

## 引言 INTRODUCTION

Spies, undercover agents and traitors are usual characters in action movies. They all live a double life. They pretend to be someone else while conducting secret missions. Exposure of their real identities will ruin the operation and may even jeopardize their safety. In reality, ordinary people can unknowingly assume a double life too. A sister has a very stingy husband. He often complains when she buys things that he considers as non-essential. This sister is a frugal person too. But being a woman, she loves discounts and clearances. To avoid having conflict with her spouse, she hides the goodies she buys in closets. She waits till the right time before using those items. Someone says a happy marriage is between a husband who earns all the money his wife can spend! There are certain truths to that. Just like this sister does, do we not all play a double life to a certain extent? We put up a nice pretense and show our best in public. We are afraid that people may not accept us if they know our true self. We all have that face issue. As Christians, sometimes we hesitate to show our faith in front of people. We remain silent, try to blend in and even make compromises. In our story today, David adopted a double life too. But as we shall see, the plan backfired and it gave David unexpected headaches. As he solved some problems using his wit, he created new troubles. But God's grace is always sufficient. The Lord came to David's rescue and pulled him out of the mess. David learned an important lesson that we need to keep in mind too: integrity should be our identity.

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 假裝的結盟 False Alliance

The life of fugitives gave David's followers much stress and anxiety. David thought that building a false alliance with enemies might be a good way to ensure safety. He came up with an idea in verses 1-2: **1 Then David said in his heart, "Now I shall perish one day by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will despair of seeking me any longer within the borders of Israel, and I shall escape out of his hand."** **2 So David arose and went over, he and the six hundred men who were with him, to Achish the son of Maach, king of Gath.** David went into the enemies' territory. Saul would have to launch a military campaign against the Philistines before he could capture one person. The cost was too high. Also, since David was in a foreign land, he ceased to be a threat to Saul's throne. Indeed, verse 4 confirms that Saul no longer searched for David. This was not the first time David went to see Achish. Back in chapter 21, David arrived as a lone-ranger. But he was scared when Achish's men recognized who he was. David then disguised as an insane person and Achish let David go freely. This time, David accompanied by a big crowd. The king was happy to accept David's surrender. All of a sudden, Achish gained a team of elite fighters. He granted David a piece of land in return. Verses 6-7 say: **6 So that day Achish gave him Ziklag. Therefore Ziklag has belonged to the**

kings of Judah to this day. 7 And the number of the days that David lived in the country of the Philistines was a year and four months. Ziklag was toward the southern border of Israel. David's people could finally settle down. They had a place to tend their flocks and grow their crops. David lied about his surrender. In order to build Achish's trust, David had to keep lying to cover his tail. The passage says David invaded into some areas to the south. He had victories and he collected spoils. In the process, David ordered to kill all the enemies. During the Canaan conquest, God gave the same command. He asked the Israelites to completely eradicate the local people because they engaged in wicked religious practices. God did not want His people to copy those pagan rituals. But David was not carrying out some holy wars. He did so for a selfish purpose. Verse 11 reads: **And David would leave neither man nor woman alive to bring news to Gath, thinking, "lest they should tell about us and say, 'So David has done.'"** Such was his custom all the while he lived in the country of the Philistines. Achish asked David where he ventured into. He told the king that he was attacking some Israel's towns nearby. But in fact, he was sweeping through regions further to the south. Those people were not Israelites. David was able to cover his tracks because he wiped out everyone in those towns. Dead people cannot talk! Achish believed in David's words. Verse 12 says: **And Achish trusted David, thinking, "He has made himself an utter stench to his people Israel; therefore he shall always be my servant."** Achish thought David did not only betray Saul, he even waged wars against his own people. That would further alienate David from his countrymen. Achish was happy that David would be his subordinate and a permanent resident in Philistine territory. David enjoyed some temporary successes and gained Achish's trust with big tradeoffs. He set a bad example for his followers that lying was acceptable. More importantly, David fell short of God's expectations on him. He was supposed to be a man after God's own heart. But now he became dishonest in order to survive. It all started when David crossed over the boundary and built a false alliance with enemies. As Christians, we live in the physical world but we should not build an alliance with the fallen world. James gives us a stern warning in 4:4 of his letter – **You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.** James uses a strong word "adulterous" to describe believers who want to make an alliance with the sinful world. Being unfaithful to God is similar to being unfaithful to one's spouse. The person maintains a double life to get the best of both worlds. God cannot tolerate that. He asks for our full devotion and absolute submission. It may give you some convenience by not disclosing your identity as a Christian. Before long, you have to make decisions based on where you stand. Therefore, a better way is to tell people your faith upfront. One simple thing you can and should do is to say grace openly when having lunch. People will recognize instantly that you are a Christian. They will respect what you see as important if you treat them with respect. Let me illustrate with a true story. Some of you actually know this man. When he started his current job, he told his manager that he is big sport fan of his alma mater. He will watch the baseball, football and basketball teams play. That is a lot of travel! He can continue to work with a computer and the internet. His supervisor gladly accommodates his wish. If an employee dare to make a request because of his hobby, then believers should gently make an appeal because of their faith. You should refuse certain unethical business practices. You can say no if your boss asks you to entertain guests at a bar or casino. Also, the law protects your right to be excused from work if you choose to attend A

