

# Searching the Heart of the King



Week 1

# Searching the Heart of the King

Week 1: My Refuge

*1 Samuel 19 & Psalm 59*

## Series Intro

### Context

- ❖ *Israel cries for a king, but God says they don't need a king. When they continually persist, he gives them what they want.*
- ❖ *Saul is anointed king*
- ❖ *Saul disobeys the Lord*
- ❖ *God rejects Saul and anoints David (a shepherd boy) as the king, but he does not become king immediately.*
- ❖ *David slays Goliath*
- ❖ *The people of Israel fall in love with David*
- ❖ *David is in the service of Saul playing the harp for him*
- ❖ *David married Saul's daughter, Michal*
- ❖ *Saul's jealousy leads him to try to pin David to the wall with a spear on multiple occasions*
- ❖ *David and Jonathan (Saul's son) form a deep friendship*

**Read aloud 1 Samuel 19 (Pause to summarize as you go along.)**

### Key points in summary:

#### *Verses 1-10*

*Jonathan's ultimate loyalty lies with David. He forsakes his royal lineage to align himself with the future king.*

*David continues to serve Saul faithfully, but Saul's jealousy continues to get the best of him.*

## ***Verses 11-24***

*Michal's loyalty is with David rather than her father.*

*David flees to Samuel (the head prophet of Israel).*

*Prophecy: "probably implies uttered words of prayer and praise to God under the influence of the Spirit"*

*Bottom line: God supernaturally intervenes. David's enemies come with ill intent, but they end up worshipping the Lord. Even Saul is humbled before the Lord.*

**David is under duress due to no fault of his own. We will look at 3 points of his response**

**David finds refuge in a friend that is closer than a brother.**

### **What might Jonathan be sacrificing to help David?**

Saul is clearly volatile, so there is no telling how he might respond if he feels that his own son is choosing the side of his enemy.

Jonathan is in succession to the throne. If he helps David, essentially, he is giving up his seat on the throne.

### **Why is friendship so important?**

### **How can we be a "good" friend like Jonathan?**

**David finds refuge in his trusted spiritual mentor.**

**Why is it important to run to an older Believer (emphasis on Believer not just some older person) rather than just run to a friend?**



**Are there any examples of times in your life when a spiritual mentor really helped you out?**

**What does it look like to find shelter in a spiritual mentor?**

**David finds refuge in God.**

**David wrote this in the midst of this situation. God is our ultimate refuge. No other refuge will suffice. We don't just run to his refuge after we seek out our brother or spiritual mentor. We run to this refuge first and foremost and continually.**

**Read Psalm 59 to yourself and identify different things that David prays for**

**What are some of elements of David's prayer to God, and what would it look like for you to pray in this way?**

- ❖ *Honest cry of the situation (verses 6-7, 14-15)*
- ❖ *Come, see, and meet me (verse 4)*
  - *God moves towards him*
- ❖ *Trust in God's just nature*
- ❖ *Trust in God's strength (verses 8-9, 16-17)*
- ❖ *Trust in God's love (verse 17)*
- ❖ *Proclamation that even though his enemies come back day in and day out, he will still sing of God's strength (verse 9)*
- ❖ *Commitment to seek the Lord in the morning (verse 16)*
- ❖ *Remembrance of God's past protection and love (verse 17)*

**How does this passage point us to the Gospel?**

**Gospel**

David is the rightful king of Israel. Saul is the current, rejected king, and Jonathan is the heir to the throne. Saul and Jonathan

both have a choice to make. They can either reject or embrace David's kingship.

Saul clings to power and attempts to fight the inevitable. He spends his life enviously fighting to keep his crown, and ultimately he takes his own life in battle. Jonathan embraces David. He gives up his "right" as heir to the throne. He realizes that David is to be king, submits to that truth, and he enters into this beautiful relationship with David. Will you be like Saul or will you be like Jonathan?

David would eventually become king no matter what. Saul fights it fervently, but eventually he takes his own life in battle, and then David is crowned king.

You can either choose to die to yourself and make Jesus king of your life, or you can fight it to the death. Either way, it ends with your death and Jesus as King. But with one death there is redemption. With one death there is an eternity spent in a beautiful relationship with your King, and with the other death there is an eternity subjected to his wrath.

**Do you have a relationship with the true King, or are you trying to maintain control of your own life?**

Week 2

## **Searching the Heart of the King**

Week 2: In God I Trust

Psalm 56 & 1 Samuel 21:10-15

### **Context to 1 Samuel 21:10-15**

David is on the run from Saul, and he has just left a place called Nob where the priest there gave David, and his men, rations to refresh them. He also got the sword of Goliath from the priest there. (After David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword, the sword was taken to Nob.) We will cover that story later in the semester.

### **Read and Summarize 1 Samuel 21:10-15**

- ❖ David from Nob flees to Gath. Gath is the Hometown of Goliath.
- ❖ David “took the words to heart” (words that invoked fear)
  - **What does it mean/look like to take words to heart?**
- ❖ David acts crazy to protect himself.
  - Maybe he wouldn't be perceived as a threat if he is a crazy man.

