

Discussion Questions:

Life of David: Part 5 – David on the Run

1. David is on the run (not a good road trip) for the bulk of 1 Sam. 21-22. What is either your favorite memory of a road trip, or the ideal road trip you'd like to take? Why?

2. The first "stop" on the trip we observed was David at Nob (21:1-9), and the first principle from the sermon was **The Priority of Compassion**. Look up Hosea 6:6 and Matthew 12:1-8.
 - a. What does **The Priority of Compassion** (or *mercy over sacrifice*) look like practically speaking?

 - b. David flat-out lies to Ahimelek. Do you think lying is ever ok? (Pastor Kent encouraged us to consider Proverbs 12:22). How does our paradigm for the *Priority of Compassion* fit in to this issue?

3. The second "stop" was at Gath, ironically after David took the sword of Goliath with him from Nob. (21:10-15) Here we saw that as David was pretending to be crazy, he evidently wrote Psalm 34, which brought us to our next principle from the sermon: **the Celebration of Deliverance**.
 - a. Read over Psalm 34 and look for the theme of deliverance / rescue. What do you see?

 - b. A particularly treasured verse from this psalm is Psalm 34:18. It's definitely worth memorizing! What would be the benefit of having this truth in your mind and heart as you go about your day?

4. The third "stop" was Adullam, where David begins to collect his army, and we saw that we **Make Room for Sinners**: (the distressed, the debtors, the discontent)
 - a. Read 1 Cor. 1:26-29 – What is the purpose for God working this way revealed at the end of verse 29?

 - b. Think through Biblical History. Do you find that God tends to use the great, the powerful, the noble, the influential, etc.? Or does he tend to use a different type of person? Can you give some examples?

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5. The fourth “stop” was at Mizpah / Moab, where David seeks shelter for his family. Here the prophet Gad comes to David and warns him not to make treaties with Moab, but to return to Judah (22:3-5). Here we saw that **As we care for others, God will care for us.**
 - a. What are some examples of how we need to care for others, despite our own trials / circumstances?
 - b. On a scale of 1-10, how hard is it for you to ask for help in caring for others? Are you quick to seek help, or are you a “I can handle it – I’ll do it!” type of person?

6. The fifth “stop” on our journey was back in Judah, where David found out that Doeg (at the command of Saul) had murdered 85 priests at Nob, and then went on and massacred the men, women, children, infants, cattle, donkeys, and sheep (22:18-19). When David heard of this from one of the sons of Ahimelek who had escaped, David acknowledged his fault in this tragedy, and vowed to take care of him, and we saw our final principle; to **Take Responsibility and Seek to Change.**
 - a. Pastor Kent drew our attention back to Genesis 3, and the fallout of the first sin by our first parents, Adam and Eve.

Who does Adam blame for his sin (Gen. 3:12)? (Look carefully)

Who does Eve blame for her sin (Gen. 3:13)?
 - b. True Repentance involves not only acknowledgement, sorrow and regret, but actual turning away from one’s present course.

Which is more difficult? The acknowledging fault part, or the seeking to change part? Why?

7. Pastor Kent reminded us (quoting Eugene Peterson) that “David isn’t a person whose action we’re inspired to imitate... David’s life isn’t an ideal life, but an actual life...” (Go back and listen to the sermon starting around 6:55 to hear the full quote)
 - a. How do you resonate with David’s struggles so far? (He’ll have plenty more!)