

1 Samuel 21:1-22:5 — The Fugitive

September 25, 2022

Do you like Harrison Ford movies? In 1993, Harrison Ford starred in a movie called The Fugitive. Maybe you have seen it. In the movie, Dr. Richard Kimble was wrongfully accused of murdering his wife. He escaped from custody and was constantly on the run from the U.S. Marshalls, narrowly escaping their grasp again and again. The constant action and near misses made this a popular movie. If you like Harrison Ford action movies, like The Fugitive, you will enjoy our studies in 1 Samuel.



We are in the part of 1 Samuel where David has become a fugitive. Like Harrison Ford, he was constantly running for life. In The Fugitive, Harrison Ford was a wanted man because he was wrongfully accused of killing his wife. In 1 Samuel, David was on the run because King Saul was jealous of his success. So far, David narrowly escaped King Saul's attempts on his life over a dozen times in the last few chapters. After Saul's most recent attempt to pin David's guts to the wall with a spear, David ran for his life and has been on the run ever since. First, David ran to Samuel the prophet at Ramah to find safety. That worked for a while, but three different times Saul sent soldiers to arrest David. The Holy Spirit supernaturally protected David each of those times. The Holy Spirit also supernaturally protected David a fourth time when Saul came to finish David off himself. It was after the Holy Spirit struck Saul senseless and had him out cold for a day that David took that opportunity to run again.

Last week, in 1 Samuel 20, we saw David run to Jonathan, his best friend in Gibeah. As we studied that chapter, we could hear the panic in David's voice in the words he spoke. He said, "What have I done? Why does your father keep trying to kill me?" In desperation, he asked Jonathan, his best friend, to lie to his father. This is something Jonathan had not done before. David hoped that lie would reveal Saul's hatred of David in front of Jonathan. It did, but it also almost cost Jonathan his life as, in a rage, Saul threw a spear at his son.

Last week, when we finished 1 Samuel 20, David and Jonathan parted ways. It was no longer safe for David to be around Saul or Jonathan. There was a change in Saul's plans to kill David at that time. That change will become apparent in the next few chapters. No longer was Saul just committed to killing David, but he was now also committed to killing anyone he thought was helping or supporting David. Saul wanted David to be alone. Saul wanted to cut David off from anyone that would help him.

This was a dark moment for David. When he ran, he was desperate. He was alone. He felt there was no place he could go to get away from Saul and his power. Everyone in Israel refused to help David. They would turn their back on David because they feared Saul's reprisal against their own lives. David may be the anointed and coming king of God, but right now, it doesn't look that way. The future looked hopeless. For David, it felt like everyone wanted to kill him. Everyone was against him. David was super depressed, lonely, and broken.

If you have been at this spot, where you are completely alone, and it feels like the world is against you, then you will understand the way David felt at this moment.

This morning, in 1 Samuel 21:1 to 22:5, we will look at three acts of desperation David took in this dark period of his life. One was downright sinful. The other was completely foolish. These sinful and foolish acts in David's life all took place because, in fear and worry, David stopped turning to God and started trusting in himself, which was a very foolish move. Thankfully in the last acts, David started making better choices.

If you are new, my name is Kurt. I am one of the pastors. Join me as we learn how to handle times of depression, darkness, and loneliness in our life from lessons David learned about those things in his life.

David and the Priests of Nob.

Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest... 1 Samuel 21:1a (ESV)

Nob was two miles southeast as David ran out of Gibeah. There are historical details that would be fascinating to know but we can only piece them together from the text. It seems that after the Philistines captured the ark and Eli and his sons died in 1 Samuel 4, the sanctuary at Shiloh was destroyed by the Philistines. Nob appears to have become the new city of the priests. The tabernacle was relocated to Nob while the ark remained at Kirath-Jearim.



Ahimelech was the great-grandson of Eli, the priest we met at the beginning of the book. When it says Ahimelech was the priest, that doesn't mean he was the only priest. It means he was the chief priest. In the next chapter, we will learn about the other priests. While David was excited to see Ahimelech, Ahimelech was not excited to see David.

...And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?" 1 Samuel 21:1b (ESV)

The word "trembled" is the same word used to describe what Eli did earlier in this book when he heard the ark was captured by the Philistines. It means to be terrified and literally shake in terror. Have you experienced a time when you were so afraid you trembled? That was what Ahimelech was doing.

