

After God's Heart

Lesson 4

1 Samuel 21-23

January 27, 2019

Desperate Days

Introduction

David has done nothing wrong, yet is heavily pursued by Saul and his men. God has consecrated him as the future King of Israel to replace Saul, yet here is David running for his life. Many patriarchs in the Bible went through a long season of waiting. Abraham waited 25 years for an offspring, Moses spent 40 years shepherding before leading God's people out of Egypt. The Israelites themselves waited 40 years in the wilderness before winning over the promised land. David never wavered in his faith in his season of running. He continued to trust God, seeking Him first and foremost for direction and help. Often we go through a season of waiting, and we start to doubt God's promises and goodness. These seasons need to be a time to press into our relationship with God, pursuing Him, learning about His character. We can learn a lot from David and his faith, yet we should always remember to rely solely on God, not man, no matter how good of a man, they will still fail us. God never will.

Memory verse: "Have mercy on me, my God, have mercy on me, for in you I take refuge. I will take refuge in the shadow of your wings until the disaster has passed."—Psalm 57:1

Read 1 Samuel 21-23. What questions or observations do you have about the passage?

What does the passage say?

1. What type of bread does the priest give to David and his men? (1 Samuel 21:4)
2. How did David act in the presence of Achish? (1 Samuel 21:13)
3. What was the name of the cave in which David hid? (1 Samuel 22:1)
4. What were the orders of Saul to his guards? (1 Samuel 22:17)
5. What was the Lord's answer to David when inquired as to the attack on the Philistines? (1 Samuel 23:2)
6. What were Jonathan's words of comfort to David? (1 Samuel 23:17)

What does the passage mean?

1. Saul seemed to have a personal vendetta against David, stemmed from jealousy. What are we as Christians to do when someone wrongfully attacks our character? (Matthew 5:38-40; Matthew 18:21-22)

2. Many Psalms written by David came from this time of running and hiding from Saul. (Psalms 18; 52; 54; 57; 59; 142). Pick one of these Psalms to read. What are the ways that David is comforted? What can we learn from David?

3. 1 Samuel 13:5-14 tell of Saul's impatience with God's timing. In 1 Samuel 23, we see David seek the Lord in his time of trouble. What is the difference between David and Saul's ways of seeking the Lord? How does this show these men's views on God's part in their battles?

4. The Philistines seemed to capitalize on Saul's vulnerability without God or David. We can be led into temptation, and our relationship with God can suffer when we walk away from Him. Why is it important to continually pursue God? (1 Corinthians 10:13; 2 Peter 2:9)

Applying the Passage

1. David was consecrated by God to become king. This time of running must have been confusing to him. Many characters in the Bible seem to go through a wilderness, or a time of quiet before God comes through on His promises. What are you waiting on from God? Have you been patient, or doubtful? In what ways has God come through on His promises for you already?

