossians 3:1). In Christ are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:3

**Third, instead of walking in victory, we fall into Satan's snares.**

1. When we leave God out and we don't seek God, we are ripe for the picking. Paul talks about not being "*ignorant of Satan's devices.*" He also talked about Satan getting an advantage on us. 2 Corinthians 2:11
2. David went right back down to the Philistine city of Gath where he had narrowly escaped in chapter 21. King Achish gave to David and his men the city of Ziklag (vs. 5-7). David used Ziklag as a base of operations as he went out and destroyed and plundered many of the heathen cities in that area. vs. 8

- Remember, these cities were filled with vile, lewd, heathen, and wicked people that were enemies of God. These people were warned and were supposed to be destroyed when Israel was brought into the land, but Israel didn't finish the job. These people had been given extra time to repent, but had been deserving of God's wrath and judgment for years.
  - David was the instrument to bring divine judgment on these wicked and vile people. But this doesn't excuse the fact that David was not where he was supposed to be.
3. David came back to King Achish and deceived him into thinking that he had been making war against cities in Israel - against his own people. vs. 10, 12
  4. Here is David, plundering, destroying cities, taking the loot, getting rich, scheming, and lying to Achish. Why? He was running from Saul (who is a picture of Satan). David may have been King of Israel much sooner, had he not taken this Philistine detour in his life.
  5. David didn't know it, but he fell right into King Saul's snare. Saul got rid of David and was probably able to remain king much longer than he would have, had David stayed in Judah, and continued seeking and waiting on God.
  6. These are wasted years in David's life. Why? God is missing. When we leave God out, instead of walking in victory, we fall right into the snares of Satan. Satan convinces us like David, "There is nothing better."
    - We slip back into Philistine territory - into the world's ways, the world's thinking, the world's pleasures, etc. We waste valuable time.
  7. Seek God. David had it pegged earlier when he was in Judah and he wrote Psalm 63:1-2.
    - *"O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary."*