

The Anointed King: Anticipation For A Forever King Begins

Fleeing in Desperation

1 Samuel 21-22

Main Idea

Keeping our eyes on the fixed point of God and His word will get us out of desperation and into safekeeping.

Overview

- David flees his home because Saul is trying to kill him
- David plays coy with Ahimelech in order to try and protect him
 - David doesn't tell the whole truth so that Ahimelech will be able to say that he didn't know that he was aiding David
 - David has concern for the welfare of Ahimelech and his family (22.22)
- David receives bread from God...bread reserved for the Priests as laid on the Table of Presence (Lev. 24.8-9)
 - Jesus refers to this event in order to teach that mercy is better than sacrifice (Matthew 12.1-8, Mark 2.23-28)
- David goes to Gath...hometown of Goliath & flees after acting like a madman
- David heads to the Cave of Adullam where his family and social outcasts and those bitter in soul came to him...and he made an army
- They flee to Moab, the home of David's Great Grandmother Ruth for the safety of David's parents
- Saul catches wind of David's location and goes after him
 - His own servants won't obey the order to kill the priests
 - Doeg who had alerted Saul as to where David was (1 Samuel 21.7) did the work of killing the priests and their families and livestock (22.19)
- Abiathar, a priest, is able to escape...David welcomes him in for safekeeping (22.23)

Questions

Discussion Starter: *In what ways do you see the society around us desperate? If there are those willing to share past or current stories of desperation invite them to share briefly. What does society around us call us to look to in desperation?*

1. Read 1 Samuel 21:1-9. What do you think of David's behavior here? How might David be thinking of Ahimelech better than himself in his not disclosing the truth? **We should be careful to draw any conclusions to David lying and giving warrant to our own lies. This was a unique situation that was a true Moral Dilemma. On the one hand he had to eat or die, it seems, but on the other hand, if he tells him the truth Ahimelech will be killed for exactly what he wound up being killed for. David wasn't trying to advance his own agenda, cause, or person, but he was trying to think of Ahimelech.**
2. God had provided Holy bread for David in the midst of his desperation just like He did for many others in their desperation (Moses and Midian, Jacob and his sons in the famine, Israel in the Exodus, Elijah and the Brook of Cherith, etc.). How can we learn to be mindful of God's provision in the midst of our own desperation? Share how stories from your past have similar provisions from the Lord?

3. Read 1 Samuel 21:10-15, and then read Psalm 34. Discuss how David sees the “fixed point of God and His word” in the situation of Achish.
4. Read 1 Samuel 22:1-2. How does David point to Christ in terms of who came to him in these verses? Discuss how Christ is the “greater” David in this regard. How can you fall into His army and submit to His leadership amidst your desperation?
5. Read 2 Samuel 22:3-5. What do these verses tell us about David’s desire to obey God’s word? How is God calling us to do the same?
6. Read 22:16-19. Discuss the slide of Saul from when he became king to his acts of carnage here. How does the evil one like to lead you into destruction by degrees?
7. Saul is more jealous for his own glory than he is the God he claimed to serve. How are you tempted to bring about envious destruction of others around you as well?
8. Read 1 Samuel 22:20-23. Compare the actions of Saul and David. How could David see himself as one who would be in safekeeping? How is Christ, the other one this world shunned, likewise our safekeeping?
9. Through the desperation we will see David get out (Resurrection). Read Psalm 52, which was written in response to the news of Doeg, and learn from David about how we should respond to our moments of desperation when all seems lost.

Accountability question: *Discuss good and bad ways you are looking to the “fixed point” of God in the midst of your desperations so that you can live in the hope of the resurrection.*