SERIES ON 7 SAMUELP(, **\***(, . in Ca

## 1 Samuel 21:1-22:5 Embrace the Formation Process of the Wilderness

### 1 Samuel 21:1-22:5 (NIV)

David went to Nob, to Ahimelech the priest. Ahimelech trembled when he met him, and asked, "Why are you alone? Why is no one with you?" 2 David answered Ahimelech the priest, "The king charged me with a certain matter and said to me, 'No one is to know anything about your mission and your instructions.' As for my men, I have told them to meet me at a certain place.

3 Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find."

4 But the priest answered David, "I don't have any ordinary bread on hand; however, there is some consecrated bread here-provided the men have kept themselves from women." 5 David replied, "Indeed women have been kept from us, as usual whenever I set out. The men's things are holy even on missions that are not holy. How much more so today!" 6 So the priest gave him the consecrated bread, since there was no bread there except the bread of the Presence that had been removed from before the Lord and replaced by hot bread on the day it was taken away.

7 Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's head shepherd.

8 David asked Ahimelech, "Don't you have a spear or a sword here? I haven't brought my sword or any other weapon, because the king's business was urgent." 9 The priest replied, "The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here; it is wrapped in a cloth behind the ephod. If you want it, take it; there is no sword here but that one." David said, "There is none like it; give it to me."

10 That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath.

11 But the servants of Achish said to him,
"Isn't this David, the king of the land? Isn't he the one
they sing about in their dances: " 'Saul has slain his
thousands, and David his tens of thousands'?"
12 David took these words to heart and was very much
afraid of Achish king of Gath.

13 So he pretended to be insane in their presence; and while he was in their hands he acted like a madman, making marks on the doors of the gate and letting saliva run down his beard.

14 Achish said to his servants, "Look at the man!
He is insane! Why bring him to me?
15 Am I so short of madmen that you have to bring this fellow here to carry on like this in front of me?
Must this man come into my house?"

1 David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. [~12mi W of Gath] When his brothers and his father's household heard about it, they went down to him there. 2 All those who were in <u>distress</u> or in <u>debt</u> or <u>discontented</u> gathered around him, and he became their leader. About four hundred men were with him.

3 From there David went to Mizpah in Moab and said to the king of Moab, "Would you let my father and mother come and stay with you until I learn what God will do for me?"

4 So he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him as long as David was in the stronghold. 5 But the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold. Go into the land of Judah." So David left and went to the forest of Hereth.

## Life has wilderness seasons: pain, desperation, hardship, and loneliness.

# Even in the wilderness, we can experience God's presence & providence.

### **1 Samuel 17:37**

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### 1 Samuel 18:13-14

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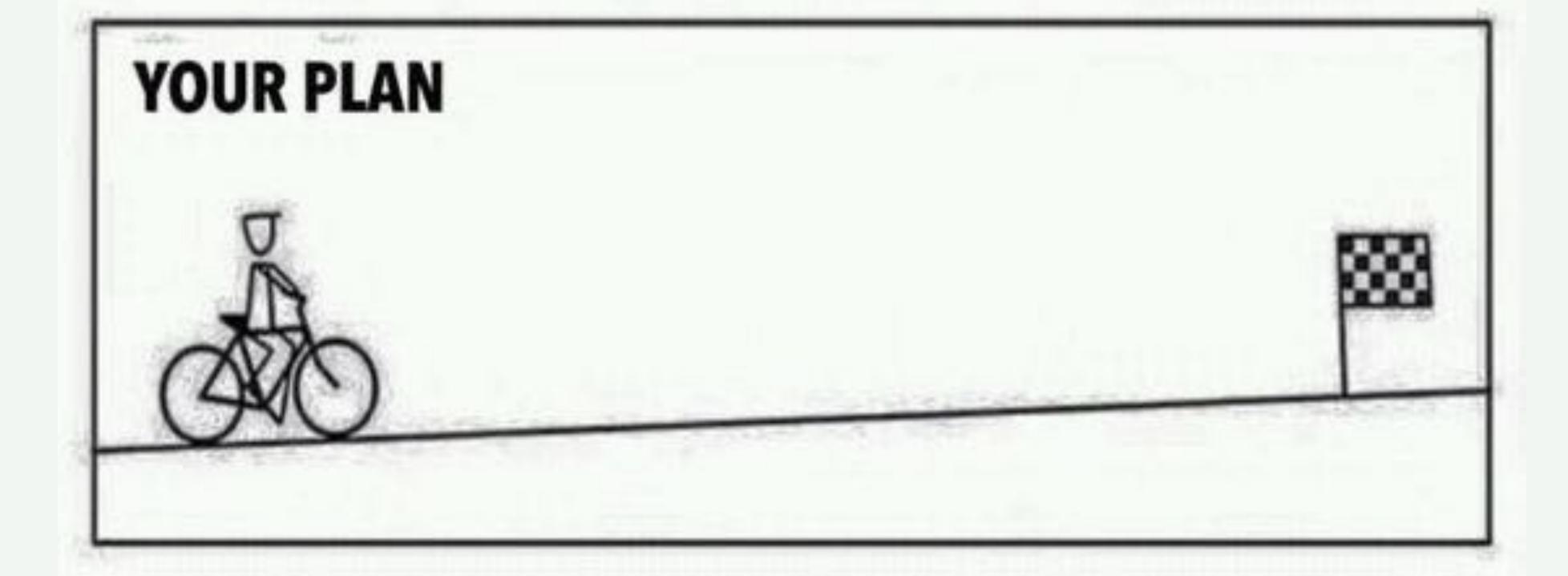
### 1 Samuel 20:13