Sunday service. Do the best you can at work. Prove that you are faithful to the company because you are faithful to God. While some people may still disagree with what you believe, they will appreciate your contribution to the firm.

## 2. 虛假的效忠 Fake Allegiance

David's false alliance with Achish gave him many benefits. But before long, his deceit was put to a tough test. David continued to rely on his little human wisdom to face the challenge. He tried to save himself by showing a fake allegiance. If it is in a movie, the main character who leads a double life has to show which side he is really on. Perhaps he is asked to hurt his former teammates or steal intelligence from his country. Similarly, Achish asked David to return a favor in 28:1-2 – **1 In those days the Philistines gathered their forces for war, to fight against Israel. And Achish said to David, "Understand that you and your men are to go out with me in the army." 2 David said to Achish, "Very well, you shall know what your servant can do." And Achish said to David, "Very well, I will make you my bodyguard for life."** Since David's men were now under Achish, they must go to war with their new commander. Achish did not assign David's company to transport supplies or work in the kitchen. They were asked to fight against their own people, the Israelites. David was even promoted to become the right hand man of Achish. This was not only about one battle. David's reputation was at stake. How could people embrace him as their future king if he attacked his fellow countrymen? Moreover, one cannot pretend to battle in a war. You will be destroyed if you do not destroy your enemy. David bought himself some time by giving an ambiguous answer: "Sir, you will see what I can do soon." David dragged himself into a difficult situation due to his earlier lies. He had no choice but to march to the battlefield following Achish's army and the rest of the Philistine troop. David's men might be wondering what they should do in the battlefield. Meanwhile, the other Philistine leaders smelled something fishy. We pick up the story in **29:3-4**. Those generals had a legitimate concern. What if David's men were undercover agents infiltrating into Philistine territory? Another possible scenario was that David would beat the Philistines and use the victory to win back the heart of Saul. In either case, the Philistines would be sandwiched between two Israel companies. Those leaders reminded Achish the folks-tune: "David killed tens of thousands." David was no water-boy in Israel. He was a star-player! He could do quite some damages in battles. But Achish stood by David. He testified that David was faithful to him all along. In fact, he praised David three times in the chapter. David truly deserved an Oscar nomination for his performance in deceiving Achish! But the other leaders would not take their chances. Therefore, Achish reluctantly sent David back home. David finished his last act before he left. He pretended to get mad in verse 8: **And David said to Achish, "But what have I done? What have you found in your servant from the day I entered your service until now, that I may not go and fight against the enemies of my lord the king?"** David was saying: "You can't blame me for unwilling to help. It's those guys who don't like me." Just like that, David dodged another bullet. He must breathe a sense of relief. It was not his acting that saved him. God saved David through the suspicion of some Philistine leaders. David learned an important lesson. Sooner or later, he had to pick side when he was pushed to the corner. Should he protect his own life or preserve God's glory? Should he obey God only when it

