

Recap of 9/14/25 message by Pastor Chris Sommerfield
(“The Ascending King?”) 1 Samuel 27:1-28:2:

- In this passage, David, feeling threatened by Saul, chooses to take refuge among the Philistines, leading him to a complex moral dilemma as he navigates alliances with enemies of Israel. It highlights the tension between faith and fear, and the challenge of maintaining integrity while in dire circumstances. Even in the darkest shadows of our lives, God calls us to trust Him and uphold our faith, no matter the consequences. David looks at his situation from a humanistic perspective. He tries to make sense of things on his own, with his own human wisdom and reason. Not once in this chapter do we find David praying or seeking godly counsel. Not once is God mentioned. In fact, the renowned psalmist, David, does not write one single psalm during this time with the Philistines.
- This way of looking at things causes David to make the poor decision of seeking security among the enemy of God and God’s people... but it is only a false sense of security. Perhaps the pressure of living in wilderness and caves, on the run got to David. He felt as though he needed some security, so he went to the enemy seeking refuge where he could finally relax a bit. This is so dangerous, and it’s how we approach sin sometimes. Sin often looks enticing, we think it will feel good, maybe help us blow off some steam, relax a little. But as soon as this happens that’s when real danger is on the horizon.
- This seemingly small compromise leads to a long compromise; 16 months David is with the Philistines! Then it leads to compromising everything David stands for as he pledges himself to serve the king of the enemy of Israel and even vows to ride into battle against his own people. We see David lie and kill people in order to cover his tracks in this section. What is he doing?
- This passage can serve as a warning for us to not compromise on God’s truths. Sometimes we end up compromising in the face of a challenging conversation, we seek security and slide toward comfort with the enemy of God when we compromise God’s word. We must teach truth and love well. Truth and love are not at odds with each other; they are intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Neither truth nor love is an end in itself; they are inextricably linked, working together for the proclamation of the gospel and the building up of the body of Christ.