

DESPERATE DAYS - 4

Pursuing God's Own Heart: Lessons From the Life of David

"I cry out
to God Most High,
to God, who fulfills
his purpose for me."
- Psalm 57:2

"Pressure reveals a lot
about who you trust."

In a murderous rage, King Saul effectively and systematically isolates David from every source of stability and security in his life. He has no where to turn. Or so it seems. Return home and he endangers his family; seek refuge with Samuel and the prophets at Naioth or the priests at Nob, and he imperils their lives as well. Fleeing to Gath—a Philistine stronghold—and finding security among the enemy of Israel seems David's only recourse. But in the end, David hides himself in the cave of Adullam, where he gathers himself and finds refuge in the Most High God.

Welcome

How would you respond to the following statement? *"I'm a bundle of nerves/all thumbs when it comes to..."*

Word

Read 1 Samuel 21:1-9

1. David did not haphazardly end up in Nob, the "city of priests." For what reasons does David travel to meet with Ahimelech? (notice verses 3, 8; but be sure to dig deeper—22:10, 15).
2. Why do you think David lied to Ahimelech about his reason for traveling to Nob? Was he justified to do so?
3. To what extent do you think David's motivation—his reasons for traveling to Nob and lying to Ahimelech—factor into Ahimelech's decision to share the bread of the Presence?

Read 1 Samuel 21:10-1 Samuel 22:5

4. Gath is a Philistine stronghold. Of all places, why does David flee there? [This wouldn't be the first time for such antics. Notice David's later thinking recorded in 1 Samuel 37:1-2.]
5. David's plan backfired and he began fearing for his life once again. Have you ever been in a similar situation in which you seemingly ran out of options, or felt you had no place to turn? Explain.
6. What evidence of God's comfort and provision do you find in these stories? What principles can you draw from these stories for your own life?

Worship

David wrote at least two psalms while he was running from Saul—**Psalm 57** and **Psalm 142**. In **1 Corinthians 1:8-11**, Paul graphically relates an extremely difficult situation that turned out for the better—in which he was forced to trust God totally—which is never a bad idea since he's the God who raises the dead! Use these passages to direct your time in worship.

Works

More often than not, as in the case of David, God puts people in our lives at just the right time. Do you know anyone who might feel disconnected and alone? Invite that person to go to lunch or something similar. Don't go prepared with a talk, but just "be there" for him or her—and ask God to use your efforts to help that person find refuge in Him.