was convenient to him? Jesus told His disciples plainly that it would be costly to follow Him. Even their own family members would rise up against them. People would hate them for what they believed. The authority would take them to court. But Jesus told His disciples not to worry how to answer because God would give them the right words. The Heavenly Father would not even allow one sparrow to drop to the ground without His permission. How much more precious are our lives in the eyes of God? Jesus concluded that speech with an admonition. Look at Matthew 10:32-33 – 32 “So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.” We get nervous when we read a passage like this. Jesus pointed to the future judgment. There will only be two outcomes: admittance to heaven or denial of entry. The result hinges upon whether we accept or reject Jesus in this life. Jesus referred to people who have hardened their hearts toward Him. They are not believers who stumble in their faith for a season. David experienced that. We will also face situations when we failed to show allegiance to God under pressure. It grieves God’s heart. But He will lead us back with His redemptive grace. Peter denied Jesus three times out of fear. He even swore that he did not know the Lord. But he later confessed his sin. Jesus restored Peter’s faith after His resurrection. In comparison, Judas betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. He was crushed in his heart later when he realized the horrific sin he had committed. But instead of seeking God’s forgiveness, Judas hanged himself. We must admit how weak we can be. Before the next test comes, we must make up our mind to stay faithful by relying on God’s grace. Following Jesus is a day-to-day practice. Lack of commitment seems to be a common issue for modern people. We enjoy the freedom of choices. Loyalty to certain brands, government officials and even the company you work for seem to be a thing of the past. Canceled membership, divorce and church-hopping are acceptable, even encouraged. However, God will never tolerate any fake allegiance. Partial faithfulness is an oxymoron. Jesus calls us to be permanent followers, not weekend church participants. You are either all-in or remain on the sideline.

## 結論 CONCLUSION

Integrity should be our identity. We may be able to deceive others with a double life. But God will never be fooled. He is always with us in our public and private life. David might be able to find short-term protection when he ran to Achish. But it nearly ended in a disaster if not because of God’s intervention. In today’s story, David did not consult the Lord in major decisions. When David tried to please everyone, he pleased no one. He even offended God by lying. David’s men saw him as their leader. Achish considered him a traitor of his country. But God looked at David as a man after God’s own heart. His training on David was far from finish. David must be single-minded toward God in order to be successful. It is just like Jesus told His disciples in John 15:5 – “I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.” We can only be fruitful when we are faithful to Jesus. We must always connect to Jesus like branches that are attached to the vine. We need to abide in the Lord in every moment to live a victorious life.

間諜、臥底和叛徒是動作片中常見的角色。他們都過著雙面人的生活。他們為了執行秘密任務而假裝成別人。暴露他們的真實身份將破壞行動，甚至可能危及他們的安全。事實上，一般人也可能不知不覺地過著雙面人的生活。一位姐妹的丈夫非常小氣。他經常抱怨太太買一些不必要的東西。這位姐妹也是一個節儉的人。但作為女士，她也喜歡打折和大清倉。為了避免和配偶發生衝突，她把買回來的東西藏在櫃子裡。她等到適合的時間才把那些物品拿出來用。有人說，幸福的婚姻，是包括一位能賺到太太足夠花的錢的先生！這句話有一定的道理。其實我們都像這位姐妹，在某種程度上過著雙面人的生活。我們在公眾場合展示我們最好的一面。我們擔心別人無法接受那個真正的我。我們都有面子的問題。作為基督徒，有時候我們會在別人面前隱藏我們的信仰。我們保持沉默、試圖融入、甚至作出妥協。在我們今天的故事中，大衛也扮演雙面人。但我們將會發現，大衛的計劃適得其反，甚至帶給他意想不到的煩惱。他靠小聰明解決了一些問題的同時，又製造出新的麻煩。但神的恩典總是夠用的。神拯救大衛，把他從混亂中拉出來。大衛學到了我們也需要牢記的重要一課：忠誠應該是我們的標記。

