

**1 Samuel 27**  
**“Pressure causing a meltdown”**

**1 Sam 27:1 David said in his heart....**

**1 Sam 27:1**

1 And **David said in his heart**, “Now **I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. *There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines;*** and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.”

**A. David said in his heart:**

Today we might say, “I feel this way... or that way... about something”.

The principle is: don’t let your feelings or emotions rule you; especially don’t let them override the written word of God.

**Proverbs 23:7a**

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he. ....

**Proverbs 4:23**

23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it *spring* the issues of life.

**B. Speedily:**

When we are making a decision out of “fear” (usually that will mean in haste), we are usually making the wrong decision:

**Isaiah 28:16**

16 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: “Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, A tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; **Whoever believes will not act hastily.**”

**C. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines**

David had many encouragements that Saul would not kill him, and David would indeed be king,

1. Jonathan came to encourage David in the wilderness:

**1 Samuel 23:16–17**

16 Then Jonathan, Saul’s son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.”

2. Abigail’s speech to David:

**1 Samuel 25:28–30**

28 Please forgive the trespass of your maidservant. For the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord fights the battles of the LORD, and evil is not found in you throughout your days.

29 Yet a man has risen to pursue you and seek your life, but the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; and the lives of your enemies He shall sling out, *as from* the pocket of a sling.

30 And it shall come to pass, when the LORD has done for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and has appointed you ruler over Israel,

3. Saul said to David after the 1<sup>st</sup> time he tried to kill David:

**1 Samuel 24:20**

20 And now I know indeed that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established in your hand.

4. Saul said to David after the 2<sup>nd</sup> time he tried to kill David:

**1 Samuel 26:25**

25 Then Saul said to David, “*May you be* blessed, my son David! You shall both do great things and also still prevail.” So David went on his way, and Saul returned to his place.

**D. David is melting down under pressure and giving up on walking by faith and trusting in God’s direction for his life:**

David had stayed strong for many years but now the sheer amount of time in this desert experience as worn him down, as so many throughout the Bible.

1. David says in the Psalms:

**Psalms 10:1**

1 Why do You stand afar off, O LORD?  
*Why do You hide in times of trouble?*

**Psalms 13:1–2**

1 How long, O LORD? Will You forget me forever?  
How long will You hide Your face from me?  
2 How long shall I take counsel in my soul,  
*Having* sorrow in my heart daily?  
How long will my enemy be exalted over me?

**Psalms 22:1–2**

1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?  
*Why are You so far from helping Me,*  
*And from the words of My groaning?*  
2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;  
And in the night season, and am not silent.

2. John the Baptist:

**Matthew 11:2–6**

2 And when John had heard in prison about the works of Christ, he sent two of his disciples

3 and said to Him, “Are You the Coming One, or do we look for another?”

4 Jesus answered and said to them, “Go and tell John the things which you hear and see:

5 *The* blind see and *the* lame walk; *the* lepers are cleansed and *the* deaf hear; *the* dead are raised up and *the* poor have the gospel preached to them.

6 And blessed is he who is not offended because of Me.”

**Matthew 11:11a**

11 “Assuredly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist; .....

Even the “greatest of the greats” have these moments, if the conditions are hard enough and enough time has gone by, we all have our breaking points.

3. Even Jesus seemed upset when the Apostles couldn't deal with a situation, after Jesus returned from the Mount of Transfiguration:

**Matthew 17:17**

17 Then Jesus answered and said, “O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me.”

Let's not forget:

**Hebrews 4:15**

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

4. Apostle Paul:

**2 Corinthians 1:8-9**

8 For we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our trouble which came to us in Asia: that **we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.**

9 Yes, we had **the sentence of death in ourselves**, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead,

5. Everyone seems to experience a “meltdown” sooner or later:

Noah – After 600 years lay naked in his tent, drunk

Abraham – twice, lied saying Sarah was his sister and not his wife

Moses – Meekest man on earth was angry and hit the rock and was not able to enter the promised land because he misrepresented the Lord

**1 Sam 27:2-4 David arose and went to Gath**

1 Sam 27:2-4

2 Then David arose and went over with the **six hundred men** who *were* with him to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath. 3 So David dwelt with Achish at Gath, he and his men, **each man with his household**, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the Carmelitess, Nabal's widow. 4 And it was told Saul that David had fled to Gath; so he sought him no more.

**A. 600 men, each man with his household:**

We realize here the immense pressure David must have had overseeing probably about 2-3,000 people in the wilderness, while on the run.

