

## David: Adversity on the Run 1 Samuel 19-21

At some point, we will all lose something or someone that we love, which often leads us to respond with anger, bitterness, or defeat. David initially responded poorly to the losses in his own life, but he came to realize that everything in this world is temporary and insufficient for providing refuge. Through David, we can see that while God takes our temporary riches, He give us eternal refuge.

### **Read: Psalm 52.1-7**

### **Intro: Video - Finding Nemo (with Kittens)**

- A classic tale of loss and family and clownfish. Why does it resonate with us?

### **The Truth is...**

- We've all experienced loss. No matter how tightly we hold onto certain things, they still slip out of our grasp. Loss can leave us angry, bitter, or defeated. We've all lost a position, or a status, or a job, or a loved one, or a relationship, and the loss has the power to destroy us.

### **This Semester...**

- We're studying the Life of David through his Stories and Psalms in order to understand what made him a "man after God's own heart." I want us to understand what defined him because I want to have that heart, and I want you to have that heart. So far, we've looked at David's response to Sin, Rejection, and Darkness.

### **This Morning...**

- We're looking at David's response to Loss. We're going to see him place his trust in the temporary and suffer greatly as a result. We're going to see God methodically rip everything away from David until he's scratching at walls and drooling on himself. We're going to see David fall hard and experience greater loss than we've ever seen. First, David loses...

### **Losing Everything**

- **His Position – Read: 19.8-10**
  - We start off seeing approximately 19yr old David as a mighty hero beloved by all thanks to his incredible military position as an unstoppable force.
  - But in the midst of his glory, God allows an evil spirit to attack Saul, who decides to throw a spear at David's face. Bad sign. David runs.
  - App: Positions are Temporary. Your GPA will no longer matter. Your org won't need you. You'll graduate. So then what?
- **His Wife – Read: 19.11-12**
  - David runs home only to discover that Saul's men are watching and still plotting his death. Michal is pretty hardcore, so she makes David sneak out the window then puts a dressed up mannequin in the bed
  - App: Romance is Temporary. Your crush won't like you. Your girlfriend will dump you. Your spouse will pass away. So then what?
- **His Mentor – Read: 19.18**
  - David runs to Samuel who helps him escape to a giant condo property, but Saul finds them and flushes him out
  - App: Wisdom is Temporary. Your teacher will fail you. The advice won't work. The master plan will fall apart. So then what?
- **His Friend – Read: 20.3**
  - David runs to Jonathan who's his best Bro. Jonathan assures David that Saul doesn't really

want to kill him! They set up a plan where David will hide in a field for 3 days and Jonathan eats dinner with Saul to see if his dad is still angry.

- Saul doesn't mind David missing the 1<sup>st</sup> night, but realizes what's up the 2<sup>nd</sup> night and takes it out on Jonathan by throwing a spear at him (Classic Saul) So Jonathan tells David to get out of town.
- App: Friends are Temporary. Some friends will betray you. Other friends will move on. Best friends will drift away. So then what?
- **His Dignity – Read: 21.10-15**
  - David's lost his position, his wife, his mentor, and his brother. He has no one left and nowhere to go. So he runs to Gath, which you might recognize as the hometown of Goliath – Philistine territory.
  - David runs to his arch-enemy, and to avoid imprisonment, he acts like a crazy person and gets a hilariously sarcastic response from the king. David has lost EVERYTHING, even himself
  - App: You are Temporary. Your body will fail. Your mind will dull. Your lungs will stop breathing and heart will stop pumping. So then what?

#### **God will take your riches**

- The truth is that no matter how tightly we hold our accomplishments, or dreams, or relationships, or bank accounts, these things are Temporary. We might not feel like David, but we're all heading that direction. We'll all get to the point where everything in this world will fail. That's why David wrote...
- Read: Psalm 52.1-7
  - We often read these types of Psalms as a "you tell 'em, Dave!" but I don't think David is pointing at others... He's pointing at himself!
  - This Psalm was written right around the time he fled to Gath. Right around the time David found himself cut off from everything and everyone he'd ever loved or used as a refuge.
- We try to hold onto our riches so tightly that when they're taken, we often respond with a fist of anger, apathy, and bitterness
  - Ex: Bieber Meltdown – "When you've reached a certain point in your life, there are people out there waiting to see you fall... Rather than let gravity take you down, sometimes you have to take matters into your own hands and fly."
- Tough Ex: I have a good friend who had a sister who was diagnosed with Leukemia when she was a few years old. It was heartbreaking for his parents, but they went through the processes and treatments and fought the disease. But when she was 3yrs old, her body gave up and she passed away. This was even more heartbreaking for his parents, and the depth of their loss drove them apart, so his parents divorced soon after.
- The positions, relationships, wisdom, friends, and people of this world will end. So then what?

