

Sermon Notes for August 29, 2010

Sermon Series On David
A Life Of Great Success And Great Failure
“A Sad Picture Of A Fallen Believer”
I Samuel 27; 29; 30:1-8

Introduction

A. THE QUESTION OF THE “CARNAL CHRISTIAN”

1. My experience with Campus Crusade For Christ in college – three “types of people”
 - a. the non-Christian (slide)
 - b. the carnal Christian (slide)
 - c. the spirit-filled Christian (slide)
2. The Question is this: Are there three “types of people” in the world?

B. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF THE “CARNAL CHRISTIAN”

1. I do not believe in the “carnal Christian”:
 - a. Certainly not as Campus Crusade teaches
 1. as if a Christian could be a “carnal” forever and would never change
 2. I do not believe in the “carnal Christian” because I believe this because God would never “let that happen”:
 - a. **Philippians 1:6** – “being confident of this, that **He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**”
 - b. **Romans 8:30** – “And those **He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.**”
 - c. **John 10:27** – “My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me.”
 - b. **IF GOD IS THE ONE WHO SAVES US AND SANCTIFIES US, WILL HE LEAVE US ALONE TO BE CARNAL FOREVER?**
2. Now, despite the fact that I do not believe in the “carnal Christian”, I do believe that a believer can be carnal “for a period of time.”
 - a. The Prodigal Son
 - b. Paul in **Romans 7:14-15** – “We know that the law is spiritual; **but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin.** I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do.”
 - c. **The Westminster Confession of Faith** (modern version)
 1. **Of Providence:**

“In the fullness of His wisdom, righteousness, and grace, **God often allows His own children to be tempted in various ways and for a time to pursue the corruption of their own hearts.** God does this to chastise them for their previous sins and to reveal to them the hidden strength of corruption and deceitfulness in their hearts, so that they may be humbled.”

2. **Perseverance of the Saints:**

“Nevertheless, the temptations of Satan, the world, and **their old carnal natures**, along with neglect of the means of their preservation, **may lead believers to commit serious sins and to continue in them for a time.**”

3. **Of Sanctification:**

“Although the old nature **temporarily** wins battles in this warfare, **the continual strengthening of the sanctifying Spirit of Christ enables the regenerate nature in each believer to overcome.** And so believers grow in grace, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.”

C. THE QUANDRY OF DAVID

1. **IF THERE EVER WAS A MODEL OF A BELIEVER WHO WAS CARNAL, IT WAS DAVID.**

- a. here was a man who was, at one time, **THE** example of holiness and spirituality
 1. an obedient son
 2. a warrior who trusted and relied on the power of Jehovah God
 3. a man who was anointed by God to be the next king of Israel, because “he was a man after God’s own heart”
 - b. and yet, David was also a man who exhibited some ungodly traits
 1. amazingly, David would commit some sins that would “equal” his acts of faith
 2. it is hard to believe that this was the same man!
2. So, let us look at a man who, in some ways, “lived carnally” in his spiritual life.

I. DAVID CHOSE HIS OWN COUNSEL

A. David Was EXHAUSTED

1. After David miraculously killed Goliath as a young teenager, crowds began to chant. “Saul has slain his thousands, but David his tens of thousands.”
2. Once King Saul heard this, he thought that David would be a threat to his throne, so he made repeated attempts to kill his perceived rival
3. This pursuit of Saul for David lasted almost 10 years
 - a. during this time, David amassed an army of some 600 men AND their families
 - b. over this period of time, David and his men not only had to hide from Saul and his larger army of 3000. . .
 - c. David was responsible to take care of and feed almost 1000 people!
4. As you can imagine, this was a hard, hard life
 - a. David was tired of running, tired of sleeping in a caves and on the ground;
 - b. David was tired of crying babies; tired of finding food for all of those people.

B. David Was EXPECTANT

1. And all of this time, David **MUST** have been asking . . .
 - a. **WHERE IS GOD?**
 - b. I have done nothing wrong.
 - c. Am I not the anointed king of Israel?

d. GOD, WHY DO YOU LET THIS GO ON?