## 解釋 EXPLANATION

### 1. 假裝的結盟 False Alliance

逃亡的生涯給大衛的跟隨者帶來很大的壓力和憂慮。大衛認為假裝與敵人結盟可能是確保安全的好方法。他在第 1-2 節中想到一個主意：**1 大衛心裏說：「必有一日我死在掃羅手裏，不如逃奔非利士地去。掃羅見我不在以色列的境內，就必絕望，不再尋索我；這樣我可以脫離他的手。」****2 於是大衛起身，和跟隨他的六百人投奔迦特王—瑪俄的兒子亞吉去了。**大衛進入敵人的陣地。掃羅必須先對非利士人發動一場軍事行動，然後才能抓到一個人。代價太大了。此外，由於大衛在外地，他不再對掃羅的王位構成威脅。事實上，第 4 節說掃羅不再尋找大衛。這其實不是大衛第一次去找亞吉。在第 21 章，大衛單獨去到那裡。但當亞吉的手下認出大衛時，他便害怕。於是大衛裝扮成一個瘋子，亞吉便放走大衛。這一次，大衛伴隨著一大群人。王很高興接受大衛的投降。忽然之間，亞吉增添了一些精銳戰士。作為回報，他給大衛一塊土地。第 6-7 節說：**6 當日亞吉將洗革拉賜給他，因此洗革拉屬猶大王，直到今日。****7 大衛在非利士地住了一年零四個月。**洗革拉靠近以色列的南部邊界。大衛的人終於可以安頓下來了。他們有地方養牲畜和種東西。大衛假裝投降。為了取得亞吉的信



任，大衛繼續撒謊來掩飾自己。這段經文說大衛侵入南部的一些地區。他取得勝利，並拿到戰利品。在過程中，大衛下令殺死所有敵人。在征服迦南的過程中，神曾經發出同樣的命令。祂要求以色列人徹底消滅當地人，因為他們進行邪惡的宗教活動。神不希望祂的子民效法那些異教徒的儀式。但現在大衛不是進行聖戰。他那樣做是出於個人的目的。第 11 節說：無論男女，大衛沒有留下一個帶到迦特來。他說：「恐怕他們將我們的事告訴人，說大衛住在非利土地的時候常常這樣行。」亞吉問大衛去哪裡打仗。他回答王，他攻擊了附近的一些以色列城鎮。但實際上，他擄掠更南邊的地區。那些人根本不是以色列人。大衛能夠掩飾他的行踪，因為他消滅了那些城鎮中的所有人。死人是不會講話的！亞吉接受了大衛的話。第 12 節說：亞吉信了大衛，心裏說：「大衛使本族以色列人憎惡他，所以他必永遠作我的僕人了。」亞吉認為大衛不僅背叛了掃羅，他甚至攻擊自己的子民。這會進一步疏遠大衛與他的同胞。亞吉很高興大衛成為他的下屬，並永遠住在非利士。大衛取得一些暫時的成功，並且獲得亞吉的信任，但是他要付出代價。他為跟隨者樹立了一個壞榜樣，使他們以為撒謊是可以接受的。更重要的是，大衛沒有達到神的期望。大衛應該是一個合神心意的人。但現在他為了生存變得不誠實。這一切都從大衛越過邊界與敵人假裝結盟開始。作為基督徒，我們生活在物質世界，但我們不應該與墮落的世界結盟。雅各在他的書信的 4:4 給我們一個嚴厲的警告：你們這些淫亂的人哪，豈不知與世俗為友就是與神為敵嗎？所以凡想要與世俗為友的，就是與神為敵了。雅各用「淫亂」這個強烈的字眼來形容那些想要與罪惡世界結盟的信徒。對神不忠就像對配偶不忠一樣。雙面人以為可以腳踏兩條船。神不能容忍這樣的行為。祂要求我們完全委身和絕對順服。不公開你基督徒的身份可能會給你帶來一些方便。但是不久之後，你就必須根據你的立場做決定。因此，更好的方法是預先告訴別人你的信仰。你可以而且應該做的一件簡單的事情就是在吃午飯時謝飯禱告。人們會馬上認出你是個基督徒。如果你尊重別人，別人就會尊重你看為重要的事情。讓我用一個真實的故事來說明。我們有些人其實認識這位男士。當他開始現在的工作時，他告訴他的經理，他是母校的超級球迷。他一定會去看棒球、美式足球和籃球隊比賽。他經常到處跑。他可以用電腦和網路繼續工作。他的主管答應他的願望。如果員工因為自己的愛好而大膽提出要求，那麼信徒就應該為信仰的緣故溫和地提出請求。你應該拒絕某些不道德的商業行為。如果老闆要求你去酒吧或賭場招待客人，你應該拒絕。此外，其實法律保障你的權利，你可以參加主日禮拜，而不去加班。你在工作中盡力而為，證明你對公司忠心，因為你對神忠心。雖然有些人可能仍然不認同你的信仰，但他們會欣賞你對公司的貢獻。