**1 Sam 27:5-7 David said to Achish...The King of Gath**

1 Sam 27:5-7

5 Then David said to Achish, “If I have now found favor in your eyes, let them give me a place in some town in the country, that I may dwell there. For why should your servant dwell in the royal city with you?” 6 So Achish gave him Ziklag that day. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the kings of Judah to this day. 7 Now the time that David dwelt in the country of the Philistines was one full year and four months.

**A. Didn’t David try this before?**

Back in 1 Samuel 21, David did this, and was arrested; and then he pretended to be a madman and they let him go. And now, probably about a decade later, he was trying this again.

**B. Achish gave him Ziklag:**

While in Ziklag, more than the 600 men started joining him.

**1 Chronicles 12:1–2**

1 Now **these were the men who came to David at Ziklag** while he was still a **fugitive from Saul** the son of Kish; and **they were among the mighty men, helpers in the war,** 2 armed with bows, using both the right hand and the left in *hurling* stones and *shooting* arrows with the bow. *They were* of Benjamin, Saul’s brethren.

**1 Sam 27:8 David attacks ....the nations from of old**

1 Sam 27:8

8 And David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites, and the Amalekites. For **those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old,** as you go to Shur, even as far as the land of Egypt.

**A. Those nations were the inhabitants of the land from of old:**

When we go back into the books of Joshua and Judges we realize God had ordered the Children of Israel to not stop until they had kicked out all the pagan inhabitants of the Land, or destroyed them. The failure of this caused Israel to continually be at war, and be conquered, and taken captive by these idolatrous nations.

**1 Sam 27:9 David killed them all... not a witness to report on him**

1 Sam 27:9

9 Whenever David attacked the land, **he left neither man nor woman alive,** but took away the sheep, the oxen, the donkeys, the camels, and the apparel, and returned and came to Achish.

**1 Sam 27:10-12 David had the King of Gath completely fooled**

1 Sam 27:10-12

10 Then Achish would say, “Where have you made a raid today?” And David would say, “Against the southern *area* of Judah, or against the southern *area* of the Jerahmeelites, or against the southern *area*

of the Kenites.” 11 David would save neither man nor woman alive, to bring *news* to Gath, saying, “Lest they should inform on us, saying, ‘Thus David did.’ ” And **thus was his behavior all the time he dwelt in the country of the Philistines.**

12 So **Achish believed David**, saying, “He has made his people Israel utterly abhor him; therefore he will be my servant forever.”

## Conclusion

1. We are all going to go through some type of “meltdown”:

### **Romans 8:1**

1 *There is* therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, .....

2. Even though you may have strong feelings of hopelessness, or abandonment, God is true so don't listen to your heart (flesh)!

### **Deuteronomy 31:6**

6 Be strong and of good courage, do not fear nor be afraid of them; for the LORD your God, He *is* the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you.”

### **Isaiah 59:1**

1 Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, that it cannot hear.

3. **Don't forget, even Jesus went through such things, and He did it for us:**

- a. Jesus on the cross had such feelings of abandonment:

### **Matthew 27:46**

46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, “Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?” that is, “*My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?*”

### **David prophesied this of Jesus in a similar time in his life:**

#### **Psalms 22:1–2**

1 My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

*Why are You so far from helping Me,*

*And from the words of My groaning?*

2 O My God, I cry in the daytime, but You do not hear;

And in the night season, and am not silent.

- b. Jesus went through it so He could help us today:

### **Hebrews 2:17–18**

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

**Hebrews 4:14–16**

14 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession.

15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**4. It seems like God allows us to go through extremely hard and unnecessary trying times, but God tells us they are all necessary:**

**1 Peter 1:6–7**

6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 **that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire,** may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ,

**2 Corinthians 4:16–18**

16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day. 17 **For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,**

18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

**James 1:2–5**

2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,

3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.

4 But let patience have *its* perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

**5. A hard truth:**

Sometimes walking by faith looks victorious, and sometimes NOT:

**Hebrews 11:32–40**

32 And what more shall I say? For the time would fail me to tell of Gideon and Barak and Samson and Jephthah, also *of* David and Samuel and the prophets:

33 who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.

35 Women received their dead raised to life again. Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.

36 Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword.

They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, *in dens and caves of the earth*. 39 And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, 40 God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us.

**6. God does have strength for us (you) right now:**

**Isaiah 40:28–31**

28 Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the LORD, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable.

29 He gives power to the weak, and to *those who have* no might He increases strength.

30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, And the young men shall utterly fall,

31 But those who wait on the LORD Shall renew *their* strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint.

**Psalm 27:13–14**

13 *I would have lost heart*, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD In the land of the living.

14 Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD!