

Refiner's Fire – How God Shapes Us into People of His Own Heart – Week Four

Desperate People Do Desperate Things

1 Samuel 21:1 – 22:5

Introduction: David now enters his period of severe testing. God has allowed him to be stripped of everything: his status as a warrior, his marriage, and his close friend. Even the safety of his family is now in jeopardy, so David runs. And in these chapters we see the raw truth that desperate people make desperate choices, but God uses David's desperation to bring him into a new place of spiritual power.

- 1. *1ST LOGICAL PLACE TO RUN – Desperate people often flee to institutional religion. 1 Samuel 21:1-42***
 - A. The story unfolds: David flees to the tabernacle with good motives. 21:1a
 - B. David experiences three problems: These are three marks of institutional religion. 21:1b-7
 - C. David's attitude as he leaves: he derives some good but not the power he'd hoped for. 21:3-5, 8-9

- 2. *2ND LOGICAL PLACE TO RUN – Desperate people often flee from God. 1 Samuel 21:1-42***
 - A. David flees to Gath probably with the idea that he can become a mercenary soldier. 21:10
 - B. David is instantly recognized because of the popular song people had been singing. 21:11
 - C. David is seized with fear and he composes two Psalms (56 then 34). 21:12-15
 - D. David's attitude as he leaves: he is living on that fine edge of trust and despair. Psalm 56:8

- 3. *GOD'S SOLUTION – God brings David into an organic community of likeminded desperate people...exiles! 1 Samuel 22:1-6***
 - A. At some point desperate people always hit bottom. 22:1
 - B. At his most desperate point, God intervenes by surrounding David with fellow exiles. 22:2a,b

- 4. *CLOSING WORDS – Some of you are right where David was.***