



Part 23 | “The Lord Is My Refuge” | 5.10.26

→ **The Narrow Road Shapes Us — Matthew 7:14 / James 1:4**

- Walking slowly through Scripture gives the Word of God time to settle deeper into our hearts
- Jesus said the narrow road “leads to life” — it presses in on us and shapes our hearts over time (Matthew 7:14)
- Through pressure, hardship, and perseverance, the LORD is working in us
- “Let perseverance finish its work...” (James 1:4)
- God uses difficult moments to shape our hearts so we can stand firm in the strength of Jesus

→ **David’s Test in the Cave — 1 Samuel 24:3–7**

- (vv3–4) David’s men believed the LORD had handed Saul over to David
- David was free to choose how he would respond — this was a test of his heart
- (v5) David became conscience-stricken after cutting Saul’s robe
- Clarity emerged through conviction
- The wide road looked easier, but the narrow road required trust

→ **Clarity Through Conviction — 1 Samuel 24:6–20**

- (vv6–7) David refused to harm Saul – “the LORD’s anointed”
- Many difficult moments in life do not come with clear answers “written in the clouds”
- The Spirit of God shaped David under the pressure of the narrow road
- (vv16–18) Saul acknowledged David’s righteousness after David showed him mercy
- (v20) Saul acknowledged David would become king after David chose mercy over violence

→ **The LORD Is My Refuge — Psalm 142:5**

- En Gedi looked like the perfect refuge, yet David still didn’t feel safe
- “You are my refuge, my portion **in the land of the living.**” (Psalm 142:5)
- David anchored his trust in the presence of the LORD in the “now” — the land of the living
- Heaven is also where God’s presence breaks into our present reality
- The space between heaven and earth became thin when David felt convicted in the cave

→ **Standing Firm in the Presence of the LORD — Psalm 23:4 / Matthew 6:33**

- Trust like David's is built over time through the presence of the LORD
- "...I will fear no evil, **for you are with me**" (Psalm 23:4)
- The LORD allows us to face moments where we need to choose how we'll respond
- Jesus teaches us: "Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness" (Matthew 6:33)

→ **Main Takeaway:** The LORD steps into our difficult moments and shapes our hearts through His Spirit, empowering us to trust Him as our true refuge.

→ **Going Deeper:**

1. Read Psalm 142. Where do you see David shifting from fear and desperation toward trust in the LORD?

2. Read 1 Samuel 24:1–12. What does David's conviction in the cave teach us about listening to the Spirit of God?

3. Read James 1:2–4 and Matthew 6:33. How does perseverance help shape us into people who seek God's kingdom first?

→ **Next Step:** What pressure or difficult decision in your life right now might be an opportunity for the LORD to deepen your trust and shape your heart?