



September 7, 2014

1 Samuel 27

“A Life of Compromise”

Pastor Gary Hamrick

At this point in his life, you could say that David had fallen into a pit, and he had a hard time climbing out. Remember, he had been on the run from King Saul for years; having gone from one cave to another and one town to another, never staying in one place very long in an effort to elude Saul. David was tired and worn out, and in a pit of despair. And, when you become tired and worn out and find yourself in a pit of despair, you are more prone to making bad choices, which is exactly what happened in David's life.

If it seems odd and out-of-place that David was living in Philistine territory, that's because it was! He had made an incredibly bad choice, because the Philistines were perennial enemies of Israel, and we find that David was not only living there, as if that wasn't bad enough, but he was “chummy” with Achish, the king of the Philistines, too! It's hard to imagine how it came to be that David, who killed the Philistine giant, Goliath, and helped the Israeli army defeat the Philistines, would now be living within their borders.

This account tells the story of one of the most overlooked mistakes in David's life. It could be that this is true because committing adultery with Bathsheba and the arranged murder of her husband, Uriah, are so bad in our minds that people give David “a pass” on this one. Whatever the reason, it's important to see that David was not in step with God's will, and he shouldn't have been fraternizing with the enemy and living amongst them. These decisions were going to put a lot of people that David loved at risk, and this would be one of the lowest points in his life. But, in his mercy, God would bring him out of this place, even though there would be pain and sorrow, which were the consequences of his faulty thinking and bad choices.

In this study we're going to learn about what it means to live a life of compromise and how quickly we can take on the characteristics of the world. Pastor Gary will also help

us understand that a life of compromise makes it so we don't really fit in anywhere, i.e. the church or the world.

Historical Background

1. When David started his life on the run, he went to Gath to escape Saul, however, when he wasn't well received by the Philistines (because they recognized him as the hero of Israel), David pretended to be insane so they wouldn't kill him, and this ruse helped him "get out of Dodge!"
2. After years of running, David came back to try living Philistine territory again.
3. **1 Samuel 27:1** - *"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.' "*
 - a. The last part of David's thinking was right, because **1 Samuel 27:4** says, *"When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him."*
 - b. When David came to the conclusion that the *"best thing [he could do was to] escape to the land of the Philistines,"* he was wrong.
 - c. No matter how bad things become, it's never the best choice to find shelter in enemy territory!
 - d. In David's case, when he had been chosen by God and anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king of Israel, he had absolutely no business cozying up to the enemy, but that's exactly what he did.
4. **1 Samuel 27:5-7** - *"Then David said to Achish, 'If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?' So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. David lived in the Philistine territory a year and four months."*
 - a. David has so ingratiated himself with King Achish that he asked for and was given Ziklag, a town in which he lived for 16 months.
5. David was a man who loved God, but his relationship with God slipped during the 16 months he lived in Ziklag.
 - a. There is no record in the Bible of David praying or writing a single psalm or reciting the law of the Lord.
 - b. There is no record in the Bible of David worshiping, or sacrificing to the Lord.

6. David's life at this time is a picture of many Christians who live a life of compromise, who have retreated into enemy territory, only to find it very comfortable.
 - a. Yes, these Christians love the Lord, but they've put themselves in the middle between the Lord and the world; between worldliness and godliness.
 - b. **James 4:4** - "... know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God." (KJV)
 - c. **James 4:4a** - "... don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God?" (NIV)
7. David was "playing with fire," as the old saying goes, because he had opened a door of compromise, when what he needed to do was to run for home and God, and get out of Ziklag before it was too late!

In A Life Of Compromise
You Start Lying And Taking On The Characteristics Of The World

8. **1 Samuel 27:8-12** - *"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.) 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. When Achish asked, 'Where did you go raiding today?' David would say, 'Against the Negev of Judah' or 'Against the Negev of Jerahmeel' or 'Against the Negev of the Kenites.' He did not leave a man or woman alive to be brought to Gath, for he thought, 'They might inform on us and say, 'This is what David did.' And such was his practice as long as he lived in Philistine territory. Achish trusted David and said to himself, 'He has become so odious to his people, the Israelites, that he will be my servant forever.' "*
9. David took his guerrilla army of 600 men on marauding raids in which he would plunder other enemies of the Israelites, including the Geshurites, Girzites, and Amalekites.
10. When David returned from these raids, King Achish would ask, *"Where did you go raiding today?"*, and David would answer that he had been in "the Negev of Judah or the Negev of Jerahmeel or the Negev of the Kenites," and every answer was a lie.

