

1 Samuel 22 “The Downward Progression of Sin”[\[1\]](#)

Series: “*Learning to Wait on God: The Life of David Before He Became King*”

1 Samuel 16-31

Think about it: Sin is a downward progression. The first step may be a small one, yet the destination is always the same...*destruction*.

Such was the case in the life of Saul. What a flip-flop occurred in the life of Saul! Here was a man who was anointed by God as king, who experienced the blessing of God in early military battles, a man who even prophesied. Yet as we see him in 1 Samuel 22, he is a paranoid man (8), a man with no regard for the Lord (17), an emotionally unstable man.

Review: What happened to David in 1 Samuel 21?

I. Scene #1: David at Nob with Ahimelech (1-9)

What happened at Nob?

A. David met with Ahimelech (1-2).

1. Ahimelech was afraid (1).
2. David assured the priest (2).

B. David made two requests.

1. He asked for bread (3-6).
2. He asked for a sword (8-9).

C. David was seen by a servant of Saul (7).

II. Scene #2: David at Gath with Achish (10-15).

A. David's reputation preceded him (10-11).

B. David's response was instinctive (12-13).

1. He was afraid (12).
2. He pretended to be insane (13).

C. David's enemy wrote him off (14-15).

***Reminder: Psalm 56 and Psalm 34 grew out of these experiences for David.*

Outline of 1 Samuel 22

I. David on the Run (1-5)

A. To the cave of Adullam (1-2)

1. With his father's family
2. With others in distress

B. To Mizpah in Moab (3-4)

C. To the forest of Hereth in Judah (5)

II. Saul on the Hunt (6-19)

A. Saul chastises his officials (6-8).

1. "You have conspired against me!"
2. "You don't care about me!"

B. Doeg becomes an informant (9-10).

1. "I know where David was."
2. "I know who helped him--Ahimelech."

C. Saul does the unthinkable (11-19).

1. He sends for Ahimelech, his family, and the priests (11).
2. He accuses Ahimelech of betrayal (12-13).
3. He ignores Ahimelech's commendation of David (14-15).
4. He gives the order to kill the priests of the Lord (16-17).
5. He orders Doeg to massacre 85 priests, their families, and possessions (18-19).

III. David still on the Run (20-23)

A. What Abiathar did (20-21)

1. He escaped to David (20).
2. He informed David of the atrocity (21).

B. What David did (22-23)

1. He took responsibility for the bloodshed.
2. He invited Abiathar to stay with him.

Lessons:

1. Sin is a downward progression. The first step(s) may be a small one, yet the destination is always the same--destruction. Just ask Saul.
2. We must determine to stay close to the Lord, to obey Him in every detail.
3. God doesn't reward those who start well, only those who finish well.

4. People who run from God hurt not only themselves, but those around them.

Let's take a look at the story which involves three scenes...

I. David on the Run (1-5)

While on the run, we see David move to three locations in vv 1-5. David first moved to Adullam, about 20 miles southwest of Jerusalem and 10 miles northeast of Gath (v. 1) (see map).

A. To the cave of Adullam (1-2)

Q: David was not alone there. Who was with him?

1. *With his father's family*

Q: Why did his family come?

2. *With others in distress*

Sounds like a quite a crew! 400 men that had one thing in common--nobody else wanted them! They were in distress, or in debt, or discontented, and they flocked to David their leader.

Discuss: What kind of lessons did God teach David with this experience? How to lead people who by nature don't like to follow!

B. To Mizpah in Moab (3-4)

Q: Why did David go to Moab ? For protection, and...

Q: Who had been from Moab (a relative of David)? The B.K.C. suggests that perhaps he went to Moab to live among the kinfolk of his own great-grandmother, Ruth.

Discuss: What do we learn about God from this?

C. To the forest of Hereth in Judah (5)

The forest of Hereth was located east of Adullam.

Q: Why did David go there? V 5 The prophet Gad told him to (notice the type of people David receives counsel from, as opposed to Saul)

Q: When Saul found out David's whereabouts, how did he respond?

II. Saul on the Hunt (6-19)

Q: Where was Saul? V 6 In Gibeah

Here is a paranoid man! He has his spear in his hand, and hatred in his heart.

A. Saul chastises his officials (6-8).

Q: What does Saul try to do to his leaders in v 7? Bribe them to cooperate. Then he blasts them in v 8 with two accusations.

1. *"You have conspired against me!"*
2. *"You don't care about me!"*

Discuss: How would you describe Saul's temperament at this point?

B. Doeg becomes an informant (9-10).

Q: Who was Doeg? See 21:7 What does he reveal to Saul?

1. "I know where David was."
2. "I know who helped him...*Ahimelech*."

C. Saul does the unthinkable (11-19).

Notice 5 unthinkable actions...

1. He sends for Ahimelech, his family, and the priests (11).
2. He accuses Ahimelech of betrayal (12-13).
3. He ignores Ahimelech's commendation of David (14-15).

Q: Why wouldn't Saul consider Ahimelech's explanation? He didn't want to hear the truth. His mind was already made up, blinded by jealous anger.

4. He gives the order to kill the priests of the Lord (16-17).

Q: How did Saul's officials respond in v 17? Wouldn't obey

5. He orders Doeg to massacre 85 priests, their families, and possessions (18-19).

Q: Why do you think Doeg did what the others considered unthinkable? He saw it as a chance to "move up the executive ladder" and win Saul's favor. In so doing, he won the favor of the king, and certainly forfeited the favor of the Lord.

Discuss: Why were the rest of the priests murdered, in addition to Ahimelech?

Discuss: To reject David, Saul had to reject the Lord, too. Why so?

Note: We see this today when relationships turn sour. If I am at odds with a brother and refuse to

humble myself, ask forgiveness or grant forgiveness, and seek reconciliation with my brother, I will inevitably turn from the Lord. We see this in marriage breakdowns, etc.

III. David still on the Run (20-23)

A. What Abiathar did (20-21)

1. He escaped to David (20).
2. He informed David of the atrocity (21).

B. What David did (22-23)

1. He took responsibility for the bloodshed. Q: Why so?
2. He invited Abiathar to stay with him.

As the B.K.C. points out, "This marked the beginning of David's priestly staff which would later lead the tabernacle worship in Jerusalem."

Q: What does this gesture reveal about David?

Lessons: What is God teaching us about Himself and His ways in this chapter?

1. Sin is a downward progression. The first step may be a small one, yet the destination is always the same...*destruction*. Just ask Saul.
2. We must determine to stay close to the Lord, to obey Him in every detail.
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[\[1\]](#) These are unedited teaching notes used initially for a Wednesday evening Bible study at Wheelersburg Baptist Church. They are provided for your edification as you personally study God's life-changing Word. Pastor Brad Brandt