**This week (Psalm 56) seems to deal with David's feelings and emotions throughout this passage, and next week (Psalm 34) seems to be a Psalm of thanks for afterward.**

### **Psalm 56**

#### **Read verses 1-2 & verses 5-6**

**What feelings and emotions are David conveying, and what are some things that cause us to carry those same emotions?**

- ❖ Never ceasing/hopeless exhaustion (“all day long”)
- ❖ Oppressed
- ❖ Fearful
- ❖ Constantly on alarm/paranoid (“they watch my steps”)
- ❖ Hurt
- ❖ In constant contention (“they stir up strife”)
- ❖ Inhibited direction/purpose/mission (“injure my cause”)
- ❖ Feel as though his enemies’ sole purpose is against him (“all their thoughts are against me for evil”)

### **What does David do with these emotions?**

- ❖ He takes them to God

### **How does he take them to God?**

- ❖ Honestly, unfiltered

### **Read verses 3-4 & verses 7-13**

### **David does not leave it with a cry; he speaks the truths of God to himself.**

- ❖ Like the hand building game. In little league, when the team puts their hands in the center to do a team shout/cheer, the kids always try to be on top. For example, I put my hand down, but then immediately someone else stacks on top of my hand. Then I will put my hand on their hand, and then so on and so on.
- ❖ David cries out, but then immediately he stacks it with truth. Then he repeats. Cry out, stack with truth, cry out, stack with truth.

### **What are some things that stood out to you in these verses?**

### **Three truths that give David peace**

## **1. What can man do?**

❖ Practically speaking, what is the worst that can happen in the given situation?

- List some of the student's anxieties and fears, and take them to their extreme
- For David, man can kill him.

### **❖ Read Matthew 10:28 & Romans 8:38-39**

- *Yes man can kill, but he cannot bring ultimate death. God is all powerful and God is sovereign. He is in control of every single situation. We can rest in the truth that absolutely nothing can pluck us from the love of God. Translation... Even the worst of situations in this world we might face cannot bring our ultimate demise.*

❖ **How can we use this truth to give us peace?**

## **2. This I know, that God is for me**

### **❖ Read Romans 8:28**

❖ *Does David trust God because He makes the bad go away? No. He trusts God because God is for him. "This I know, that God is for me."*

### **❖ How is this truth comforting?**

- Questions I must ask myself: "Is God sovereign in \_\_\_\_\_?" Yes. In his sovereignty, is he working good in this situation even if I cannot see it?" Yes.

❖ **Would anyone like to share an example of a difficult situation that God worked for good?**

❖ In his crying out, he suggests that his enemies are

constantly close to him, but in his truth he suggests that God is closer

- **What does it practically look like to believe that God is near, and how does that truth give us peace?**

### **3. For you have delivered...**

- ❖ Psalms often refer to specific situations the psalmist is going through while at the same time referring to the bigger Biblical narrative. David trusts in God's deliverance. Deliverance in this situation, and deliverance ultimately through the hope in a coming Messiah (Jesus).

- **What is the deliverance of the future Messiah and why was deliverance necessary? (discuss the Gospel)**

- ❖ This deliverance, like David's, allows us to walk before God in the light of life.

- The opposite would be the darkness of death. Darkness is hopelessness. Light offers hope.

- **What would it look like to “walk in the light of life” or walk in hope? (break down walk, break down hope, and then break down what it means to walk in the light of life/hope)**

### **Take home**

- ❖ We must implement this pattern into our lives. Do you feel thoughts of fear/anxiety/worry/stress creeping into your heart? Rather than “taking them to heart” lay them at the feet of Jesus, and then immediately stack truth on them.
  - Ex: God, I feel lonely and stressed. I don't know if I will ever get married, and it gives me anxiety for my

future. BUT you oh Lord are my contentment. You are enough. You know what's best for me and my life, and I will trust you with it no matter what the future may hold because I find my delight and joy in you.

- ❖ Maybe you aren't necessarily living in fear, but are you living in confidence? Where are you failing to live in the complete confidence that comes from a relationship with Jesus?
  - “Confidence in the Lord is a purposeful decision, replacing an emotional reaction to one's circumstances.”



Week 3

## **Searching the Heart of the King**

Week 3: Thank the Lord

*Psalm 34 & 1 Samuel 21:10-15*

### **Context to 1 Samuel 21:10-15**

David is on the run from Saul, and he has just left a place called Nob where the priest there gave David, and his men, rations to refresh them. He also got the sword of Goliath from the priest there. (After David cut off Goliath's head with his own sword, the sword was taken to Nob.) We will cover that story later in the semester.

### **Summarize 1 Samuel 21:10-15**

- ❖ David from Nob flees to Gath. Gath is the hometown of Goliath.
- ❖ David “took the words to heart” (words that invoked fear)
- ❖ David acts crazy to protect himself.
  - Maybe he wouldn't be perceived as a threat if he is a crazy man.

**Last week (Psalm 56) dealt with David's feelings and emotions throughout this passage, and this week (Psalm 34) is a Psalm of thanks for afterward.**

**Read the sections together and after each section summarize the big idea.**

### **Psalm 34:1-3**

**Big Idea: David is praising the Lord and inviting others to**

**praise him too.**

**What are some things that you have gotten so excited about that you couldn't stop thinking about them and talking about them to other people?**

**What would continual praise of God look like in your life?  
What if your emotions aren't there?**

- ❖ Finding ways to remind yourself of God throughout the day.
- ❖ Deepening your understanding of God and what he has done for you. As your admiration, affections, and love increases, your praise, thanks, and worship will increase as well.
- ❖ Walk in obedience even when your heart isn't in it

**Psalm 34:4-7**

**Big Idea: David explains his reason for praising God and why others should too.**

**What are the characteristics of God that lead David to worship?**

- God is near and does not hide from me
- God hears and responds to my cries
- God cares for me
- God rejuvenates

**Psalm 34:8-10**

**Big Idea: Fear the Lord and you will be satisfied. Try it for yourself.**

**What does it look like to taste and see that the Lord is good?**

## **What do you think it means to fear the Lord?**

- ❖ Fear the Lord is not an emotion, it's obedience.

