

# Running on Empty

## *Pt. 1*

### **The Pattern of Desperation:**

I come up with a plan.

My desperation leads to deception.

*1 Sam. 21:1 "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?'<sup>2</sup> 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.'"*

I decide: The rules don't apply to me.

*1 Sam. 21:3 "Now then, what do you have on hand? Give me five loaves of bread, or whatever you can find.'<sup>4</sup> 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.'<sup>5</sup> 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!'<sup>6</sup> So the priest gave him the consecrated bread..."*

I make dumb decisions.

*1 Sam. 21:7 "Now one of Saul's servants was there that day, detained before the Lord; he was Doeg the Edomite, Saul's head shepherd."*

I find myself in a situation I never expected and didn't prepare for.

*1 Sam. 21:8 "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.'<sup>9</sup> The priest replied, 'The sword of Goliath the Philistine, whom you killed in the Valley of Elah, is here...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.'"*

I forget what God has done in the past and I ignore God's voice.

*1 Sam. 17:45 "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied...<sup>47</sup> All those gathered here will know...it is not by sword or spear that the Lord saves; for the battle is the Lord's..."*

I go to wrong people.

*1 Sam. 21:10 "That day David fled from Saul and went to Achish king of Gath."*

My plan takes me somewhere I never planned to go and don't want to stay.

*1 Sam. 21:11 "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?'"<sup>12</sup>David took these words to heart and was very much afraid of Achish king of Gath. <sup>13</sup>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."*

My consequences don't just affect me, they affect the people around me.

*1 Sam. 22:11 "Then the king sent for the priest Ahimelech son of Ahitub and his father's whole family, who were the priests at Nob, and they all came to the king. <sup>16</sup>...the king said, 'You will surely die, Ahimelech, you and your father's whole family.' <sup>18</sup>The king then ordered Doeg, 'You turn and strike down the priests.' So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck them down. That day he killed eighty-five men who wore the linen ephod. <sup>19</sup>He also put to the sword Nob, the town of the priests, with its men and women, its children and infants, and its cattle, donkeys and sheep."*

**The Good News:** God gives second chances!

**How to Escape the Pattern of Desperation:**

Accept responsibility.

*1 Sam. 22:20 "But Abiathar, a son of Ahimelech...escaped and fled to join David. <sup>21</sup>He told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. <sup>22</sup>Then David said to Abiathar: 'That day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, I knew he would be sure to tell Saul. I am responsible for the death of your father's whole family.'"*

Make amends.

*1 Sam. 22:23 "Stay with me; don't be afraid; the man who is seeking your life is seeking mine also. You will be safe with me."*

Break the pattern.

**Resources:**

David, by Charles Swindoll

David, a Man after God's Own Heart by J. Vernon McGee

A Heart Like His, by Beth Moore

The Making of a Man of God by Alan Redpath

First and Second Samuel by J. Vernon McGee

Lessons from the Life of David, by Andy Stanley

A Psalm in Your Heart, by George O. Wood