Why was he shaking in fear when he saw David? At this point, Ahimelech knew Saul hated David and was committed to killing David.

When Ahimelech saw David alone without soldiers, he suspected David was a fugitive, and there might be horrifying consequences if he helped him or spent time with him. As we will see in the next chapter, he was right.

In the last chapter, David's faith was falling apart. He asked Jonathan to lie to his father. Now David again turns to a lie, but this lie is more significant. It is a lie to the chief priest in the temple.

And David said to Ahimelech the priest, "The king has charged me with a matter and said to me, 'Let no one know anything of the matter about which I send you, and with which I have charged you.' I have made an appointment with the young men for such and such a place. 1 Samuel 21:2 (ESV)

David claimed to be on a highly secretive government assignment. That was the reason he was traveling alone. He claimed to have men that he would meet at such and such a place. Even as David was making up this lie, he

couldn't think of a good location to tell Ahimelech where he planned to meet his men, so he just called it such and such a place.

If you want to catch a liar, the easiest way is to ask the liar about specific details. When they don't have details, they are lying to you.

David was lying to Ahimelech to calm his fears and gain his trust. A lie may help you at the moment, but it will always have disastrous consequences in the future. David will come to regret his lie deeply. Notice that David's lying was getting worse. This was a straight-faced lie to the chief priest while he was in God's house. The Bible is not recommending David's conduct. It describes David's conduct. David's lying is the whole point of this chapter. He has stopped relying on God to protect him. He was now relying on his lies to protect him.

David isn't the only one who does this. Don't we do this too? When we are overwhelmed, when life is falling apart, when we are filled with fear, instead of turning to God to protect us, don't we often fall into sinful patterns of trying to protect ourselves with half-truths and pure deception?

The apostle Peter reminds us what we are to do to in times of anxiety and stress.

...casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. 1 Peter 5:7 (ESV)

Instead of trusting in himself and deception to save his life, David needed to give his worries to God and trust in God's care and protection.

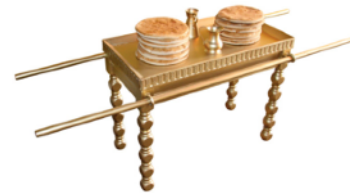
Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." 1 Samuel 21:3 (ESV)

This is a practical request. After hiding in the field waiting for Jonathan, David was probably without food for days. He just hiked two miles to Nob. David

was probably starving. David asks for whatever bread Ahimelech had on hand. There was no time to bake fresh bread. David only had time for what was already prepared. The truth is that as a fugitive, David was trying to get in and out of Nob as fast as he could. This posed a problem because the only bread that was readily available was consecrated bread, the holy bread which sat on the table in the Holy place.

And the priest answered David, "I have no common bread on hand, but there is holy bread—if the young men have kept themselves from women." 1 Samuel 21:4 (ESV)

Leviticus 24 talks about this bread. It was 12 loaves of bread, one for each tribe in Israel and was replaced every week on the Sabbath with fresh bread.



The priests were allowed to eat the leftover bread removed from the Holy place.

"You shall take fine flour and bake twelve loaves from it; two tenths of an ephah shall be in each loaf. And you shall set them in two piles, six in a pile, on the table of pure gold before the Lord. And you shall put pure frankincense on each pile, that it may go with the bread as a memorial portion as a food offering to the Lord. Every Sabbath day Aaron shall arrange it before the Lord regularly; it is from the people of Israel as a covenant forever. And it shall be for Aaron and his sons, and they shall eat it in a holy place, since it is for him a most holy portion out of the Lord's food offerings, a perpetual due." Leviticus 24:5–9 (ESV)

Ahimelech was willing to give David and his imaginary group of men this bread, but they at least needed to have kept themselves from women to be consecrated.

Lest we misunderstand what was going on, sex in marriage is a good thing. God created it. He intended it to be one of his greatest blessings. In the Leviticus holiness code, any loss of blood or other bodily fluids, such as those

associated with sexual activity, rendered someone ritually unclean for a day (See Leviticus 15:18, Exodus 19:15). If Ahimelech gave David and his men the holy bread, they at least needed to be ritually clean like the priests when they consumed it.

And David answered the priest, “Truly women have been kept from us as always when I go on an expedition. The vessels of the young men are holy even when it is an ordinary journey. How much more today will their vessels be holy?” 1 Samuel 21:5 (ESV)

David kept spinning his lie about his secret mission. The term vessels is a euphemism for guys’ stuff. David told Ahimelech that his soldiers were ritually pure and stayed away from women. They were that way on every mission, that was especially true for this top-secret mission.

So the priest gave him the holy bread, for there was no bread there but the bread of the Presence, which is removed from before the LORD, to be replaced by hot bread on the day it is taken away. 1 Samuel 21:6 (ESV)

The question becomes, why did Ahimelech violate the law and give David this bread? Jesus talked about this event in the book of Matthew. At the time, Jesus and his disciples were walking through a grain field on the Sabbath. They were picking heads of grain, rubbing them together, and eating the kernels as they walked. This was allowed in God’s law. But the Pharisees were critical of Jesus and his disciples. They claimed this was harvesting and threshing on the Sabbath. They were working on the Sabbath, and it violated God’s law. Look what Jesus said.

He said to them, “Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: how he entered the house of God and ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him to eat nor for those who were with him, but only for the priests?... And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,’ you would not have condemned the guiltless. Matthew 12:3–4, 7 (ESV)

Jesus' point is that David was starving. Giving David holy bread, if that was the only bread available to alleviate his hunger, was the right thing to do. Mercy for people in need is more important than the sacrifice of people. God's law was intended to be a blessing to us, not a club to beat us. Ahimelech properly understood that it was more important to feed a starving David than the proper ritual observance of the law to be kept in that crisis. This is a great reminder to us. God's word and God's laws are intended to be a gift to us. They are not to be misused as a club to burden us. God desires us to show mercy, not sacrifice.

At this point, we are given an important detail that will be extremely significant in the next chapter. While the conversation was taking place between David and Ahimelech, in the background, watching in the shadows of the room as an almost unnoticed figure.

Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD. His name was Doeg the Edomite, the chief of Saul's herdsmen. 1 Samuel 21:7 (ESV)

This man was a servant of Saul. All the servants of Saul had earlier been told that Saul intended to kill David, and they were to assist Saul in that grisly task. This man was also the chief of Saul's herdsmen. He was the head shepherd. Who also used to be a skilled shepherd? Who was quickly rising in prominence in Israel and would be a threat to his job? David! This man was David's rival in the shepherding business. In addition, he was an Edomite. They were descended from Esau. Throughout the Bible, they are seen as enemies of God's people, even denying Israel safe passage to the Promised Land in the

days of Moses (Numbers 20:14-21). It is bad news to have him watching the talk between David and Ahimelech.

Then David said to Ahimelech, “Then have you not here a spear or a sword at hand? For I have brought neither my sword nor my weapons with me, because the king’s business required haste.” 1 Samuel 21:8 (ESV)

David left in such a hurry that he had no time to gather provisions or weapons. That was not because he was on a secret mission from the king, but because his wife let him escape from a window while Saul was trying to kill him. This was another lie to Ahimelech.

This is a strange request. Why would David ask for a weapon from the chief priest in a house of worship? This is like someone coming into the church office asking if we had a handgun, they could borrow. Of course, we don’t. Our only defense is a mop.

And the priest said, “The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you struck down in the Valley of Elah, behold, it is here wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you will take that, take it, for there is none but that here.” ... 1 Samuel 21:9a (ESV)

I don’t know for sure, but I think David knew this was where Goliath’s sword was kept. After killing Goliath in 1 Samuel 17, David kept Goliath’s sword and armor. He was the one in charge of its location, and so he knew this was where Goliath’s massive sword could be found, and since he slayed Goliath, the priest would be willing to give it to him. I think he was just playing dumb before the priest when he asked if he had a sword. I sometimes wonder if getting this sword was the real reason he stopped in Nob as he was running from Gibeah. Look how David responded when Ahimelech offered him the sword.

...And David said, “There is none like that; give it to me.” 1 Samuel 21:9b (ESV)

You can hear David's grabbiness. Give it to me! I am sure there was no other sword like it. Goliath was the champion of the Philistines so it was probably one of the best swords around. Goliath was over 9 feet tall so I am sure this sword was huge and visually impressive. At first, stopping at Nob to get Goliath's sword when David is without a weapon seems natural. It seems like a good idea, until we think about this a bit more.