## **What does it mean to have no lack?**

### **Psalm 34:11-14**

## **Big Idea: Walk in righteousness.**

## **What does it mean to keep your tongue from evil and to turn away from evil?**

- ❖ Speak truth
- ❖ Don't use words for deception
- ❖ Seek the welfare of others
- ❖ Seek after peace in relationships and situations

### **Psalm 34:15-18**

## **Big Idea: God moves towards the righteous and rejects the wicked.**

## **What feelings come from reading this section?**

- ❖ Comfort knowing that justice will be served to the wicked.
- ❖ Comfort knowing that God is near to the brokenhearted and crushed in spirit.
- ❖ This section should bring a bit of tension to your heart. It makes sense that God punishes wickedness and engages the righteous. We all want that on some level. We enjoy watching movies/shows that have the bad guy getting punished. The tension comes from the realization that we are all wicked. We have all fallen short of the glory of God.

### **Psalm 34:19-22**

**Big Idea: Affliction comes to both the righteous and the wicked, but the Lord will redeem the righteous.**

**Both the righteous and the wicked suffer affliction, but what is the hope of the righteous? God will deliver him.**

**If we are wicked, how do we become righteous? Gospel**

**❖ Read 2 Corinthians 5:21**

**❖ Does anyone notice anything special about verse 20?**

**Read John 19:31-37**

### **Take Home**

Reflect on what God has done for you and let it stir your heart's affections for him. As your love for God grows, give thanks and invite others to give thanks as well. Fear the Lord and trust in God's ultimate deliverance.

Week 4

## **Searching the Heart of the King**

Week 4: There is No One

*Psalms 142 & 1 Samuel 22:1-5*

### **Context**

David has been on the run from Saul. He was run off from his own house, and then he was run off from Gath (the hometown of Goliath). In Gath he was fearful for his life, so he acted crazy. Now he has left Gath, and he is alone in a cave.

### **Psalms 142**

Read Verses 1-4

**What words does David use to communicate how he is praying to God?**

- ❖ Cry out, plead, pour out complaint, tell, say

**Looking at the words David uses in the Psalm, what is David feeling as he writes this Psalm? What might be his state of being (emotional/physical/spiritual)?**

- ❖ Completely desperate/at the end of himself and broken (words from previous question)
- ❖ Fearful & uncertain (v. 4 “they have hidden a trap for me” “no refuge”)
- ❖ Exhausted (v. 3 “my spirit faints within me”)
- ❖ Alone & hurt (v. 4 “there is none who takes notice of me” “no one cares for my soul”)

**What are some things that make us feel the way David felt? (use real and hypothetical)**

Read Verses 5-7

**What hope does David cling to? His relationship with the**

**Lord. How specifically does this relationship give David hope?**

- ❖ Refuge and stability (v. 5 “my refuge”)
- ❖ Satisfaction (v. 5 “my portion”)
- ❖ Comfort (v. 6 “attend to my cry”)
- ❖ Hope of practical deliverance from his circumstances (v. 6-7)

**What does it mean when David says that God is his refuge and portion?**

- ❖ Refuge
  - Safe, secure, protected
- ❖ Portion
  - Satisfied, provision, complete

### **Gospel**

**God is our refuge and portion. Our sin has left us desperate and broken, but God loves us so much that he sent Jesus.**

**Through Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection, we have hope.**

**Romans 10:9 says, “if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.” He becomes our refuge.**

**Nothing can rip us from his loving hands. Our forever is secure in him. Though we will have trouble in this life, we know there is a day with no more pain, no more death, and no more tears. He also becomes our portion. Even if we lose everything and everyone, our hearts are content in Jesus. He promises to never leave us or forsake us. His Holy Spirit dwells in us, so we are never alone.**

**Read and Summarize 1 Samuel 22:1-5**



## ❖ **Who comes to David?**

- His family
- Everyone in distress, in debt, and bitter in soul (discontented)
- ❖ David ensures the safety of his father and mother
- ❖ He is commanded to leave the stronghold and go to Judah
  - Stronghold: a place that has been fortified so as to protect it against attack
  - Judah: they were in danger in Judah (1 Samuel 23:3)
- ❖ Bottom line: God provided community and support for David, but even if he hadn't, David would have been okay because God was his refuge and portion. David was able to be a refuge for others because he first found his refuge and portion in God. God provided community for David, and he sent him forward.

**Has there ever been a time where God has come through for you like this?**

**As David rested in the refuge and portion of God, he became a place of refuge for those in need (distress, in debt, and discontented). How can we be a place of refuge for others?**

**How can we show respect and care for our parents/elders?**

**What are some strongholds/safe places that God might call us from, and what “dangerous places” might he call us to?**

- ❖ **From** a friend group **to** reach out to someone you might not have a prior relationship with
- ❖ **From** your mapped out future **to** something you never thought you would do (maybe even vocational ministry)
- ❖ **From** your bed early on Saturday morning **to** serve someone else
- ❖ **From** your easy, surface level conversations **to** sharing the

Gospel with someone who needs it

### Take Home

You might feel as though ***there is no one***, but what you need to know and believe is ***there is no one*** you need other than Jesus.

