

Contrast Between Two Kings

- This chapter is highlighting the stark contrast between Saul, the rejected and rebellious king, and David, the Lord's chosen and anointed king.

* *Question to consider: "Which King Will You Follow?"*

1 SAMUEL 22:1-5 (ESV)- DAVID

¹ David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him. ² And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men. ³ And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me." ⁴ And he left them with the king of Moab, and they stayed with him all the time that David was in the stronghold. ⁵ Then the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.

David welcomes the weary (v2)

- Life under Saul's reign has caused "distress", "debt", and "discontentment" (bitter in soul)

- David welcomes the troubled and weary, and leads them as commander.

* This is a picture of Christ, who welcomes the weary and leads them to rest.

Matthew 11:28 (NIV)- "Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

David takes care of his aging parents (vv3-4)

- Despite being in the worst of circumstances, David still has the love, compassion, and concern, to care and provide for his elderly parent's safety.

- Contrast this with Saul, who when faced with his own difficult circumstance (his throne under threat), cared very little about his family, and only for himself. He used his daughters as bait to try and have David killed (CH 18), and he attempted to kill his son Jonathan (CH 20)

* David again reminds us of Christ, who in His darkest hour (on the cross), still had the love, compassion, and concern to think about and care for his mother

John 19:26-27 (ESV)- ²⁶When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" ²⁷Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

1 SAMUEL 22:6-10 (ESV)- SAUL

⁶ Now Saul heard that David was discovered, and the men who were with him. Saul was sitting at Gibeah under the tamarisk tree on the height with his spear in his hand, and all his servants were standing about him. ⁷ And Saul said to his servants who stood about him, "Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, ⁸ that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day." ⁹ Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who stood by the servants of Saul, "I saw the son of Jesse coming to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, ¹⁰ and he inquired of the Lord for him and gave him provisions and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine."

The Contrast (v6)

- While David is on the run, moving from place to place, Saul is "sitting", "under the tamarisk tree" for all to see. Externally, it looks as if Saul is at peace, but as the camera lense zooms in, we see he is in paranoia.

Saul's paranoia (vv7-8)

- Saul's paranoia leads him to complain, berate, and even accuse all of his men of conspiring against him.

Doeg the Edomite (vv9-10)

- No one is willing to speak up and help Saul except Doeg the Edomite
- Doeg was briefly mentioned last chapter (CH 21:7), and now we find out why.

1 SAMUEL 22:11-19 (ESV)- SAUL

¹¹ Then the king sent to summon Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father's house, the priests who were at Nob, and all of them came to the king. ¹² And Saul said, "Hear now, son of Ahitub." And he answered, "Here I am, my lord." ¹³ And Saul said to him, "Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword and have inquired of God for him, so that he has risen against me, to lie in wait, as at this day?" ¹⁴ Then Ahimelech answered the king, "And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king's son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? ¹⁵ Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little." ¹⁶ And the king said, "You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father's house." ¹⁷ And the king said to the guard who stood about him, "Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me." But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord. ¹⁸ Then the king said to Doeg, "You turn and strike the priests." And Doeg the Edomite turned and struck down the priests, and he killed on that day eighty-five persons who wore the linen ephod. ¹⁹ And Nob, the city of the priests, he put to the sword; both man and woman, child and infant, ox, donkey and sheep, he put to the sword.

The full destruction of Nob (vv18-19)

- Saul, by the hand of Doeg, not only wipes out the entire priesthood at Nob, he utterly destroys every living thing in the town.

* This should remind us of CH 15, when God commanded Saul to utterly destroy the Amalekites. Back then, Saul did not go "all the way" in his obedience to God, against the enemies of God. But this time, he goes "all the way" in full obedience to his own desires, against the people and the priests of God.

The subtle, devastating nature of sin

1 SAMUEL 22:20-23 (ESV)- DAVID

²⁰ But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. ²¹ And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. ²² And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. ²³ Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."

David protects Abiathar

- While Saul is seen destroying the priests of the Lord, David now protects the priest Abiathar

Which King Will You Follow?

- It seems foolish to follow David UNLESS, He is the Lord's Anointed.

Luke 21:17-18 (ESV)- ⁷You will be hated by all for my name's sake.¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. When we look at the life of Saul, one of the things we are strongly warned about is the subtle, yet devastating nature of sin. We see that because Saul continually gave into his sin, he spiraled downward from being an insecure and fearful man, to this completely angry, jealous, and paranoid man who without hesitation, ordered the murder of 85 priests. Have you ever witnessed, personally in your life, or in the life of someone else, the subtle yet devastating nature of sin at work? Share about this experience. What particular sins do you need to actively and continually repent of in order to guard against the potential devastation that that sin can lead to?
2. The main question that we were meant to ask and wrestle with throughout the text was, "Which King Will You Follow?" In what areas of your life, do you struggle to follow King Jesus and why? What would it look like, practically speaking, for you to follow Jesus in these areas? How can your fellow brothers and sisters in your CG, or here at NHM, help you to live this way?
3. One of the patterns that we see from the life of David (and in the life of Jesus) is that before the crown, there is a cross. In other words, the pathway to glory is through suffering. In what ways is your expectation or view of the Christian life, not in line with this reality? What would your response to suffering look like if you truly embraced and believed this truth?