2. David must have thought. . .“What do I do if God does not solve this problem?”

C. David Was EXPRESSING

1. So, thinking that God may never deliver him from Saul, he took matters into his own hands;

I 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. Please notice David’s practice **before** this time. During better days, David sought the Lord’s direction. The first time he faced the Philistines in the wilderness, **“David inquired of the Lord”** in **I Samuel 23:2**. When David **“felt small against the enemy**, David inquired of the Lord.” in **I Samuel 23:4**.
 - b. But . . . that would not be his plan today. He would not seek the Lord.
2. look carefully what David did:
 - a. David **sought his own counsel**
 1. **Vs 1 - “he thought to himself”**
 - a. David was not only not seeking God
 - b. He was not even seeking a Priest or counsel from anyone!
 2. David thought that he knew better than ANYONE, INCLUDING GOD, what he should do
 - b. David **did not believe that God could protect him.**

Vs. 1 – “one of these days, I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul.”

 1. apparently, David did not believe that God would protect him from Saul
 2. that Saul would eventually find and kill David
 - a. **EVEN THOUGH GOD HAD ANOINTED DAVID AS THE KING OF ISRAEL**
 - b. **AND THOUGH GOD HAD PROTECTED AND PROVIDED FOR DAVID FOR 10 YEARS!**
 3. perhaps David felt that God had abandoned him
 - c. David **made a “pragmatic decision”**
 1. So, David decided what most unbelievers decide:
 - a. he weighed all of his options, looked at the possibilities and decided on a course of action that “made perfect sense to him”
 - b. David decided to “join the Philistines”

Vs. 1 – “the best thing that 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. **DID I HEAR CORRECTLY? DID DAVID JUST SAY THAT HE WAS GOING TO LIVE WITH THE PHILISTINES?**
 - a. wasn’t it the Philistines that David slaughtered after he killed Goliath?

- b. DIDN'T DAVID CALL OUT "THAT UNCIRCUMCISED PHILISTINE"?
 - 2. After weighing all of his options, David must have thought that this was his "smartest" option
 - 2. well, it gets "even better"
 - a. notice where David and his men actually settled:

I Samuel 27:2-3a – "So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish, son of Maach, king of Gath. David and his men settled in Gath with Achish."
 - b. do you know who was from Gath?

I Samuel 17:4 – "A champion named Goliath, **who was from Gath**, came out of the Philistine camp."

 - 1. Do you remember Goliath?
 - a. he was 9 feet tall
 - b. he was 'a champion'; he was undefeated in battle
 - c. he had trophies in the high school trophy case; his number had been retired
 - 2. I'm sure that the people who lived in Gath remembered Goliath.
 - c. So, David – let's go back to the very town where Babe Ruth lived: and you killed Babe Ruth!
 - 1. let's go back to the very place where the giant lived
 - 2. especially after what you called him and did to him
 - 3. this was obviously "what David decided to do; "a genius move."

II. DAVID BECAME CONFIDENT WITH HIS COUNSEL

A. DAVID'S PLAN APPARENTLY WORKED!

- 1. Saul did not pursue David into Philistia

Vs. 4 – "When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, **he no longer searched for him.**"

 - a. so, David's plan worked
 - b. DESPITE THE FACT THAT:
 - 1. David had not sought the wisdom of God, the Priest or the prophets
 - 2. He must have thought that he did not need anyone's advice – including God!
 - c. all that mattered to David at this point was that "his plan" worked
- 2. At one point in David's life, he had fought "the uncircumcised Philistines;" but now, he was a part of them.

B. OUR DECISIONS "APPEAR" TO BE CORRECT

- 1. Are you seeing how a believer thinks, **once he doubts that God is involved in his life?**