***There is no one*** you can find true refuge in other than Jesus.

***There is no one*** who can satisfy the desire of your heart other than Jesus.

Unbeliever, give your life to Jesus. Find your refuge in him. Be satisfied in him.

Believer, what area of your life are you not resting in God's refuge? Do you live like Jesus is your portion? What strongholds might he be calling you out of? What "dangerous" place might he be calling you to?

Week 5

## **Searching the Heart of the King**

### **Week 5: It's Called Consequences**

*1 Samuel 21:1-9, 1 Samuel 22:6-23 & Psalm 52*

#### **Context**

Earlier in our series, we skipped 1 Samuel 21:1-9. The passage takes place before David goes to Gath and acts crazy. 1 Samuel 21:1-9 gives context to 1 Samuel 22:6-23. 22:6-23 takes place after David is joined by his family and others in the cave and he is sent out from his stronghold to Judah.

This story has a lot of narrative, so it will be a little different from our normal discussions. We are going to move through the entire story together, and then at the end, we will talk through some practical points of application for us.

#### **1 Samuel 21:1-9**

##### ***Verses 1-2***

David lies to Ahimelech because he is clearly not there by order of Saul. He is an enemy of the King. Ahimelech believes him because David had come before by order of Saul.

##### ***Verses 3-6***

David asks for rations for him and his men. Common bread could be eaten by anyone, but Holy Bread could only be eaten by the priests. Ahimelech is willing to make an exception for David and his men so long as they were “clean.” (Israel had many rules to follow on how to stay ceremonially clean). In Mark 2:26, Jesus praises Ahimelech for choosing mercy in this situation.

## ***Verse 7***

This verse is extremely loaded and it should grab our attention for a few reasons.

1. It seems to randomly interject with a random bystander's name.
2. He is tightly allied with Saul.
3. He is an Edomite.

## **Does anyone know what is significant about Doeg being an Edomite?**

### **Does anyone know the story of Jacob and Esau?**

Jacob would later be named Israel and be the father of the nation of Israel/Israelites. His older brother was named Esau and would become the father of the nation of Edom/Edomites.

The two brothers were destined to be in contention from the womb.

*The children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is thus, why is this happening to me?" So she went to inquire of the Lord. And the Lord said to her, "Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you shall be divided; the one shall be stronger than the other, the older shall serve the younger."*

### **Genesis 25:22-24**

Esau, as the firstborn son, should have received the blessing and birthright. He sold his birthright to Jacob, and Jacob tricked his father into giving him Esau's blessing.

So Doeg, a descendant of Esau and a loyal servant of Saul, witnessed Ahimelech help David, a descendant of Jacob and an enemy of Saul.

## ***Verses 8-9***

David receives Goliath's spear. He gave it to the Lord, and God gave it back when he needed it.

### **1 Samuel 22:6-22**

#### ***Verses 1-9***

Saul's spear is in his hand. He is out for blood.

#### **Who is Saul speaking to? (Specifically what tribe/people?)**

There was some really bad blood between the tribe of Benjamin and the other tribes of Israel because of what happened in Judges 19-21 (the story is absolutely crazy, and you should go and read it in your spare time).

Saul was not a unifying king, he was trying to appeal to the tribe he was from. He warned them that David would rule harshly against them because of the incident in Judges. He feels betrayed by Jonathan (his son) and his tribe.

Doeg snitched.

(He is called "the Edomite" three times. In Hebrew, the way they emphasized something was by repeating it. 22:9, 18, 22)

#### ***Verses 11-15***

For the second time in this passage, Saul says why "have you conspired against me?" He is paranoid.

Ahimelech had good reasons for why he helped David and his men, but Saul was so corrupted by paranoia and hate he could not see the truth.

#### ***Verses 16-19***

Saul commands his servants to put Ahimelech and all of the priests to death, but his servants would not do it. He then turns

to Doeg the Edomite, and Doeg slaughters them all. He then put the entire city of Nob to death.

### Extreme Irony

Saul was rejected as king because he failed to put to death completely his wicked enemies, yet here he puts to death an entire city of priests of God. 1 Samuel 15:3 (God's command to Saul against the Amalekites) and 1 Samuel 22:19 (Saul's actions at Nob) have the exact same wording. In 1 Samuel 15:9 Saul disobeys God's command.

### *Verses 20-23*

Abiathar escapes and brings the ephod (High Priest garment) with him (1 Samuel 23:6) signifying the priestly counsel officially moving from Saul to David.

David realizes the consequences of his actions. He owns up to his failure, and he attempts to make right what he can make right by taking in Abiathar.

### Application

#### **Sin brings destruction.**

David's actions have consequences.

Oftentimes our sins affect more than just us.

What ways have you seen your sin affect other people?

What sins have you excused in your life?

#### **Pride twists judgment.**

Saul is so twisted by his own pride and insecurity, he is unwilling to put to death completely wicked and evil people, but he is willing to slaughter innocent people.

How has pride and/or insecurity twisted your judgment?

