

Remaining on God's Pathway of Peace ***Psalms 56***

The CDC have been giving out a very clear list of symptoms that someone needs to be tested for COVID-19 infection...

But there is another infection that is growing, not only in our country, but around the world...

The infection of FEAR...

Isaiah 26:3 (ESV) — You keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on you, because he trusts in you.

Pic #1 – The Road...



Pic #2 – The Pathway...



Pic #3 – The Ditches...



Psalms 56 (ESV) — To the choirmaster: according to The Dove on Far-off Terebinths. A Miktam of David, when the Philistines seized him in Gath.

David wrote this Psalm describing his situation DURING being seized by the Philistines...

This story is recorded for us in 1 Samuel 21:10-15

1 Samuel 21:10–15 (ESV) — 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?”

How did David even get to this place?

HE PANICKED

I want to show you FIVE SYMPTOMS OF PANIC brought on by FEAR that led David to being seized...

5 Symptoms of Panic

#1 – Fretting over Possibilities

Five Symptoms of Panic

#1 - Fretting over Possibilities

1 Samuel 20:3b (ESV) — ...But truly, as the LORD lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death.”

#2 – Fleeing into Isolation

Five Symptoms of Panic

#1 - Fretting over Possibilities

#2 - Fleeing into Isolation

1 Samuel 21:1 (ESV) — 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?”

#3 – Forgoing Truth for Self-preservation

Five Symptoms of Panic

- #1 - Fretting over Possibilities
- #2 - Fleeing into Isolation
- #3 - Forgoing the Truth

1 Samuel 21:2 (ESV) — 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.

#4 – Forgetting God’s Promises

Five Symptoms of Panic

- #1 - Fretting over Possibilities
- #2 - Fleeing into Isolation
- #3 - Forgoing the Truth
- #4 - Forgetting God’s Promises

So David continues his lies, but needs some type of weapon to protect himself...

So he asks the priest if he has anything...

1 Samuel 21:9 (ESV) — 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.”

#5 – Following our Emotions

Five Symptoms of Panic

- #1 - Fretting over Possibilities
- #2 - Fleeing into Isolation
- #3 - Forgoing the Truth
- #4 - Forgetting God’s Promises
- #5 - Following Our Emotions

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

For the Christian, this is an OPPORTUNITY to OVERCOME, not an OBSTACLE to become OVERWHELMED!

Pic #3 – The Ditches...



So how do we stay on the Pathway to Peace?

1. Return to the Lord's Promises!

Psalm 56:1–4 (ESV) — 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?

2 Corinthians 1:20 (ESV) — For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV) — Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all

your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

➤ ***You must bring every difficult circumstance before God's divine certainties!***

How can we know if we have fully returned?

We cannot know by changes in our circumstances!

We can only know by changes in our heart!

1 John 4:18 (ESV) — There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.

Are you freed from your panic?

If not, keep returning to God's promises!!!

Psalm 34:19 (ESV) — Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

2. Rest in the Lord's Presence!

Psalm 56:3–5 (ESV) — 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.

Psalm 56:8–9 (NLT) — You keep track of all my sorrows. You have collected all my tears in your bottle. You have recorded each one in your book. 9 My enemies will retreat when I call to you for help. This I know: God is on my side!

Romans 8:31b (ESV) — ... If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psalms 56:10–11 (ESV) — 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?

Philippians 4:6–7 (NLT) — Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.

3. Remain in the Lord's Peace!

Psalms 56:12–13 (ESV) — 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.

John 14:27 (ESV) — Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 16:33 (ESV) — I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

March 15, 2020

Crossgates AM Service

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