- a. we go through a hard time, maybe for a long period of time
 - b. we doubt that God will ever deliver us, so we conclude that we must “take matters into our own hands”
 - c. so, we study, think and then make a “logical decision”
 - 1. THINKING, LOOKING, STUDYING
 - 2. and then we make the best, most logical decision that we can.
 - d. **DO YOU REALIZE HOW DANGEROUS IT IS TO MAKE YOUR OWN DECISIONS?**
 - 1. **Proverbs 14:12** – “There is a way that **seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.**”
 - 2. **Isaiah 55:8-9** – ““For **my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,**” declares the LORD. “As the heavens are higher than the earth, **so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.**”
 - 3. **Jeremiah 17:9** – “**The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**”
2. My experience with a pulpit committee
- a. I had been pastoring in a small town for almost 8 years
 - 1. I am not a “small town guy”
 - 2. it really stretched me
 - b. I often thought. . .WHERE IS GOD?
 - 1. I have been faithful
 - 2. have you forgotten me?
 - c. I gave my name to a pulpit committee as a candidate (I had never done this before)
 - 1. in my opinion, it was a “perfect fit”
 - 2. it was where I wanted to live
 - 3. however;
 - a. I went through the process and it did not work out and it broke my heart
 - b. it was not God’s will for me and my family. I thank God that He did not call me there, **EVEN THOUGH I WAS CONVINCED THAT IT WAS GOD’S WILL.**
 - d. **Steve Brown-“Whenever you think that God is doing something, He is not. Whenever you think that God is not doing something, He is.”**

III. DAVID BECAME A COMPROMISER OF HIS FAITH

A. The EVIDENCE Of DAVID’S COMPROMISE

1. David killed

- a. after moving to Philistia, David asked King Achish if he would give David and his men and families a place to live.
 - 1. so the king gave David a place called Ziklag; a place that had at one time been part of Israel
 - 2. here, David and his men and their families could “finally settle down” and live “normal lives”

3. Pastor Quint Pitts

- “David’s men could now sleep with both eyes closed. Their children could attend Kindergarten, and their wives could unpack their suitcases.”**
4. it certainly looked like David had “made the right decision” to both he and his men
 5. David, his men and families would live in Ziklag for almost 1 ½ years. How wonderful it was to be “off of the road” and in your own bed at night.
- b. Now, despite David’s “wisdom,” notice what “wise David” did in his spare time:
1. David killed entire villages!

Vs. 8-9 – “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.”

 - a. David and his men would attack and kill entire towns
 1. men
 2. women
 3. and . . .children
 - b. to raid:
 1. to strip; to pull off
 2. to tear
 - c. they would keep the valuables and the animals
 - d. this was genocide!
 - e. **WITHOUT A DOUBT. . . DAVID WAS A MASS MURDERER!**
 1. where was the wonderful conscience of David?
 - a. a conscience that was so affected by the taunts of Goliath that young David volunteered to fight him
 - b. a conscience that was so sensitive that instead of killing Saul, David felt badly when he merely cut a portion of Saul’s coat to make a point.
2. **WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO THE HEART AND SOUL OF DAVID?**
2. WAS DAVID A GODLY MAN AT ALL?
 - a. How could a person be “so Godly” and so “conscience stricken” and then become a murderer of innocent babies?
 - b. perhaps David was not a Godly man at all
 - c. **IF DAVID WAS INDEED GODLY, WHAT ELSE WOULD YOU CALL HIM BUT “CARNAL”?**

2. David lied

- a. when the king of Philistia asked David what he was doing, David lied to him

Vs. 8 – “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.) he had an opportunity to kill his enemy”

1. these peoples listed were actually enemies of Israel, so he killed them
2. and he killed them all, SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO ONE TO TESTIFY AGAINST DAVID ABOUT WHAT HE HAD DONE.

Vs. 11 – “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.”

- b. When the Philistine king asked David where he had been fighting, David would tell the king that he had been “to the south”

Vs. 10 – “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.**”

1. David told the king that he had been raiding his people, the Jews
 2. when, in actually, he had been killing the enemies of the Jews
- c. so, at this point in David’s life, he was a murdering liar, who had joined the enemy
- d. what other word but “carnal” could you use to describe David at this point in his life?