## **Psalm 52**

### ***Verses 1-9***

After reading the story, it's easy to feel frustrated and saddened by evil. This Psalm is a prayer of passion against evil.

### **Gospel**

In this Psalm, we are reminded that evil will not prevail. Evil will be punished either in eternity or on the cross. Because of Jesus, we can confidently say Psalm 52:9, "I will thank you forever because you have done it."

Looking at this world and all of the evil in it leaves us disturbed, discouraged, and totally hopeless, but when we look at it through the lens of what Jesus secured for us through his death and resurrection, we have unending hope.



Week 6

1. Read chapter to yourself and make notes.  
-Observe patterns, repeated themes, big ideas, questions, thoughts, Gospel pictures, application, etc.

2. Reread each section as a group. Stop to discuss notes and application questions.

## 1 Samuel 23

English Standard Version

David Saves the City of Keilah

23 Now they told David, "Behold, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah and are robbing the threshing floors." 2 Therefore David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?" And the Lord said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines and save Keilah." 3 But David's men said to him, "Behold, we are afraid here in Judah; how much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?" 4 Then David inquired of the Lord again. And the Lord answered him, "Arise, go down to Keilah, for I will give the Philistines into your hand." 5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines and brought away their livestock and struck them with a great blow. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

1. What does it look like in your context to help the helpless?

Help the Helpless

1 Sam. 22

6 When Abiathar the son of Ahimelech had fled to David to Keilah, he had come down with an ephod in his hand. 7 Now it was told Saul that David had come to Keilah. And Saul said, "God has given him into my hand," for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." 8 And Saul summoned all the people to war, to go down to Keilah, to besiege David and his men. 9 David knew that Saul was plotting harm against him. And he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." 10 Then David said, "O Lord, the God of Israel, your servant has surely heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah, to destroy the city on my account. 11 Will the men of Keilah surrender me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as your servant has heard? O Lord, the God of Israel, please tell your servant." And the Lord said, "He will come down." 12 Then David said, "Will the men of Keilah surrender me and my men into the hand of Saul?" And the Lord said, "They will surrender you." 13 Then David and his men, who were about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah, and they went wherever they could go. When Saul was told that David had escaped from Keilah, he gave up the expedition. 14 And David remained in the strongholds in the wilderness, in the hill country of the wilderness of Ziph. And Saul sought him every day, but God did not give him into his hand.

Seriously??  
- He still thinks God is w/ him...

God said the people he just saved will turn on him

2. When has been a time you did the right thing & got burned?  
Why should you still do the right thing?

- Rather than defend Israel as he was supposed to do

☆ priestly garments  
↳ (1 Sam. 22)  
The priesthood has left Saul & come to David.

3.

How did Jonathan help David?

1. Met him where he was.
2. Encouraged him spiritually
3. Reminded him of truth & God's promises
4. Committed himself to David

Saul Pursues David

15 David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. David was in the wilderness of Ziph at Horesh. 16 And Jonathan, Saul's son, rose and went to David at Horesh, and strengthened his hand in God. 17 And he said to him, "Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Saul my father also knows this." 18 And the two of them made a covenant before the Lord. David remained at Horesh, and Jonathan went home.

☆ Committing of two parties to one another. Making family out of non-family.

A friend closer than a brother

19 Then the Ziphites went up to Saul at Gibeath, saying, "Is not David hiding among us in the strongholds at Horesh, on the hill of Hachilah, which is south of Jeshimon?" 20 Now come down, O king, according to all your heart's desire to come down, and our part shall be to surrender him into the king's hand." 21 And Saul said, "May you be blessed by the Lord, for you have had compassion on me." 22 Go, make yet more sure. Know and see the place where his foot is, and who has seen him there, for it is told me that he is very cunning. 23 See therefore and take note of all the lurking

- Saul still thinks the Lord is w/ him

✦ What does this look like for us today?

places where he hides, and come back to me with sure information. Then I will go with you. And if he is in the land, I will search him out among all the thousands of Judah." 24 And they arose and went to Ziph ahead of Saul.

God's sovereign intervention

Now David and his men were in the wilderness of Maon, in the Arabah to the south of Jeshimon. 25 And Saul and his men went to seek him. And David was told, so he went down to the rock and lived in the wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued after David in the wilderness of Maon. 26 Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. And David was hurrying to get away from Saul. As Saul and his men were closing in on David and his men to capture them, 27 a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have made a raid against the land." 28 So Saul returned from pursuing after David and went against the Philistines. Therefore that place was called the Rock of Escape. 29 And David went up from there and lived in the strongholds of Engedi.

† Jesus is our Rock of Escape

★ v.27  
My thought: If David does not attack Phil. & save Keilah, maybe Phil. do not attack later. If Phil. do not attack later, Saul can continue to pursue David & defeat him.

## Repeated Themes

- David "inquires the Lord" before every move.
  - ↳ Saul does not, but he still thinks God is w/ him.

### 4. Why this theme?

- hand/given into \_\_\_ hand
  - ↳ Maybe: whose hand is sovereign

### - Wilderness

5. Can you think of some other places in Scripture we see the "wilderness" theme?

↳ Exodus, Elijah (1 Kings 19), Jesus, etc.

What is usually the common meaning?