## 2. 虛假的效忠 Fake Allegiance

大衛與亞吉假裝結盟給了他一些好處。但是沒多久，他的欺騙就要接受嚴峻的考驗。大衛繼續依靠他的小聰明來面對挑戰。他希望透過虛假的效忠來救自己。如果是在電影中，現在雙面人的主角必須表明他是站在哪一邊。也許有人要求他去傷害他以前的隊友或從他的國家偷取情報。亞吉在 28:1-2 中要大衛還人情：1 那時，非利士人聚集軍旅，要與以色列人打仗。亞吉對大衛說：「你當知道，你和跟隨你的人都要隨我出戰。」 2 大衛對亞吉說：「僕人所能做的事，王必知道。」 亞吉對大衛說：「這樣，我立你永遠作我的護衛長。」由於大衛的手下現在投靠亞吉，他們必須跟從新的指揮官去打仗。亞吉不是派大衛的士兵運送物資或在廚房燒菜。他們要與自己的同胞以色列人對打。大衛甚至被升級成為亞吉的左右手。這不只是一場戰爭而已。大衛的聲譽受到威脅。如果他真的攻擊自己的同胞，人們怎麼能接受他成為以後的君王呢？此外，戰爭不是開玩笑的。如果你不消滅你的敵人，你就會被消滅。大衛盡量拖延時間，因此他給了一個模稜兩可的回答：「老闆，你很快就會看到我能做什麼。」由於先前的謊言，大衛將自己拖入了困境。他別無選擇，只好跟隨亞吉和其餘的非利士軍隊前往戰場。大衛的跟隨者可能在想他們在戰場上應該怎樣做。與此同時，其他非利士人領袖感到懷疑。我們繼續看 29:3-4。那些將軍有一個合理的擔憂。如果大衛的手下是潛入非利士的臥底怎麼辦？另一種可能性是，大衛會攻打非利士人，並以勝利贏回掃羅的心。無論是那一種情況，非利士人都會夾在兩隊以色列士兵中間。那些首領還提醒亞吉那一首民謠：「大衛殺死萬萬。」大衛在以色列不是挑水的。他是個主將！他可以在戰爭中造成相當大的傷害。但亞吉站在大衛那邊。他見證大衛一直忠心於他。事實上，他在這一章中三次稱讚大衛。大衛欺騙亞吉的演技應該獲得奧斯卡提名！但是其他領袖不願意冒風險。因此，亞吉無可奈何地叫大衛回家。大衛在離開前演完成他的最後一幕。在第 8 節中，他假裝生氣：大衛對亞吉說：「我做了甚麼呢？自從僕人到你面前，直到今日，你查出我有甚麼過錯，使我不去攻擊主—我王的仇敵呢？」大衛的意思是：「你不能怪我不願意幫忙。是他們不喜歡我而已。」就這樣，大衛又躲過了一場危機。他肯定是鬆一口氣。但不是他的演技救了他，是神通過一些非利士首領的懷疑拯救了大衛。大衛學到了重要的功課。當他被逼到牆角時，他必須選擇站在哪一邊。他應該保護自己的性命還是維護神的榮耀？他應該只是在方便的時候才服從神嗎？耶穌清楚地告訴祂的門徒，跟隨祂是要付代價的。甚至他們自己的家人也會起來反對他們。人們會因為他們的信仰而恨惡他們。宗教領袖會把他們抓到法庭。但耶穌告訴門徒不用擔心如何辯護，因為神會給他們適當的話語。沒有天父的許可，甚至一隻麻雀掉也不會掉在地上。我們的生命在神眼中是何等寶貴呢？耶穌以警告結束那段話。請看馬太福音 10:32-33 – 32 「凡在人面前認我的，我在我天上的父面前也必認他； 32 凡在人面前不認我的，我在我天上的父面前也必不認他。」當我們讀到類似的經文時，我們會緊