#### **God will give you refuge**

- **Read: Psalm 52.8-9**
  - David experiences incredible Loss and responds with Love because he knows God isn't acting out of spite or anger, He's acting out of love.
- God's not pushing David towards destruction, He's pulling David towards Himself. David loses everything and he responds with Praise and Love and Trust and Thankfulness because he knows God is Enough.
  - God takes our riches to give us refuge.
  - God methodically ripped everything away from David until he was forced to seek refuge in God alone only to find that God is the only refuge worth seeking. He's the only refuge that won't fail. He's enough.
- **Living Ex:** – I have another friend who got married to a wonderful woman and eventually got pregnant with their first child. They were super pumped, told all their friends and family, and started getting ready for the new adventure of parenthood. Then they went to the doctor for a checkup and found out that their child had a rare condition that meant he wouldn't live long after his birth. They were heartbroken, but they continued to pray for their son and carried him to term. When he was

born, Timothy lived for about 45min before passing away. I can't know the depth of loss my friends felt, but I know that they continued to praise the Lord, they used their experience with Timothy to minister to others who have felt loss, that they are expecting another son in April

- We can respond to loss with a fist of anger, bitterness, or defeat. Or we can respond to loss with open praise for the God who gives refuge
- The God who lost His Son in order to provide that refuge. The refuge made possible by Jesus Christ losing everything, including His life

#### **Application**

- What riches are you trusting? Where are you holding tightly and need to loosen your grasp? What loss are you still angry or bitter or defeated about that you need to hand over to the Lord? Do you trust that God is enough?

Next Week: David's response to Uncertainty - God teaches David to trust His plan

#### **1 Samuel 19:8-12, ESV**

And there was war again. And David went out and fought with the Philistines and struck them with a great blow, so that they fled before him. **9** Then a harmful spirit from the Lord came upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his spear in his hand. And David was playing the lyre. **10** And Saul sought to pin David to the wall with the spear, but he eluded Saul, so that he struck the spear into the wall. And David fled and escaped that night.

**11** Saul sent messengers to David's house to watch him, that he might kill him in the morning. But Michal, David's wife, told him, "If you do not escape with your life tonight, tomorrow you will be killed." **12** So Michal let David down through the window, and he fled away and escaped.

#### **1 Samuel 19:18, ESV**

Now David fled and escaped, and he came to Samuel at Ramah and told him all that Saul had done to him. And he and Samuel went and lived at Naioth.

#### **1 Samuel 20:3, ESV**

But David vowed again, saying, "Your father knows well that I have found favor in your eyes, and he thinks, 'Do not let Jonathan know this, lest he be grieved.' But truly, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, there is but a step between me and death."

#### **1 Samuel 21:10-15, ESV**

And David rose and fled that day from Saul and went to Achish the king of Gath. **11** And the servants of Achish said to him, "Is not this David the king of the land? Did they not sing to one another of him in dances, 'Saul has struck down his thousands, and David his ten thousands'?"

**12** And David took these words to heart and was much afraid of Achish the king of Gath. **13** So he changed his behavior before them and pretended to be insane in their hands and made marks on the doors of the gate and let his spittle run down his beard. **14** Then Achish said to his servants, "Behold, you see the man is mad. Why then have you brought him to me? **15** Do I lack madmen, that you have brought this fellow to behave as a madman in my presence? Shall this fellow come into my house?"

**Psalm 52, ESV**

Why do you boast of evil, O mighty man?  
The steadfast love of God endures all the day.

**2** Your tongue plots destruction,  
like a sharp razor, you worker of deceit.

**3** You love evil more than good,  
and lying more than speaking what is right. Selah

**4** You love all words that devour,  
O deceitful tongue.

**5** But God will break you down forever;  
he will snatch and tear you from your tent;  
he will uproot you from the land of the living. Selah

**6** The righteous shall see and fear,  
and shall laugh at him, saying,

**7** "See the man who would not make  
God his refuge,  
but trusted in the abundance of his riches  
and sought refuge in his own destruction!"

**8** But I am like a green olive tree  
in the house of God.  
I trust in the steadfast love of God  
forever and ever.

**9** I will thank you forever,  
because you have done it.  
I will wait for your name, for it is good,  
in the presence of the godly.