B. The EVIDENCE OF OUR COMPROMISE

1. So, this is how it “works” when believers fall into carnality
 - a. because God is not “working as fast” as I want Him to; or not “like I want Him” to, I will take matters into my own hands
 - b. I will study, plan, think and then make the best possible decision
 - c. But, usually in this process, all that I really care about is how this affects ME!
 1. I don’t care if my decision negatively affects others
 2. and I don’t really care if I am out of God’s will
 3. I am just glad that the entire ordeal will be over
2. but, as we will see with David, decisions that WE make will eventually be seen for what they are

IV. DAVID EXPERIENCED THE CONSEQUENCES OF HIS DECISION

A. GOD WILL NOT ALLOW DAVID TO CARRY OUT HIS DECISION

1. The Philistine king invited David to become a part of his army “as they went to fight Israel.”

I 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.**

- a. here was the next king of Israel, possibly going into battle against his own county!
 - b. how shameful, how base, how terrible!
2. NOTICE WHAT HAPPENED NEXT . . .
- a. Despite the fact that King Achish trusted David, none of the other Philistine rulers trusted David.

I Samuel 29:2-3a – “As the Philistine rulers marched with their units of hundreds and thousands, David and his men were marching at the rear with Achish. The commanders of the Philistines asked, **“What about these Hebrews?”**

I Samuel 29:4 – “But the Philistine commanders were angry with him and said, “Send the man back, that he may return to the place you assigned him. **He must not go with us into battle, or he will turn against us during the fighting. How better could he regain his master's favor than by taking the heads of our own men?”**

- b. **DON'T MISS THIS!**
 1. despite David’s absolute and total disobedience, **GOD USED PAGAN KINGS TO DO HIS WILL!**
 2. **DAVID WAS STILL:**
 - a. the anointed king of Israel
 - b. and a child of God
 3. God’s hand was still on David, **EVEN IN HIS DISOBEDIENCE!**
 - a. God would not allow David to sin
 - b. and would use pagans to stop him from further sin
 4. God used the Persian King Cyrus to return His people back to Israel

Ezra 1:1 – “In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, **the LORD moved the heart of Cyrus king of Persia to make a proclamation throughout his realm and to put it in writing:**”

B. GOD WILL NOT ALLOW BELIEVERS TO CARRY OUT THEIR DECISIONS!

1. **THIS IS WHY I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN CONCEPT!**
 - a. even though God will allow believers to sin, “for a season,” he will eventually step in to stop you
 - b. God made a promise to you when He saved you:
 1. **Philippians 1:6** – “being confident of this, that **He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.**”

2. **Matthew 18:10-14** – ““See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. **“What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost.”**”

2. **It all comes down to your view of God’s work in your life**

- A. IF GOD BEGAN A WORK IN YOUR LIFE, HE WILL FINISH THAT WORK IN YOUR LIFE!
- b. WE ARE HIS CHILDREN . . .
 1. why would he NOT pursue and rescue His children when they wander off?
 2. my son, Brad, at 5 years of age: if I came home and he was not there.

C. **GOD WILL ALLOW DAVID TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF HIS DECISION.**

1. As soon as David and his men returned to their homes in Ziklag, they were horrified to realize that their wives and children had been kidnapped by the Amalakites.

I Samuel 30:1-2 – “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.”**

2. As you can imagine, David and his men were terrified

I Samuel 30:3-4 – “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.”**

- a. David and his soldiers wept, and wailed and wailed.
 1. THEY THOUGHT THAT THEIR FAMILIES WERE KILLED
 2. **BECAUSE THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT DAVID AND HIS MEN HAD DONE TO THE AMALAKITES WHEN THEY RAIDED THEM!**
- b. they cried until they had no more energy to cry
 1. they were “beyond depressed”
 2. they had no more power to cry
- c. It was so bad for these men THAT THEY EVEN THREATENED TO STONE DAVID!

I Samuel 30:6 – “David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.”

D. **GOD WILL ALLOW BELIEVERS TO SUFFER BECAUSE OF THEIR SIN**

1. WHERE IN THE WORLD DO WE GET THE IDEA THAT THERE WILL BE NO CONSEQUENCES FOR OUR SINS?

2. Where do we get the idea that we can live our lives like we want to and pay no price?
3. PLEASE NOTICE **Galatians 6:7-8** – “**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.** The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction; the one who sows to please the Spirit, from the Spirit will reap eternal life.”
 - a. THIS IS A PROMISE OF GOD! AND GOD DOES NOT LIE!
 - b. there will be consequences for our sins . . . EVEN FOR THE ANOINTED KING OF ISRAEL
4. When David got back to Ziklag, he literally **saw** the consequences for his sin.