11. David told lies so he would fit in with the Philistines; in the hope that they would see that he had become one of them.
 - a. David ensured that no one would question him about his loyalties, by killing everyone he attacked so no one would be alive to tell Achish the truth.
12. Compromise always leads to lying, lying to cover something up as well as lying to fit in.
13. [1 Samuel 29:1-2](#) - *“The Philistines gathered all their forces at Aphek, and Israel camped by the spring in Jezreel. As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish.”*
14. The Philistines were getting ready to attack the Israelites and David was actually going to march out with them!
15. [1 Samuel 29:3-11](#) tells us, that in spite of the fact that David had become delusional, God providentially intervened in this situation.
16. One thing is for sure; God really loved David, because he got the Philistine officer to object over the idea of allowing David to march out with the army, because there was no guarantee that David couldn't be trusted.

In A Life Of Compromise
You Don't Really Fit In Anywhere

17. David didn't fit in with the Philistines, and at the same time, he also didn't fit in with the Israelites.
18. Like David, when our friends in the world see a little bit of “church” in us, we don't really fit in with them, and when people in the church see a little bit of the world in us, we don't fit in there either.
19. We are uncomfortable in the world and we're uncomfortable in the church, and people who straddle both the world and the church are some of the most miserable people on the planet.

In A Life Of Compromise
You Endanger And/Or Exasperate The People Around You

20. **1 Samuel 30:1-6a** - *“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, 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. When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. David’s two wives had been captured - Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him.”*
21. David’s foolish choices endangered the people around him, because his family had been kidnapped because he had put them where they shouldn’t have been in the first place.
22. David’s men, who, by the way, were the only friends he had on the planet, were thinking of stoning him to death because they blamed him for getting them into this predicament.
23. This kind of thing happens today when a father isn’t walking in the will of God, when there’s compromise in his life, and he’s comfortable in enemy territory.
a. A man like this endangers his family by making them vulnerable to the enemy.
24. This kind of thing happens today when a teen or young adult isn’t walking in the will of God, and the choices they make exasperate everyone around them, and people cry until they have *“no strength left to weep.”*

In A Life Of Compromise
You Will Experience A Crisis That Brings You Back To God

25. **1 Samuel 30:6b** - *“But David found strength in the Lord his God.”*
26. **1 Samuel 30:6b** - *“... but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God.”*
(KJV)
27. Ziklag was a time of crisis, and it became a turning point in David’s life.
28. It’s believed that David wrote **Psalm 6** at Ziklag, which says: *“O Lord, do not rebuke me in your anger or discipline me in your wrath. Be merciful to me, Lord,*

for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? Turn, O Lord, and deliver me; save me because of your unfailing love. No one remembers you when he is dead. Who praises you from the grave? I am worn out from groaning; all night long I flood my bed with weeping and drench my couch with tears. My eyes grow weak with sorrow; they fail because of all my foes. Away from me, all you who do evil, for the Lord has heard my weeping. The Lord has heard my cry for mercy; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies will be ashamed and dismayed; they will turn back in sudden disgrace.”

29. At this point, David inquired of the Lord about whether to go after the Amalekites, and the Lord told him to go.
30. [1 Samuel 30:18-19](#) - *“David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.”*
31. In God’s mercy, he allowed David to recover absolutely 100% of everything, and a short time later, David would leave Ziklag, never to return.

Discussion Questions

1. Review the introduction to the study guide with your group to provide the appropriate background.
2. Read [1 Samuel 27:1-7](#) to provide an overview for this study.
3. Read and discuss [James 4:4](#).
4. Has there been a time in your life when others would say that you were a friend of the world?
5. How has being comfortable in the world and embracing some of the characteristics of worldliness opened a door of compromise in your life?
6. How do you manage to live in the world but not of the world?
7. What do you make of the fact that the Bible doesn’t record a single instance of David praying, writing a psalm, reciting the law of the Lord, or worshiping the Lord, during the 16 months he lived in Ziklag?
8. Allow the people in your group to share their experiences about times when

their relationship with the Lord wasn't what it should have been.

9. What were some of the factors in your "slipping" relationship with the Lord?
10. Read and discuss [1 Samuel 27:8-12](#).
11. How have you compromised to the point that you started telling lies and taking on the characteristics of the world?
12. Share examples of times when you found that the way you were living made it impossible to feel like you fit in the church or the world.
13. Has there been a time in your life when decisions you've made put others at risk or exasperated the people around you?
14. How has walking outside of the will of God and living a life of compromise endangered your family?
15. What was the crisis that brought you back to the Lord?
16. Read and discuss [Psalm 6](#).
17. Close your time in prayer by asking the Holy Spirit to help each person: be intentional about choosing holiness and godliness; rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to avoid opening the door of compromise; to love the Lord and remain in right relationship with him.

* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New International Version (NIV 1984).