



## Part 21 - "Faith in the Midst of Fear" | 1 Samuel 21-22 | 4.26.26

### → Running for Refuge (Nob) — 1 Samuel 21:1–9

- (21:1) Ahimelek "trembled" — David's arrival is unusual—something's wrong
- David uses deception to explain his situation, showing his fear and urgency
- (21:7) Doeg the Edomite — quietly observing
- (21:9) Goliath's sword = a reminder of God's past victory

### → Fear in Enemy Territory (Gath) — 1 Samuel 21:10–15

- David runs to enemy territory trying to escape Saul's reach
- (21:12) This is the first time the text explicitly says David is "very much afraid"
- Fear doesn't = lack of faith—it reveals the reality of his situation
- David pretends to be insane out of desperation

### → Fear Revealed in the Cave — 1 Samuel 22:1–2; Psalm 57 & Psalm 142

- (22:1) David escapes to the cave of Adullam—a place of hiding and reflection  
David may have written Psalms 57 and 142 here
- (Psalm 57:4) David describes enemies as "lions" with "teeth like spears"
- (Psalm 142:6) He admits his enemies are "too strong" for him
- In fear, David turns to the LORD and begins to find refuge.

### → Fear Leads to Control vs. Trust — 1 Samuel 22:6–23

- (22:6) Saul's spear = a symbol of control and violence
- (17:47) Contrast: "the battle is the LORD's"  
Saul trusts himself; David learns to trust God
- (22:9-10) Doeg's report leads to the slaughter of the priests
- Saul started out in fear, but now he's trying to elevate himself to God's authority
- (22:22-23) David feels responsible, yet begins to act in trust: "don't be afraid"

### → **God's Character: Fire or Refuge — Psalm 57**

- (57:2–3) God “sends” His love & faithfulness—His character actively intervenes
- When God acts, He reveals what is truly in the heart
  - For Saul, God's presence brings friction and torment
  - For David, God's presence becomes refuge

→ **Consider This:** Depending on the direction of our heart, God's character is either a raging fire... or a refuge

### → **Our Response in the Storm — 2 Corinthians 4:4–9**

- (Psalm 57:7) David's heart is steadfast—not because of strength, but trust
- Consider 2 Corinthians 4:4-9:
  - Darkness resists the light of the gospel
  - We carry the treasure of the gospel in fragile “jars of clay”
  - Hard pressed, but not crushed—God's power sustains us
- We have a choice: control life like Saul or trust God like David
- Our purpose: carry the gospel into the storms

→ **Main Takeaway:** When we feel surrounded, we can either try to control everything out of fear, or take refuge in the LORD and trust His power at work in us.

### → **Going Deeper:**

1. **READ Psalm 57:1–7** — Where do you see fear and trust both present in David's prayer?
2. **READ 1 Samuel 22:6–19** — How does Saul's fear shape his decisions—and what does that reveal about his heart?
3. **READ 2 Corinthians 4:7–9** — What does it mean to carry God's power in “jars of clay” in your everyday life?
4. **REFLECTION:** When fear hits, will you try to control the situation, or bring it to the LORD and trust Him as your refuge?