V. DAVID EXPRESSED CONFESSION FOR HIS ACTIONS

A. DAVID RETURNED TO GOD

1. David sought the Lord

- a. you can imagine how David felt
 1. he had moved all of these men and their families to Philistia; they had trusted him
 2. and now, all of their families had been taken
- b. what would be his thinking process now?
- c. what “new plan” would he come up with?

I Samuel 30:6 – “David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. **But David found strength in the LORD his God.**”

2. David sought the Priest

I Samuel 30:7 – “Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, “**Bring me the ephod.**” Abiathar brought it to him,”

- a. not only did David seek God’s presence, he now sought God’s wisdom
- b. David must have realized the foolishness of his independent actions
 1. I have messed up; I have failed
 2. I need the wisdom of the Lord

B. GOD GRACED DAVID

1. NOTICE GOD’S GRACE IN SPITE OF DAVID’S SIN!

- a. David and his men went to find their families that had been kidnapped, expecting them to be dead.
- b. and notice what happened

I Samuel 30:17-19a – “David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. **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.**”
- c. **DAVID AND HIS MEN DID NOT LOSE A SINGLE FAMILY MEMBER OR ANY OF THEIR POSSESSIONS!**

2. How can you tell me there is NO GRACE SEEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT!

- a. **DESPITE** David’s flagrant decision to go his own way
- b. **DESPITE** David’s joining the enemy
- c. **DESPITE** David’s sin of murder

Conclusion:

1. What do we learn about David and his “time of carnality”?
 - a. **First**, true believers, those who are born again, may, “for a season,” fall unto some terrible sins
 1. I have seen it in the church
 2. the man who “did not think he was a Christian”
 - b. **Second**, these same believers MAY FEEL TOTALLY CONFIDENT WITH THEIR UNGODLY DECISIONS WHEN THEY ARE MAKING THEM.
 1. that is why we must be so very careful to “follow our feelings”
 2. or to “do what you feel in your heart”
 - c. **Third**, there will probably be negative consequences because of your disobedience
 1. God is grieved
 2. and you will see the results of your sin
 - d. **Fourth**, confess, repent and return to God
 1. just like the father of the prodigal son, the Heavenly Father is anxious for you to come back; notice that the Jewish father ran to receive the returning prodigal
 2. our Heavenly Father longs to restore us.
 3. **OUR GOD IS A GOD OF GRACE!**
2. It is my belief that David was:
 - a. exhausted from 10 years of running
 - b. he was “weary in well-doing”
 - c. this is when true believers are most susceptible to falling into sin.
 - d. Sometimes, when we do something for God, we expect Him to return the favor immediately. He doesn't always do that. **There is a story of an older missionary couple who had served Christ for decades on the mission field in Africa.** When age and health finally forced them to retire, they boarded a ship to return to America. By coincidence, **President Teddy Roosevelt was aboard the same ship, returning from a big-game hunting expedition.** When the ship came into the New York harbor, the missionary couple watched the fanfare that attended Roosevelt's return. The mayor and other dignitaries had come to meet the President. A brass band played as Roosevelt walked down the gangplank. A limousine and driver waited to take him in luxury to his hotel. It was a splendid scene. The missionary couple watched until the President and dignitaries had left. Then the husband turned to his wife and said, **“It doesn't seem fair. We have served in Africa on the mission field for thirty years, and nobody even met the ship to welcome us home. This man spends a few weeks in Africa on a hunting trip, and is met by the mayor and a brass band. It just isn't fair!”** His wife tried to console him, but he remained very upset. She said, **“Why don't you pray about it!”** The husband finally agreed to do that, and went into their cabin to pray. When he emerged, he no longer had an anguished look on his face. He was completely composed. His wife asked what had happened. He said, **“The Lord settled it with me.”** He said, **“I told him how difficult it was to see Roosevelt receive such a grand homecoming, when no one—no one—had come to welcome us home.”** He said, “When I finished, it seemed as if the Lord had put his hand on my shoulder. Then I heard Him say, **‘But you're not home yet.’**” **You're not home yet! The Lord was saying, “Don't worry! I will take care of you. I will reward you. You have seen a Presidential homecoming, but you haven't seen anything yet!**