

# Tales of the Shepherd King

## Part 4 – Desert Times, Desert Places

### 1 Samuel 22-29

#### Desert: place of desolation

- Everything gets stripped away
- Dignity (1 Sam. 21.10-15) – physical indignity, social indignity (one is more important than the other to you)
- Home (1 Sam 22.1) – can be relational or physical or both
- Reward (1 Sam 23.10-12) – the one who conquered got none of the spoils
- Pride (27.1-12)
  - Why would the anointed king of Israel flee to and bunk with the sworn enemy of Israel?
  - Not saying this is good decision – saying it's a decision that reflects every bit of his pride is gone
    - Even lying to cover his tracks (v.10-11)
  - *God is willing to expose pride in our lives through terrible circumstances because He hates pride and its effects so much and because He loves us too much to let pride remain in us*

#### Desert: place of preparation

- God's not just into Demo Day – He's into transformation, but you can't have one without the other
- Learns to lead a diverse people (22.1-2)
- Feels consequence of leadership (22.6-19)
- Finds true friendship (23.15-18)
  - Those who will meet you in the desert are probably your truest friends
- Gets clarity (24.16-22)
  - He spares Saul's life TWICE because David doesn't see Saul as the enemy
  - As part of clarity, remember: *just because you're in the middle of testing doesn't mean God has left you, you're in sin, or God is angry at you – it could be preparation*

#### Desert: place of providence

- God spared David from writing an ending to his story (29.4-9)
  - If he marches against Israel, it's over – no kingdom, no kingship
  - "God, why are you allowing this?" -> You don't know what He's sparing you from or preparing you for

Questions for Discussion:

1. How would you describe a personal desert? What were the events surrounding it? What emotions (if you could feel them) did it bring out? How did you know it was over?
2. From the sermon, David saw four things stripped away: Dignity (a sense of self-respect), Home (a sense of belonging), Reward (a sense of accomplishment), and Pride. Which of those four is most dangerous to you right now?
3. Read James 4.6, 1 Peter 5.5-6, and Proverbs 16.18. Why is God willing to expose pride in our lives through terrible circumstances?
4. God also prepared David for what was ahead. Reread the good and bad of 1 Sam. 22. There David learns to lead and the consequences of leading. What do you see in the text that sticks out and needs application in your life?
5. Why did Saul see David as his enemy (24.16-22) but David not see Saul as his enemy? What situation in your life needs that application this week?
6. In the sermon, Trent argued that the desert was the place where God kept David from writing the end to his own story, an end that wouldn't be as good as when God writes it. Think of a time in your life when you wanted things to go one way and God wrote it differently. How much differently did it end? How much better?