

## THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 16TH-17TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

### SCHEMES? (1 SAMUEL 21:1-9)

#### THE PRIEST IN NOB

David had no choice but to run from Saul. This time of David's life is often compared to the Jew's wilderness experience of the exodus.

- God has good things in store for His people, but **we often have to go through trials in order to grow our character as we learn to be faithful in all seasons.**
- David went to an area called Nob to meet the priest. He chose this area because there was a sanctuary that also housed some of the old parts of the Tabernacle.
- David arrived alone, which made the priest nervous. After being asked why he was alone, David lied about his "mission" from the king.

#### WHAT TO MAKE OF DAVID'S LIE

Some argue David was speaking of God when he referred to "the king." This makes little sense. More than likely, he lied because he was afraid.

- David had the Spirit, but he got scared and lacked trust in God in a desperate time. **We must strive to trust God in all situations because the outcomes can be tragic.**

#### DAVID'S THREE SCHEMES IN THIS SECTION

Like many of us, David took matters into his own hands. Many argue David's plan to learn Saul's intentions (ch. 20), his lie to Ahimelech, and his acting insane in Gath show that he had times of extreme spiritual weakness.

- His schemes did buy him some time, but they will also cause massive heartache.

#### DOEG, THE SHEPHERD

David wasn't the only employee of Saul in Nob. Doeg was Saul's head shepherd who was detained in that area. His presence is important because Saul will get info from him later.

- This is a subtle reminder to **be aware of our surroundings. We never know who we may be witnessing to.**

#### "THERE'S NONE LIKE IT!"

Though David lacked trust in God, God was still gracious and provided a means of protection for him via Goliath's sword.

- **God is gracious and benevolent even when we lack faith. We must seek Him first (Matthew 6:33) and never use this as an excuse to abuse His goodness!**

### FEAR (1 SAMUEL 21:10-15)

#### MOVING ON TO GATH

David left Nob and traveled west to Gath, a Philistine city and enemy territory. David possibly went to Gath in the hopes no one would recognize him, but his fame preceded him, and the king knew who he was.

- **When we lack faith, we drift towards "enemy territory" that puts us in danger.**

#### FREUDIAN SLIP?

Ironically, the servants of Achish mistakenly identified David as "the king of the land." Saul was still king, but God was preparing David through these hard times to rule over all the land, including the Philistine (enemy) territory.

- **Good leadership and godly character are developed through adversity!**

#### FEAR OFTEN LEADS TO COMPROMISE

David was afraid and devised another scheme to act insane (possessed) so the king wouldn't find him a threat. The same man who stood up to a giant now cowered to a normal man.

- Though temporarily safe, David compromised integrity. **We must find courage and security in God. If we don't, we will compromise.**

#### THE NEED TO MOVE FROM FEAR TO FAITH

It is vitally important to remember the victories of the past. God had delivered David from a giant, but apparently, he had forgotten.

- **Over time, we should establish God's reputation as good, faithful, and omniscient. If we live in this, we have trust and security that God knows what He is doing.**

### DESPERATE (1 SAMUEL 22:1-5)

#### NOB TO GATH TO A CAVE IN ADULLAM

David leaves Gath and hides in a cave. His "father's...family" joined him, along with "every man who was desperate, in debt, or discontented." These outcasts grew to over 400 people.

- Jesus came from "the house of David," and **in Christ, all kinds of people find community, love, and security.**

#### "FROM THERE DAVID WENT TO MIZPEH OF MOAB"

David took his parents to Mizpeh to find them asylum until he figured out what to do. The king of Moab probably obliged because of David's great-grandmother Ruth (Ruth 4).

- David then leaves and goes to a place called "**the stronghold.**" Though probably an oasis, no one is positive where this is.

### GOD SPEAKS IN THE STRONGHOLD

Though the stronghold was a geographical place, the name is no coincidence. *A stronghold is a place that has been secured to protect one from attack.*

- **When we position ourselves in a place where we're in relationship with God, He will "speak" to us and give us direction.**

#### "DON'T STAY IN THE STRONGHOLD"

After David heard from God, Gad, a prophet, told him to leave the stronghold and return to Judah. **David wasn't supposed to stay in the safe place forever.** He had a job to do, and that meant **trusting God in desperate times.**

- **Christianity is active and costly, but if we will lean into God, He will lead and fulfill us!**

#### WHEN WE FAIL TO TRUST GOD

- When we find ourselves in desperate times, it is easy to scheme to find quick relief. The problem is that **our ways are always destined to lead to more pain.**
- **When we live in fear, it's easy to compromise our beliefs.** Again, this may give momentary relief, but it leads to long-term trouble.

#### REMEMBERING DEAD GIANTS

- The reason we tend not to trust God in hard times is that **we have forgotten God's provision in the past.**
- Over time, **the Christian needs to establish the reputation of God's goodness in our minds.** This helps us stay faithful when we struggle or when evil attacks.

#### GOD IS GOOD EVEN WHEN WE AREN'T

- **Even when we make mistakes, God is good and gives grace and mercy to those who love Him.**
- Though God is merciful, we should never abuse grace. Instead, **God's love and grace should provoke us to repentance, gratefulness, and a love of righteousness.**

#### LEAVING THE SAFE SPACE

- **We must intentionally find time/space for God to "speak" to us.** This needs to be a safe place where we're not distracted by the world.
- Sanctuary is vital, but we are not to only dwell in the safe places. **We must leave and go out into a volatile world in order to bring the peace and truth of God to others.**