↳ test

6. How does this passage point us to Jesus?

- Rescues us from the Enemy of sin/death through the power of his sovereign hand alone. How? life, death, & resurrection
- Rom. 10:4
- Jesus = Rock of Escape/Salvation

Week 7

Behold

Counsel from others

Arose

Judgment from the Lord

Hand

**Big Idea: Will you wait in obedience on God's perfect timing, or will you listen to the unwise counsel of others and chase your own desires?**

**What grabbed my attention...**

(v.4) Who's desires are you following? Yours or God's?

(v.5) Conviction over sin

(v.16) What made Saul weep?

## 1 Samuel 24

*English Standard Version*

### David Spares Saul's Life

**24** When Saul returned from following the Philistines, **he was told**, “**Behold**, David is in the wilderness of Engedi.” **2** Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel and went to seek David and his men in front of the Wildgoats' Rocks. **3** And he came to the sheepfolds by the way, where there was a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the innermost parts of the cave. **4** **And the men of David said to him**, “Here is the day of which the Lord said to you, ‘**Behold**, I will give your enemy into your hand, and **you shall do to him as it shall seem good to you.**’” Then **David arose** and stealthily cut off a corner of Saul's robe. **5** And afterward **David's heart struck him**, because he had cut off a corner of Saul's robe. **6** **He said to his men**, “The Lord forbid that I should do this thing to my lord, the Lord's anointed, to put out my hand against him, seeing he is the Lord's anointed.” **7** **So David persuaded his men with these words** and did not permit them to attack Saul. And **Saul rose up** and left the cave and went on his way.

**8** Afterward **David also arose** and went out of the cave, and called after Saul, “My lord the king!” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the earth and paid homage. **9** And David said to Saul, “**Why do you listen to the words of men** who say, ‘**Behold**, David seeks your harm’? **10** **Behold**, this day your eyes have seen how the Lord gave you today into my hand in the cave. And **some told me to kill you**, but I spared you. I said, ‘I will not put out my hand against my lord, for he is the Lord's anointed.’ **11** See, my father, see **the corner of your robe** in my hand. For by the fact that **I cut off the corner of your robe** and did not kill you, you may know and see that there is no wrong or treason in my hands. I have not sinned against you, though you hunt my life to take it. **12** **May the Lord judge between me and you, may the Lord avenge me against you, but my hand shall not be against you.** **13** As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes wickedness.’ **But my hand shall not be against you.** **14** After whom has the king of Israel come out? After whom do you pursue? After a dead dog! After a flea! **15** **May the Lord therefore be judge and give sentence between me and you**, and see to it and plead my cause and **deliver me from your hand.**”

**16** As soon as David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, my son David?” **And Saul lifted up his voice and wept.** **17** He said to David, “You are more righteous than I, for you have repaid me good, whereas I have repaid you evil. **18** And you have declared this day how you have dealt well with me, in that you did not kill me when **the Lord put me into your hands.** **19** For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safe? So may the Lord reward you with good for what you have done to me this day. **20** And now, **behold**, I know that you shall surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel shall be established **in your hand.** **21** Swear to me therefore by the Lord that you will not cut off my offspring after me, and that you will not destroy my name out of my father's house.” **22** And David swore this to Saul. Then Saul went home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

What are some patterns and repetitions you found?

What are some things that grabbed your attention? Why?

Summarize, in as few words possible, what you think the big idea is.

A theme is, "Whose 'word' will you listen to?" David originally listens to his men and his own desires. Saul listens to others and his own desires. In what situations are we prone to listen to the words and advice of others and our own desires?

David eventually Speaks God's truth to his own heart (v. 5), his men (v. 6-7), and to Saul (V. 10). Practically, how can we do this in difficult situations?

— Know it & believe it  
— meditate on it consistently

Why would David have been wrong to kill Saul?

— Saul was God's Anointed King still

— David's time would come in God's timing

When might we be tempted to ascribe things as "from God?" Why is this dangerous? How can we know if something is really from God?

— relationships — feelings  
— "messages"

Jeremiah 17:9

— Only confidence is from Scripture

— we must be very careful when ascribing non-scripture to God

In what ways and situations do we try to force our own timing? How can this be destructive? Be as specific as you can.

What does it look like to wait on God's perfect timing?

— obedience

Psalms 57 • Honest • Worship

Cries

How does this story tie into the larger story of the Gospel?

**Big Idea: Will you wait in obedience on God's perfect timing, or will you listen to the unwise counsel of others and chase your own desires?**

## Patterns & Repetition

Behold — "look! pay attention!" emphasis

Counsel from others — whose words will you listen to?

Arose — move to action w/ intention

Judgment from the Lord — the final word

Hand — my action of judgment

## What grabbed my attention...

(v.4) Who's desires are you following? Yours or God's?

(v.5) Conviction over sin

(v.16) What made Saul weep?

temporary remorse, but not true repentance

## Gospel

God's promise to make David king would come true.

God promises David that his house would rule forever. (2 Samuel 7:11-16)

Speaking about his son Solomon, but ultimately he was speaking about Jesus.

## Let Your Glory Be over All the Earth

To the choirmaster: according to Do Not Destroy. A Miktam[a] of David, when he fled from Saul, in the cave.

57 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!

4 My soul is in the midst of lions;  
I lie down amid fiery beasts—  
the children of man, whose teeth are spears and arrows,  
whose tongues are sharp swords.

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

Break from the flow

6 They set a net for my steps;  
my soul was bowed down.  
They dug a pit in my way,  
but they have fallen into it themselves. *Selah*

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!

