

## Faithfulness

1 Sam. 29:1-5

### Introduction:

1. The Amalekites and the Philistines had been thorns in the side of Israel since from before the conquest of Canaan.
2. The Amalekites were descended from Esau (Gen. 36:15-16; 1 Chron. 1:36). They were a nomadic desert group who inhabited the area of the Sinaitic region south of Canaan. They extended their influence north into the Philistine country. They were known for their raiding parties that invaded both Philistine and Israelite regions.
3. The Philistines were a warlike people who occupied the coastal territory of the southwestern part of Canaan. They were the principal enemy of ancient Israel. King Saul and his sons were slain by the Philistines on Mount Gilboah.
4. When Saul was trying to kill David, David had fled to the Philistines and joined forces with Achish, the king of Gath. Under the Philistine alliance David had made raids into the Amalekite territory and claimed to have made raids into the Negev of Judah. This solidified his relationship with Achish so that Achish trusted David to go into battle with him against Israel. But some of the commanders among the Philistines questioned David's allegiance.
5. There are four episodes described in 1 Sam. 29 and 30 that address the issue of David's allegiance?
  - a. The Philistines questioned David's faithfulness to them (1 Sam. 29:1ff).
  - b. David's men questioned his loyalty to them and to their families (1 Sam. 30:1-20).
  - c. Third, there was the question of whether he would be faithful to those who stayed with the baggage (1 Sam. 30:21-25).
  - d. Finally, there was the question of whether he would be faithful to Judah (1 Sam. 30:26-31).
6. Trust, faithfulness, loyalty: whatever word you use to describe it it is a powerful dynamic in all relationships.

### Discussion:

- I. The Philistines questioned David's faithfulness to them (1 Sam. 29:1ff).
  - A. Achish was convinced of David's loyalty.
    1. He trusted him enough to go into battle with him allied against the Israelites.
      - a. David had evidenced his loyalty in raids (27:8ff).
      - b. David had evidenced his loyalty over a period of time (29:3).
      - c. Achish communicated his trust in David (28:1-2; 29:6).
    2. We demonstrate trustworthiness in a variety of ways.
      - a. By not betraying our alliances.
      - b. By being loyal over time.
  - B. Evidence needs to be clear and it needs to be communicated.
    1. Some of the Philistines were uncertain about David. They remembered the proverb (29:5) and how David had opposed them in the past.
    2. Achish, the Philistines and David had to recognize the dynamic whether they agreed

on not (29:6-11).

3. Sometimes we may be loyal and others not be convinced. We may have to take a “one down” position in demonstrating our loyalty.

II. David's men questioned his loyalty to them and to their families (1 Sam. 30:1-6ff).

- A. When armies are preparing for battle sometimes their other enemies, thinking that there might be a weakness, attack. The Amalekites made a raid on the Negev and on Ziklag.
- B. David did not respond as immediately as his men seemed to think he should. They spoke of stoning him.
- C. David inquired of the Lord about what he should do. Note that loyalty to God superseded all other loyalties.
- D. David proved himself loyal to God, loyal to his people and loyal to his family.

III. As a sub-element of this account the question of loyalty arose regarding those who had kept the baggage while the main force went into battle (30:9-10, 21-25).

- A. The wicked and worthless among them did not want to share the spoil.
- B. Throughout Scripture God calls on us to care for the less powerful.
  1. Those less financially powerful (1 Cor. 16:1-2).
  2. Those spiritually weak (Heb. 12:12ff; Rom. 15:1-2).
  3. Some have said, “The church is the only group that kills its wounded.”
    - a. Divorced?
    - b. Abandoned?
    - c. Poor?
    - d. Etc.
- C. The wicked and worthless would withhold power from the powerless.
  1. Not so with the Lord. He uses His power for our benefit.
  2. He empowers us (30:23-24). Shall we withhold power after He has empowered us?
  3. It was an established statute in Israel that the baggage handlers share in the blessings with those who went down to battle.
- D. David proved his faithfulness to those who stayed with the baggage.

IV. One question about David's faithfulness remained. Would he be faithful to Judah? (30:26-30).

- A. “He sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends.”
- B. “From the spoil of the enemies of the Lord.” This statement identifies Judah and David together against the “enemies of the Lord.” They are allied together in the Lord.
- C. Faithfulness strengthens relationships.
- D. David would soon become king in Jerusalem. He was proving himself worthy of the people's trust.
  1. To lead among the people of God you must first be loyal to the Lord.
  2. People need to learn they can trust you to be faithful to them.
  3. David even proved himself faithful to his “enemy” (30:11-15).

Conclusion:

1. Are you faithful to God?
2. Are you faithful to your enemy?
3. Are you faithful to your people?
4. Are you faithful to those who stay with the baggage, the powerless, and the wounded?