



THE BOOK OF

1 SAMUEL



Sermon Series Notes

“Don’t Give the Devil a Foothold In Your Life” (I Samuel 27-31)

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I Samuel 26 ends with King Saul confessing to David that he had acted like a fool, that he had erred greatly (26:21). This is not the first time that Saul has confessed his sin. Saul’s mistakes began early on in his reign as king. In I Samuel 13, the Philistines are assembled to fight against Israel. Saul had been instructed to wait for Samuel to make offerings before the Lord, but when Samuel did not show up, Saul made the offerings himself, and Samuel arrived just as he finished making the offering. It was a faithless, foolish move on Saul’s part. In I Samuel 15 Saul is commanded by the Lord through Samuel to destroy the Amalekites. But instead, he wins the battle, then in pomp and glory parades back into town with the king of the Amalekites in tow. He also spared the best of the Amalekites sheep and cattle. When confronted by Samuel, Saul initially denied any act of disobedience. Then he blamed the failure on his soldiers, but he sought to justify their actions by saying the intention was to offer the sheep and cattle in sacrifice to the Lord. Finally, he said he was pressured by the people to do what he did. All lame excuses for his failure. We pick up the story in chapter 27. Read chapter 27. David seeks refuge in the camp of the enemy, and he finds it. This is a desperate, but in my opinion, not a very wise move. Read 28:1-2. I would call this a compromise that could have catastrophic consequences. Pick the story up in chapter 29, summarizing some of the text.

In the sovereign plan of God, the enemy, which has now become David’s ally, turns against him. What a wise, gracious, and merciful God we serve. Had this not have happened, David would certainly fought with the enemy against Israel.

Rev.3:7 What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

Situation with me at Myrtle Beach, going to Mother Fletchers with my cousin Wayne...

Read I Sam.30:1-6a.

If David had not allied himself with the enemy, this probably would not have happened. David’s men now hold him responsible for this tragedy. Now read 30:6b. That one statement speaks volumes!

David and his men wept until they had no more strength left to weep. Have you ever wept like that? Have you ever wept like that, because you realize how foolish you have been?

Psalm 51:17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

See Psalm 28:1-2, 6-7a; 46:1; 118:14.

Don’t miss what David does next. Read 30:7-8. This would have been a time that it was easy to make an emotional, impulsive, rash decision. Wouldn’t you naturally go and seek to rescue your wife and family?

Proverbs 19:2 it is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor be hasty and miss the way.

Note Joshua 9:14 They sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord.

God gives David complete victory!

David is generous with the spoils of the victory (30:21-31).

I Samuel ends on a very positive note for David. But Saul's story here is quite the opposite. Read 28:3-19, then 31:1-6.

If you compare Saul's failures in life with David's, they both look pretty bad.

But Saul's life ends here in tragedy, and David, though he made some very unwise decisions, is tremendously victorious, and blessed by the Lord.

There is one major difference between these two men, and it is this: Saul allowed the devil to get a foothold in his life. That foothold over time became a stronghold, and as a result, the enemy was able to destroy him. David, though making foolish decisions, even giving the devil a foothold in his life, never allowed the foothold to become (or at least remain) a stronghold.

Eph.4:27...and do not give the devil a foothold.

Footholds over time become strongholds. A stronghold is something that has a strong hold on you.

What was the stronghold in Saul's life?

- An ungodly attitude (I Sam.18:9)

II Cor.10:4-5

Matthew 15:19-20

The vast array of potential strongholds:

- Bitterness
 - Kevin Spencer 7 the galahs
- Unforgiveness
 - Matthew 18:21-35
- Lust
 - I John 2:16...lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes
 - Col.3:5 Put to death whatever belongs to your earthly nature...lust...
 - Pornography
 - Gluttony
 - Greed
- Drugs/Alcohol
- Gambling
- Romantic fantasies
 - Evil thoughts can be very deceptive thoughts
 - Prov.12:11; 28:19...he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.

II Peter 2:19...a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.

Steps to be set free from strongholds:

- Honest and open confession
 - Saul made excuses, sought to shift blame, etc.
 - Hidden sin is one of the easiest ways to give the devil a foothold in your life.
 - Samson
 - Proverbs 28:13 He who conceals his sin does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.
- Repentance
- The Word of God

- Hebrews 4:12 For the Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.
- Psalm 1:1-2; Joshua 1:8; regular, daily doses of the Word
- Develop & maintain self-control
 - I Cor.6:12
 - I Cor.9:26...I beat my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.

One of the worst places one might find themselves in life is having been set free of a stronghold only to become ensnared all over again.

II Peter 2:20, 22 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are again entangled in it and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning...Of them the proverbs are true: "A dog returns to its vomit," and "A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud."