

What A Fine Mess... But God!

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1 Samuel 29:1-11

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What a Fine Mess You're In David

- Narrator left us hanging with David's situation at 28:1
- Time jump to show us Saul's crisis & poor solution 28:3-25
- Narrator jumps back to David's situation 29:1-2
- We're being shown contrast between Saul & David
- David experiences God's grace - Psalm 118^{1,8,14,18,29}

David Entangled with the Philistines

- Ominous location^{29:1}: Aphek; seen this before^{4:1}
- Philistines attack^{4:10}; Israel routed; Ark captured^{4:11}; Eli dies^{4:18}
- Philistines troubled by Ark^{chp5}; Samuel called Israel back to God^{7:3-4}
- Israel lived in victory for many years until Samuel became old^{8:1}
- Israel then demanded a king^{8:4} like the nations^{8:19-20}: they got Saul
- Note irony of David joining Philistine assembly - his dilemma
- David sought refuge outside God's land, lived double life

Applying the Lessons

- Until now, David's life has often foreshadowed the coming Messiah
- Now David's life shows us what happens to wayward servant
- David sought temporal salvation from the world while knowing God
- We do that when we seek comfort or solutions in the world...
- We're warned of a double life: 2 Cor 6¹⁴⁻¹⁸; James 4¹⁻⁸
- Where do you find your satisfaction, comfort, hope - David's Psalm:
 - **God is Great** so I don't have to be in control^{Ps145:3}
 - **God is Glorious** so I don't have to fear others^{Ps145:5}
 - **God is Gracious** so I don't have to prove myself^{Ps145:8}
 - **God is Good** so I don't have to look elsewhere^{Ps145:9}

What was Different Between Saul and David?

- Saul believed in God, but hardened his heart, lived his way
- David had faith & trust in God, wandered and was disciplined
- God's preserving grace kept David, Saul was judged for apostasy
- David sought sanctuary in Philistia, but his faith didn't die
- David compromised, but God's grace was greater than David!

What Are These Hebrews Doing Here?

- David had gained trust of Achish, but commanders not happy³
- Didn't trust David as rear guard⁴; songs remembered⁵
- Achish defends David but tells him to go home⁶⁻⁷
- God has 'released' David from difficult position!
- David pushes back, protests his innocence⁸. Why?
 - David merely playing his false loyalty...
 - lords correctly perceived duplicity... double meaning^{29:8,24,8;26:19}

So What Do We Learn?

- God in His Glorious Grace delivered David from his folly & enemies
- Remember, faith is a gift from God^{Eph2:8-9}
- God preserves His own by His grace - but not a license to sin
- Check yourself: am I living like I'm redeemed or the world^{1Co3:13-15?}

A Picture of the Perfect Messiah God Sent For Us!

- Achish⁹ & Pilate^{Lk23:14} - similar words to David & Jesus
- But Jesus was perfect! David by faith was called that^{Rom3:22}
 - Saul depended upon himself
 - David trusted in Christ's work so counted as righteous by faith
 - Believer rest in Christ's work so you are righteous by faith!