In David's battle with Goliath, he refused to wear the king's armor and use the king's sword when he went into battle against Goliath because he was trusting in God for victory, not the impressiveness of a weapon. David is now turning to the failed weapon of Goliath as his source of safety and security as he runs from Saul. If Goliath's sword didn't protect Goliath in battle, what makes David think Goliath's sword will be his source of safety and security in his battles? In David's panic and fear, David was no longer turning to God and trusting God to save his life. He is turning to Goliath's sword and hoping it would protect his life. Remember what David said about the danger of trusting swords in 1 Samuel 17 before he went into battle with Goliath?

"...and that all this assembly may know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the Lord's, and he will give you into our hand." 1 Samuel 17:47 (ESV)

In his fear and stress, David was now trusting in Goliath's failed sword instead of his unfailing God. For David, Nob became the place where his fear led him to stop trusting in God to protect his life, and to trust in himself. David tried to protect himself by lies and deception. For David, Nob also became the place where he placed his hope for the future in the failed worldly strength of Goliath's

sword instead of the unfailing strength of the God who loved him and had never failed him.

Have you been to Nob? I don't mean the literal city, but the place where fear, worry, and anxiety about the future have led you to stop trusting in God and start trusting in lies and sources of worldly strength. All of us have been there.

David flees to Gath.

Whenever we engage in unbelief and start turning to ourselves and our own ingenuity instead of turning to God when life is falling apart, it won't be long until we also find ourselves going to spiritually unprofitable places and surrounding ourselves with spiritually unprofitable people. That is exactly what David did next.

And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. 1 Samuel 21:10 (ESV)

There are several indications in the story of Saul's considerable power. He was a dictator willing to kill loyal soldiers like David. Everyone lived in fear. When David fled from Saul, I am sure Saul put David's face on a wanted dead or alive poster all over Israel. I suspect Saul had a bounty on David's head. At this point, there was probably a nationwide manhunt for David. There was no place in the entire nation where David felt safe, so he devised an insane plan. Relying on his own wisdom, he traveled 25 miles southwest to Gath, one of the five Philistine cities, to hide among the enemy.

David may have thought that since he was an enemy of Saul, he would be welcomed. He may have thought that if he kept his head covered, he could hide in public. The problem was that while David forgot about the 200 dead Philistines

he killed for the bride price of Saul's daughter, the Philistine widows had not forgotten. David may have forgotten about the devastation he caused to the Philistine army, but those in the army had not forgotten. While Saul hated David in Israel, among the Philistines, everyone hated David. David walked into Gath wearing Goliath's massive and unique sword! It was so big it didn't defend his life. Instead, it probably helped the Philistines identify him.

David was almost immediately recognized by Achish's men and taken into custody.

And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?" 1 Samuel 21:11 (ESV)

Sometimes people say things that are more significant than they realize. Achish's servants unwittingly said something very important. They called David "king of the land." Where did they get this idea? In Israel, nobody called David king. The Philistines recognized David for his achievements, and they recognized that David would soon be king over the land. To prove that, they recall the song that was sung about David when he killed Goliath. "Saul has struck down his thousands, but David his ten thousands." So far David has been identified as the future king by God, by Samuel the prophet, by Jonathan, and now his Philistine enemies.

And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. 1 Samuel 21:12 (ESV)

This is the first time we read about David being afraid. He is very much afraid. This idea to hide among the Philistines turned out to be a really, really bad idea. Saul had tried to get the Philistines to kill David. Now David was about to

get himself killed by the Philistines because he relied on his own plans instead of turning to the Lord.

When we are stressed, alone, and worried, sometimes we go to ungodly people and ungodly places for comfort and friendship. That was what David did. It turned out to be an incredibly bad idea that quickly led to his arrest.

David tried a really crazy technique hoping to gain his freedom.

So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. 1 Samuel 21:13 (ESV)

Here we read about David being “in their hands.” This lets us know David was arrested and imprisoned. At this point, David pretended to have gone insane. He keeps drooling. I am sure he kept making strange sounds and using his fingernails or rocks to mark up the doors of the city gate. Apparently, David was kept chained to the city gate for everyone to see and insult.

Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?” 1 Samuel 21:14–15 (ESV)

The servants of Saul eventually had their chance to bring David before king Achish. They present to Achish a disgusting man covered in drool who made strange sounds and constantly vandalized things around him. Achish was so repulsed by David that he immediately said, “Don’t bring this lunatic into my house! He is going to ruin the walls. My wife just had them repainted! This guy is no prize of war. He is insane. Get rid of him!” When Achish tells them he already has enough lunatics, it is implied that he thought his servants were lunatics for bringing pathetic David to him in the first place.

In that day, insane people were released into the wilderness to fend for themselves. That was exactly what they did to David. They let him go free.

Gath was where David finally came to his senses. When David was at the bottom. When he was terrified for his life, he finally stopped trusting in his lies, his wisdom and schemes and called to God. In this period of David's life, he wrote a number of Psalms that give us a window into what was going on in his heart. When David was released from Gath, and saved from certain death, he wrote Psalm 56. Let's look at this window into his heart.

Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly. When I am afraid, I put my trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me? Psalm 56:1–4 (ESV)

Can you picture David being trampled on as he was chained to the city gate? Can you picture David finally turning to trust in God for rescue instead of himself and his schemes?

You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book? Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me. In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me? Psalm 56:8–11 (ESV)

I love David's honesty. He was so broken. He was so depressed. He cried himself to sleep at night. Everyone wants to kill him in Israel and among the Philistines he fared no better. Yet, he knows God loves him. His tears were so precious to God that they were kept in a bottle. He decided to stop trusting in himself, his lies and schemes, and Goliath's swords. He would finally turn and completely rely on God. Have you been there? This is what we are to do when the world falls apart around us. When everyone is against us, we turn to the God

who loves us and will never let us go. Look how David finishes this Psalm and gives God credit for saving his life, not his acting skills and pretending to be insane.

I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you. For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life. Psalm 56:12–13 (ESV)

David also wrote Psalm 32 at this time. This is another prayer of David thanking God for rescuing him from certain death with the Philistines.

I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his troubles. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him, and delivers them. Psalm 34:4–7 (ESV)

Notice in both of these Psalms that David was not just talking about his experience of calling on God for rescue when the world falls apart. He told us this would also be our experience. If we turn to God instead of lies, schemes, and ungodly people when our life is falling apart, we will also experience God's rescue.

David in the Cave of Adullam

David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam... 1 Samuel 22:1 (ESV)

Still alone, David had little choice but to run for his life and find a hiding place outside of the Philistine territory. He went to the western border of Judah in a remote place just inside Israel's territory. It was a rocky place filled with caves. There he hid in a cave. This was a time of rest for David. It was time for him to catch his breath. Having come out of the lowest point in his life, he needed to pause and reassess things.

In this cave, in solitude and rest, he wrote two more Psalms that give us a window into his heart. They are Psalms 57 and 142.

Be merciful to me, O God, be merciful to me, for in you my soul takes refuge; in the shadow of your wings I will take refuge, till the storms of destruction pass by. I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me. Psalm 57:1–2 (ESV)

The only place David can find comfort is in God’s protection of him. God was the one who would protect him until this storm in his life, where everyone wanted to kill him, passed. He was going to trust in the God who would fulfill the purpose for his life. God told him he would be the future king. At this point, that seemed impossible. He would trust in God to work things out, not his lies and worldly schemes.

By the way, that is true not just for David but it is also true for us as Christians. When there are storms in our lives, and our world is falling apart, we do not need to fear. We do not need to rely on our own schemes, lies, or foolish plans. We turn to the God who loves us, the Jesus who died for us, and the one who is in control of our life and history. He is the one who will fulfill his good purposes for us as we trust and rely on him.

At this time in the cave, David also wrote Psalm 142. It is his prayer to God in brokenness and isolation as he called out to God for help.

When my spirit faints within me, you know my way! In the path where I walk they have hidden a trap for me. Psalm 142:3 (ESV)

I cry to you, O Lord; I say, “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living.” Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me! Psalm 142:5–6 (ESV)

Can’t you picture David at this low point all alone in the cave calling out to God?

What happens next is exciting. Slowly things begin to turn as God moves his invisible hand to answer David's cry for help.

