

## Ethics for a Brave New World

### 1 Samuel 29:1-11

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*Read the passage and pray that God would give you insight into his Word.*

1. How would you describe David's behaviour before Achish in their three encounters (1 Samuel 21; 1 Samuel 28:1-2; 1 Samuel 29:8)? What do you think is Achish's view of David (1 Samuel 21; 29:9)? Would Achish's view of David have been different if David had told him the truth in each situation?
2. What are the differences and similarities between David's and Saul's situation and outcome in 1 Samuel 28-29?
3. Some might read this chapter and conclude, "even when Christians mess up, God will still deliver them." Other might think, "because of God's justice he always judges Christians for their sins." Why are both of these attitudes mistaken?
4. In light of the unwillingness David demonstrated to take Saul's life in chapter 25 and 27, why do you think it is important that the event of this chapter happen before the events of chapter 31?
5. If the Philistines had not sent David away, what do you think David should have done in light of 1 Samuel 28:1-2 and 29:1-2? Why is it so significant that David was "led off the hook"? How would you describe David's good fortune: luck, fate, or providence?
6. Why were the commanders of the Philistine armies afraid to keep David around according to vv.4-5? Was their concern justified in light of chapter 27:8? Were they able to guess David's motive correctly in v.4?
7. Think of the other times this song in v.5 was used from v.5. What other responses did this song cause? Take a look at 1 Samuel 18:7.
8. Why are David's words to Achish, and Achish's response ironic in vv.8-10?
9. This chapter is about God's grace toward his people who have gotten themselves into more trouble than they can deal with. Can you think of other figures in the rest of the Bible where the same thing happened? What is the relationship between taking as much responsibility as we can for our decisions, and yet looking to the Lord for grace when we sin?

*Pray that the Lord will enable you to look to Christ and apply his Word to your heart.*