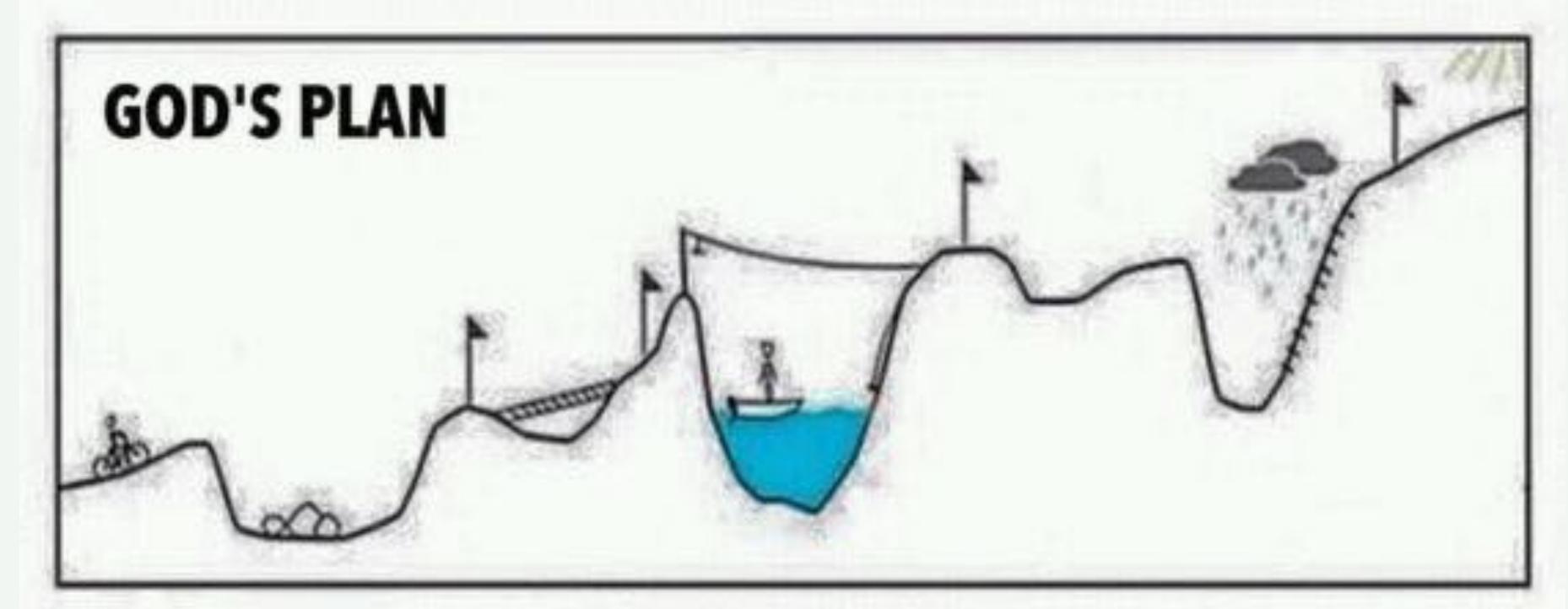
May the LORD be with you as he used to be with my father.

#### Psalm 34:17-18

- 17 The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them; he delivers them from all their troubles.
- 18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

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## The Battle brings Liberation. The Wilderness brings Formation.

### Psalm 34:10

The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

## God will Sustain you as you spend time in his presence.

### James 4:8

Come close to God, and he will come close to you.

### 1 Samuel 19-23 -- This season inspired at least 8 individual Psalms:

- -59 When Saul sent men to watch his house and kill him
- -34 & 56 Deliverance from Achish, king of Gath
- -57 & 142 Fleeing from Saul, living in a cave
- -52 The Massacre by Doeg the Edomite
- -63 Seeking Gd in desert of Judah.
- -54 A prayer for deliverance after betrayal by the Ziphites

### Deuteronomy 10:18-19

He ensures that orphans and widows receive justice. He shows love to the foreigners living among you and gives them food and clothing. So you, too, must show love to foreigners, for you yourselves were once foreigners in the land of Egypt.

## Hospitality to foreigners was a hallmark of the early church.

### 1 Timothy 5:10

and is well known for her good deeds, such as bringing up children, showing hospitality, washing the feet of the saints, helping those in trouble and devoting herself to all kinds of good deeds.

zενοδοχέω—"xenodocheō" (receiving foreigners)

#### Romans 12:12-15

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need. Practice **hospitality**. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn.

φιλοξενία—"philoxenia" -not xenophobia! (loving foreigners)

#### Hebrews 13:2

Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. (ref. to Abraham)



-Engage on the street.

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-Engage in church.

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- -Go with Pastor Paul to meet a family.

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- -Volunteer at the Donation Center.
- -Rides.
- -Redeemer Cup (a Utica Campus event) Come! Help!

### Pastor Paul Schilling 315-534-8279

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