

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

DECEMBER 17TH, 2023 // 1 SAMUEL

RUNNING (1 SAMUEL 21:1-9)

FEAR

David goes to the priestly city Nob, looking for refuge. He finds Eli's grandson, a priest, with questions and fear. At this point, it seems that fear is driving David too.

- **The interesting thing about fear is that it breeds more fear, even in people who shouldn't be afraid.**

MORE LIES

Ahimelech's question is reasonable, but David continues his new pattern of lies. Maybe David's motive was to protect him, but that plan failed. This conversation would cost Ahimelech his life.

- **Often, we tell lies that seem small to us to protect ourselves, not thinking what it may cost others.**

FOOD

David needs food for himself and the ones that may be hiding outside. The priest shows compassion and offers the sacred bread if the men are at least clean.

- **David was standing before a priest and could have asked for counsel and prayer that may have changed his next step, but he sought provision by deceit.**

THE SPY AND THE SWORD

Saul's servant, Doeg, was there, and David knew it. David can only see trouble and requests a weapon to deal with it.

- **Sometimes, we look for weapons when we should be reminded how God has given us victory. David gave in to the temptation to lie, manipulate, and covet weapons when he was afraid. What will we do?**

ASYLUM (1 SAMUEL 21:10-15)

WHAT WAS HE THINKING?

David is still running. His fear had turned to lies, and now he would seek asylum in the enemy's stronghold. This was Goliath's hometown. Achish was the king of the Philistines. David had killed tens of thousands of Philistines, and he was wearing Goliath's sword!

- **Why do we end up in spiritually unprofitable places?**

VERY AFRAID

The man, possessed with faith, who had stood calmly in front of the giant, was now acting like a maniac, possessed with fear. He wasn't crazy, but he believed acting like it was his best chance of survival.

- **Poor discernment may get us caught by the enemy, but it's not time to act wild; it's time to decide.**

THE CHOICE

David looks more like Saul in this passage than a man after God's own heart. But David was not Saul, and he did cry out for help (Psalm 34).

- **Wherever we may find ourselves and whatever actions got us there, we must remember that God has a way out. He wants to protect and provide for us while we are in or out of danger.**

REFUGE (1 SAMUEL 22:1-5)

ADULLAM

David trusts God again—after coming to his senses (Psalm 56). God had protected David from Saul; now, He would protect him from his own sin. And not just David, but his family too!

- **Sin affects those around us, but so does faithful living. We may be one faithful decision away from protecting someone other than ourselves.**

FOLLOWERS

David found kindred spirits, and they moved from desperate and discontented to faithful and fulfilled. They could tell the difference between David and Saul and chose David.

- **The sad state of our culture is that many won't seek the Lord until they have a painful experience apart from God. We can choose to follow now.**

RETURN TO FAITHFULNESS

David's family was safe in the land of his great-grandmother (Ruth). Now, with his folly forgiven and his faith renewed, he would need to return to Judah.

- **There will be times when we need to repent, reset, and rest, but we are not called to stay still. There is something harder than following Christ... not following Him.**

WHERE

- We are almost always on the move.
- **Sadly, many choose to move away from God, even believers.**
- **At some point, we realize where we are and then wonder what happened. Our next move will determine our future.**

DIRECTION

- Before taking our next step, we need to know what direction we want to go.
- **God is calling us back to the path He has for us, even when we're so afraid we feel like we've lost our minds.**
- **When our wants align with God's will, we can return to the right direction.**

EVERYONE (ANYONE)

- We are not Saul, but like David, we can act like him sometimes.
- **How far will we go before we turn back to Christ?**
- **The sooner we decide to follow Him, the sooner we will see others make the same choice. When Christ is real in us, others will want the real Christ. Are we real?**