

Series: 1 Samuel: Harp and Spear IX

Text: 1 Samuel 21:1-22:23

HI: God's kingdom advances in enemy territory.

Title: *On The Run*

Hook: Story and snapshot

Date: 3.3.24

Purpose: To exhort God's people to resiliency in the face of hostility, knowing that the Lord is advancing his kingdom in enemy territory.

FCF: Like David, trials in this world often lead us to fear. The grace of God is seen as the anointed king's prayers show us that Christ provides refuge in an enemy occupied world.

COR: The brutality of Saul is par for the course of the kings in this world. We are familiar with this script. But behind the scenes is a God who is working all things in accordance with his will.

Witness of Christ [WC*]: NT References (Matthew 12:1-8) + Acts 2:23-24 + 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Apologetic: The Bible is real. We get a real story today, not a fluffy fairy tale for bedtime.

Text Tone: Testing

Preaching Voice: Sage

Form: Inductive

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-3

Benediction: 1 Corinthians 15:57-58

Outline:

[movements preaching inductively]

I. The Lord provides deliverance for the desperate. (21:1-22:5)

A. David gets a meal meant for a priest. (1-9)

B. David is carrying Goliath's sword, but he is no Philistine. (10-15)

C. Those with nowhere to go run to David. (22:1-5)

II. His enemy's brutality only highlights God's sovereignty. (22:6-23)

A. Saul opposes the Lord while confirming God's word. (6-19)

B. Abiathar finds safety in David as he escapes Saul's treachery. (20-23)

Main Idea:

Subject: What does God do for David as he desperately flees Saul?

Complement: He provides for him in the presence of his enemies.

Exegetical Idea: As David desperately flees from Saul, God provides for him in the presence of his enemies.

Theological Idea: God protects his chosen king in the presence of his enemies.

Homiletical Idea: God's kingdom advances in enemy territory.

Introduction:

READ 1 Samuel 21:1-9

21 Then David came to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. And Ahimelech came to meet David, trembling, and said to him, "Why are you alone, and no one with you?" ² 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. ³ Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever is here." ⁴ 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." ⁵ 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?" ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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." ⁹ 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." And David said, "There is none like that; give it to me."

READ 1 Samuel 21:10-15

¹⁰ And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath.

¹¹ 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?’”

¹² And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of

Gath. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ Then Achish said to his servants, “Behold, you see the man is mad.

Why then have you brought him to me? ¹⁵ 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?”

READ Psalm 56:1-13

¹ Be gracious to me, O God, for man tramples on me; all day long an attacker oppresses me; ² my enemies trample on me all day long, for many attack me proudly.

³ When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.

⁴ In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?

⁵ All day long they injure my cause; all their thoughts are against me for evil.

⁶ They stir up strife, they lurk; they watch my steps, as they have waited for my life.

⁷ For their crime will they escape? In wrath cast down the peoples, O God!

⁸ You have kept count of my tossings; put my tears in your bottle. Are they not in your book?

⁹ Then my enemies will turn back in the day when I call. This I know, that God is for me.

¹⁰ In God, whose word I praise, in the Lord, whose word I praise, ¹¹ in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

¹² I must perform my vows to you, O God; I will render thank offerings to you.

¹³ For you have delivered my soul from death, yes, my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of life.

READ Psalm 34:1-8:

¹ I will bless the Lord at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul makes its boast in the Lord;
let the humble hear and be glad.

³ Oh, magnify the Lord with me,
and let us exalt his name together!

⁴ I sought the Lord, and he answered me
and delivered me from all my fears.

⁵ Those who look to him are radiant,
and their faces shall never be ashamed.

⁶ This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him
and saved him out of all his troubles.

⁷ The angel of the Lord encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.

⁸ Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good!
Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!

READ Psalm 34:9-10, 17-22.

⁹ Oh, fear the Lord, you his saints,
for those who fear him have no lack!

¹⁰ The young lions suffer want and hunger;
but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

¹⁷ When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears
and delivers them out of all their troubles.

¹⁸ The Lord is near to the brokenhearted
and saves the crushed in spirit.

¹⁹ Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.

²⁰ He keeps all his bones;
not one of them is broken.

²¹ Affliction will slay the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.

²² The Lord redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.

READ 1 Samuel 22:1-5

22 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ² 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.

³ And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. 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." ⁴ And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

READ Psalm 57:1-3

¹ 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.

² I cry out to God Most High, to God who fulfills his purpose for me.

³ He will send from heaven and save me; he will put to shame him who tramples on me. *Selah* God will send out his steadfast love and his faithfulness!

Psalm 57:7-11

⁷ My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast! I will sing and make melody!

⁸ Awake, my glory! Awake, O harp and lyre! I will awake the dawn!

⁹ I will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples; I will sing praises to you among the nations.

¹⁰ For your steadfast love is great to the heavens, your faithfulness to the clouds.

¹¹ Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!

READ Psalm 142:1-7

¹ With my voice I cry out to the Lord; with my voice I plead for mercy to the Lord.

² I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

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

⁴ Look to the right and see: there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

⁵ I cry to you, O Lord; I say, "You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living."

⁶ Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low! Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

⁷ Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! The righteous will surround me, for you will deal bountifully with me.

- CXT: As David prays this, the Lord leads more and more people to him.

I. The Lord provides deliverance for the desperate. (21:1-22:5)

Matt. 12:1-8 At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. ² But when the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." ³ He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he was hungry, and those who were with him: ⁴ 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? ⁵ Or have you not read in the Law how on the Sabbath the priests in the temple profane the Sabbath and are guiltless? ⁶ I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. ⁷ And if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. ⁸ For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath."

READ 1 Samuel 22:6-19

⁶ Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. ⁷ And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, ⁸ that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day."

⁹ Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, ¹⁰ and he inquired of the Lord for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

¹¹ Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king.

¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." ¹³ And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" ¹⁴ Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? ¹⁵ Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." ¹⁶ And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." ¹⁷ And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord. ¹⁸ Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. ¹⁹ And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

1 Samuel 2:31: “Behold, the days are coming when I will cut off your strength and the strength of your father’s house, so that there will not be an old man in your house.”

II. His enemy’s brutality only highlights God’s sovereignty. (22:6-23)

Acts 4:27-28 ²⁷ for truly in this city there were gathered together against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, along with the Gentiles and the peoples of Israel, ²⁸ to do whatever your hand and your plan had predestined to take place.

Acts 2:23-24: this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.
²⁴ God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.

III: God’s kingdom advances in enemy territory.

READ 1 Samuel 22:20-23

²⁰ But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. ²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. ²² And David said to Abiathar, “I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father’s house. ²³ Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping.”

READ Psalm 52:1-2, 5, 8-9

¹ Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man? The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

² Your tongue plots destruction, like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

⁵ But God will break you down forever; he will snatch and tear you from your tent; he will uproot you from the land of the living. *Selah*

⁸ But I am like a green olive tree in the house of God. I trust in the steadfast love of God forever and ever.

⁹ I will thank you forever, because you have done it. I will wait for your name, for it is good, in the presence of the godly.

HI: God's kingdom advances in enemy territory.