...And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. 1 Samuel 22:1 (ESV)

The first people that showed up at the cave were David's family. The brothers who at one time mocked him when it came to the battle with Goliath now respected him and came to help and support him. Can you picture this family reunion? Brothers hugged with tears running down their cheeks. Saul had kept David from going home to see his family. We don't know how many years it has been since David last saw his parents and brothers. We don't know how long it had been since he had his mother's home cooking.

Isn't family important when we go through low points in life? One of God's good gifts is the family who loves us and believes in us, and cares about us to help us get through hard times in life. In the cave of Adullam, in that abandoned place, a family reunion took place. David was finally encouraged. He was not alone.

God sent more than just his family.

And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men. 1 Samuel 22:2 (ESV)

Saul was not just corrupt in his hatred toward David. I am sure the corruption of Saul's rule leaked into all areas of his governance. Many in the nation were in debt and bitter in soul. God sent about 400 of these men to David. Two, five, or more showed up a day to be with David. All of them looked to David as their captain, their commander. God was assembling an army.

And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab.... 1 Samuel 22:3 (ESV)

The Philistines were on the west side of Israel. David and his men traveled west from the cave of Adullam to the east, the Moabites. 1 Samuel 14:47 tells us Saul had fought against the Moabites. They were one of his enemies. David had never fought against the Moabites. He was at peace with them.

...And he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me.” 1 Samuel 22:3 (ESV)

Not only was David at peace with the Moabites, but he had family connections there. David’s great-grandmother was Ruth, from the book of Ruth in our Bible. Ruth was a Moabite who moved to Israel. The king of Moab would take care of David’s parents because they were of Moabite blood. This would keep David’s parents away from Saul and his murderous intent toward them.

After leaving his parents with the king of Moab, David seems to have taken his men to a stronghold, a fortress in the rough country between Moab and Israel. He appears to have stayed there for some time. For the first time, David had peace and safety.

And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. 1 Samuel 22:4 (ESV)

Family was with David. His parents were safe. He and his men had the safety of a fortress. He was outside of Israel and did not need to fear Saul. He was not trusting in himself and his strength. He was trusting God with his future... then this happened.

Then the prophet Gad said to David, “Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.”... 1 Samuel 22:5 (ESV)

The prophet of God showed up and said it was time to move. No more resting in safety and comfort. It was time for David to go back to Israel, where Saul was committed to killing him. After David's repentance, rest, and rejuvenation, it was time for David to go back to Israel and risk his life as he faced his future. Would David obey God's word when God asked him to do something hard?

...So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth. 1 Samuel 22:5 (ESV)

David obeyed God's word and headed back to the center of the nation.

What happens next? When the stress and worry of being a hunted man mounts, will David go back to putting his trust in himself, his lies, and worldly sources of strength, or will he continue to trust his life into God's hands?

If you want to find out, be sure to come back next week.

What are the applications we can take from this chapter into our week?

Applications

1. **When life falls apart, don't try to save ourselves by lies, worldly sources of security, turning to godless places, or trusting in godless people.**

Turn to the God who loves us and has not forgotten us. He promises to fulfill his purposes for us. David tried to save himself by lying to the priests of Nob, trusting in the failed security of the sword of Goliath, going for safety to the godless place of Gath, and trusting in the godless people of that city. All of them failed him and led to disaster. It was only when David got on his knees and called out to the God who loved him that he found rescue and hope. The same is true for us.

2. **We may turn our back on God, but He will never turn His back on us.**

God loved David and didn't leave David in the brokenness of his messy choices. As David says in Psalm 34, this poor man cried, the Lord heard him and saved him out of all his trouble.

3. **After God saves us and restores us, He calls us to trust Him and obey His Word, even if it is hard.** After God answered David's prayers for rescue, through the prophet Gad, God eventually called David to move from the safety of the Moabite fortress and return to Israel to face his future even though his life was in danger.



Dr. Kurt Trucksess is ordained in the Evangelical Free Church of America. He enjoys reading, writing, and time with his family. Feel free to contact him at www.Christ2RCulture.com (www.c2rc.com)

© You are permitted and encouraged to reproduce and distribute this material in any format provided (1) you credit the author, (2) modifications are clearly marked, (3) you do not charge a fee beyond the cost of reproduction, (4) you include the web address (www.Christ2RCulture.com) on the copied resource.