Honest Cry

Worship

Week 8



### **Biblical Poetry**

- couplets (lines of 2)  
A: Introduces thought  
B: completes/Deepens/Contrasts thought
- groups of couplets can come around one idea/theme
- Repetition
  - ↳ lines (Refrain)
  - ↳ open & close w/ similar couplets called inclusia
  - ↳ chiasm
  - ↳ forward symmetry

### **Broad Theme Example Expressed with imagery**

#### **Complete Exhaustion**

- Physically
  - ↳ I feel like I ran a marathon.
  - ↳ It's like I haven't slept in days.
- Emotionally
  - ↳ I've carried others' burdens longer than I can bear.
- Spiritually
  - ↳ My voice is gone from crying out to God.

### **What to look for:**

- couplets & meanings expressed in them
- repetition & patterns
- emotions expressed in imagery
- themes

1. Read Psalm 22 and note the things above.
2. Discuss some of the things you observed.
3. What broad themes do you see? What specific ways does David convey these themes?
4. What ways do you identify/have you identified with David? What are some practical applications and principles that we can apply to our lives?

### **This Psalm has meaning for its particular context, and it is prophetic.**

Is this speaking specifically about David? Yes

Is this speaking about Jesus? Yes

5. Read Matthew 27:24-66. Observe and note all the ways Psalm 22 points to Jesus (in the Matthew account and in other ways as well)
6. Discuss what you observe.
7. What do you think the big idea/application is for this Psalm?

### **Big Idea/Takeaway**

When we experience affliction, we follow the example of the Psalmist. We honestly cry out to God. We remind ourselves and others of the confidence and hope we have in our great Rescuer. We remind ourselves that Jesus suffered affliction so that we could have a hope for a day without affliction.

Our story and affliction, like this moment in David's life, rests in the context of God's bigger story of redemption.

# What broad themes are expressed?

Affliction & suffering of the Psalmist

Cry for rescue

Call/reminder to trust/worship/have confidence in the Lord

You only cry for rescue if you have hope of a Rescuer.

Psalm 22

English Standard Version

Why Have You Forsaken Me? *Titled things after first line (think about the theme)*

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn. A Psalm of David.

(Matt. 22:46)

22 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,  
and by night, but I find no rest.

3 Yet you are holy,  
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

4 In you our fathers trusted;  
they trusted, and you delivered them.

5 To you they cried and were rescued;  
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

6 But I am a worm and not a man,  
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

(Matt. 27:39)

7 All who see me mock me;  
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

(Matt. 27:43)

8 "He trusts in the Lord; let him deliver him;  
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!"

9 Yet you are he who took me from the womb;  
you made me trust you at my mother's breasts.

10 On you was I cast from my birth,  
and from my mother's womb you have been my God.

11 Be not far from me,  
for trouble is near,  
and there is none to help.

12 Many bulls encompass me;  
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

13 they open wide their mouths at me,  
like a ravening and roaring lion.

Would stretch &  
dislocate to get on cross

(John 19:34)

14 I am poured out like water,  
and all my bones are out of joint;  
my heart is like wax;  
it is melted within my breast;

15 my strength is dried up like a potsherd,  
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;  
you lay me in the dust of death.

16 For dogs encompass me;  
a company of evildoers encircles me;  
they have pierced my hands and feet—

17 I can count all my bones—  
they stare and gloat over me;

18 they divide my garments among them,  
and for my clothing they cast lots.

19 But you, O Lord, do not be far off!  
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

20 Deliver my soul from the sword,  
my precious life from the power of the dog!

21 Save me from the mouth of the lion!  
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

22 I will tell of your name to my brothers;  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

23 You who fear the Lord, praise him!  
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

24 For he has not despised or abhorred  
the affliction of the afflicted,

(Matt. 27:24)  
scourged: flesh ripped  
open & bones exposed

crucifixion: hands &  
feet nailed to a cross

(Matt. 27:35)

and he has not hidden his face from him,  
but has heard, when he cried to him.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation;  
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

26 The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;  
those who seek him shall praise the Lord!  
May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember  
and turn to the Lord,  
and all the families of the nations  
shall worship before you.

28 For kingship belongs to the Lord,  
and he rules over the nations.

29 All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;  
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,  
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

30 Posterity shall serve him;  
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

31 they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet unborn,  
that he has done it.

## **Matthew 27:24-66**

### *English Standard Version*

24 So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; see to it yourselves." 25 And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!" 26 Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

27 Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. 28 And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, 29 and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" 30 And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. 31 And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

32 As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. 33 And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), 34 they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. 35 And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. 36 Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. 37 And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." 38 Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. 39 And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads 40 and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." 41 So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, 42 "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. 43 He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" 44 And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

45 Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. 46 And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema

sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" 47 And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." 48 And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. 49 But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." 50 And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. 54 When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

55 There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, 56 among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

Week 9

• Actions David asks of God

Repeated Words/Themes

– sin/iniquity/transgression/evil

– cleanse/wash

**Psalm 51**

*English Standard Version*

*Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God*

*To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.*

51 Have mercy on me, O God, *Why? God's character*

according to your steadfast love;

according to your abundant mercy

blot out my transgressions.

2 Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

and cleanse me from my sin!

3 For I know my transgressions,

and my sin is ever before me.

4 Against you, you only, have I sinned

and done what is evil in your sight,

so that you may be justified in your words

and blameless in your judgment.