張起來。耶穌是指向將來的審判。只有兩種結果：進入天堂或被拒絕。結果取決於我們在今生是接受還是拒絕耶穌。耶穌指的是那些向祂硬著心腸的人。他們不是偶然在信仰上跌倒的信徒。大衛經歷過這種挫敗。當我們在壓力下沒有對神忠心時，我們也會面臨同樣的情況。我們傷了神的心。但是祂以恩典領我們回來。彼得因為膽怯而三次否認耶穌，他甚至發誓說他不認識主。但他後來承認自己的罪。耶穌在復活之後恢復了彼得的信心。相比之下，猶大為了三十塊銀子出賣耶穌。他後來意識到自己犯了可怕的罪，他的心碎了。但猶大沒有尋求神的饒恕，而是上吊自殺。我們必須承認我們有多麼軟弱。在下一次考驗來到之前，我們必須下定決心，依靠神的恩典保持忠誠。跟隨耶穌是每一天的操練。缺乏委身似乎是現代人的通病。我們喜歡選擇的自由。對某些牌子、政府官員甚至你工作的公司保持忠誠似乎是過去的事。取消會員資格、離婚和在不同教會游走是被認可的，甚至是被鼓勵的。然而，神絕不會容忍任何虛假的效忠。沒有部分忠誠這回事。耶穌呼召我們成為永久的跟隨者，而不是周末教會的來賓。你要不然是全人投入，要不然是做個旁觀者。

## 結論 CONCLUSION

忠誠應該是我們的標記。我們也許可以用雙面人的身份來欺騙別人，但神不會被愚弄的。無論是在公開和私人生活中，神總是與我們同在。大衛投靠亞吉也許能得到暫時的保護。但如果不是神的干預，大衛可能是災難一場。在今天的故事中，大衛在做重要決定時沒有求問神。當大衛試圖取悅所有人時，他卻沒有取悅任何人。他甚至說謊得罪神。大衛的手下視他為他們的領袖。亞吉認為他是國家的叛徒。但神看大衛是合祂心意的人。神還沒有完成對大衛的訓練。大衛必須專心倚靠神才能成功。就像耶穌在約翰福音 15:5 中對門徒說的那樣：「我是葡萄樹，你們是枝子。常在我裡面的，我也常在他裡面，這人就多果子；因為離了我，你們就不能做什麼。」只有當我們對耶穌忠心時，我們才能結果子。我們必須像連接在葡萄樹上的樹枝一樣與耶穌相連。我們需要時刻住在主裡面，才能過得勝的生活。