5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

and in sin did my mother conceive me.

6 Behold, you delight in truth in the inward being,

and you teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

8 Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have broken rejoice.

9 Hide your face from my sins,

and blot out all my iniquities.

10 Create in me a clean heart, O God, *necessity for new heart*

and renew a right spirit within me.

11 Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

12 Restore to me the joy of your salvation,

and uphold me with a willing spirit.

13 Then I will teach transgressors your ways,

and sinners will return to you.

14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God,

O God of my salvation,

and my tongue will sing aloud of your righteousness.

15 O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

*He clearly sinned against others too,  
so why does he say this?*

*God broke his bones?  
What's he saying?*



put this  
in your  
own words

- 16 For you will not delight in sacrifice, or I would give it;  
you will not be pleased with a burnt offering.
- 17 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

God doesn't want  
another half-hearted  
sacrifice or ritual.

- 18 Do good to Zion in your good pleasure;  
build up the walls of Jerusalem;
- 19 then will you delight in right sacrifices,  
in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings;  
then bulls will be offered on your altar.

What is the disposition of David's heart?  
- broken over sin

What is he asking of God? - Forgiven  
- Cleaned

On what grounds is David asking this of God?  
- God's character  
- mercy + love (v.1)

Based on v.16-17, are sacrifices (actions) pointless?  
- changed heart leads to changed action  
- God wants both... not one w/o the other

How is this a congregational Psalm?

v.13-15

v.18-19

### Steps following sin

1. See your sin + be broken over it
2. Confess your sin
3. Respond w/ a grateful heart

Do Believers still ask for forgiveness when they sin even though all of their sins (past, present, future) are already forgiven?

- Yes b/c we need relational forgiveness

positional forgiveness: ultimate, salvation, adopted

relational forgiveness: sin hinders Fellowship, not sonship

### Gospel

- David's hopes of forgiveness would be made possible on +

## 2 Samuel 12

### *English Standard Version*

#### *Nathan Rebukes David*

12 And the Lord sent Nathan to David. He came to him and said to him, "There were two men in a certain city, the one rich and the other poor. 2 The rich man had very many flocks and herds, 3 but the poor man had nothing but one little ewe lamb, which he had bought. And he brought it up, and it grew up with him and with his children. It used to eat of his morsel and drink from his cup and lie in his arms, and it was like a daughter to him. 4 Now there came a traveler to the rich man, and he was unwilling to take one of his own flock or herd to prepare for the guest who had come to him, but he took the poor man's lamb and prepared it for the man who had come to him." 5 Then David's anger was greatly kindled against the man, and he said to Nathan, "As the Lord lives, the man who has done this deserves to die, 6 and he shall restore the lamb fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity."

7 Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you out of the hand of Saul. 8 And I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your arms and gave you the house of Israel and of Judah. And if this were too little, I would add to you as much more. 9 Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.' 11 Thus says the Lord, 'Behold, I will raise up evil against you out of your own house. And I will take your wives before your eyes and give them to your neighbor, and he shall lie with your wives in the sight of this sun. 12 For you did it secretly, but I will do this thing before all Israel and before the sun.'" 13 David said to Nathan, "I have sinned against the Lord." And Nathan said to David, "The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die. 14 Nevertheless, because by this deed you have utterly scorned the Lord, the child who is born to you shall die." 15 Then Nathan went to his house.

Week 10

## Context

either: David running from Saul

or  
★ David running from Absalom

Soul = nephesh:- at simplest form means throat/neck  
- also can be a part that represents the whole body

## Psalms 63 (ESV)

### My Soul Thirsts for You

A Psalm of David, when he was in the wilderness of Judah.

63 O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you;

my **soul** thirsts for you;

my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

2 So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,

beholding your power and glory.

3 Because your steadfast love is better than life,

my lips will praise you.

4 So I will bless you as long as I live;

in your name I will lift up my hands.

5 My **soul** will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,

and my mouth will praise you with joyful lips,

6 when I remember you upon my bed,

and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

7 for you have been my help,

and in the shadow of your wings I will sing for joy.

8 My **soul** clings to you;

your **right hand** upholds me. †

Jesus = right hand of God

9 But those who seek to destroy my life

shall go down into the depths of the earth;

10 they shall be given over to the power of the sword;

they shall be a portion for jackals.

11 But the king shall rejoice in God;

all who swear by him shall exult,

for the mouths of liars will be stopped.

What things do we thirst for?  
What does thirsting look like?

What do open palms portray?

↳ giving something  
↳ receiving something



Practically, what does lifting open palms to God look like for us?

What does a satisfied soul look like? How does God satisfy our souls?

What is v. 6 saying? Why would someone do this?

What does it look like for our souls to cling to God?

Desperate need  
for God

steadfast  
love → life

Power observed,  
love experienced,  
+ sheltered protection

↓  
soul satisfied  
+  
lips that praise

Those who seek  
the destruction +  
failure of God  
+ God's people  
will ultimately  
fail.

## Big Idea: Thirst, Look, Rest, Consume, + Cling

Thirst for God. Look upon His holy power. Rest in His steadfast love under the protection of His wings. Consume Your mind with the things of God. Cling to Jesus.

## Gospel

- Jesus quenches our thirst w/ living water (John 4:14)
- We find refuge under Jesus' wings
- Jesus is the mighty right hand of God that works our salvation through his life, death, + resurrection