

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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David: A Man After God's Own Heart – Part 4

Several years ago there was a popular television series called *The Fugitive*. Week after week the falsely accused victim would narrowly escape the police hunting him. No matter where he turned, he could never really trust anyone or reveal his true identity. In this next chapter of David's life, he too lives as an innocent fugitive relentlessly pursued by Saul. David is driven to extreme measures to stay alive, and in the process he makes some decisions that he later regrets. David learns the hard way that it is better to depend on God than on his own strength.

Read 1 Samuel 21:1-9

- After being convinced of Saul's intention to kill him, where does David go? In what practical ways does Ahimelech help David?
- What could have been David's motives for lying to Ahimelech? On whom was David relying for his safety?

Read 1 Samuel 21:10-22:50

- Gath was a Philistine city. How did David handle being recognized here? What insight do we gain about David's character from this incident?
- Who joins David at Adullam (22:1)? Why do you think his whole family moved to Moab?
- Why did the 400 men join David at Adullam? What characteristics of David would have been most important in dealing with such a motley group?
- Who commanded David to leave the stronghold and return to Judah (22:5)? Why would this have been a dangerous move? What was God teaching David about real security?

Read 1 Samuel 22:6-23

- How was the rivalry between Saul and David escalating? What indications of Saul's instability can you find in this passage (verses 6, 8, 13, 17)?
- What characteristics did Ahimelech display when questioned by Saul about helping David (verses 14-15)? How did Ahimelech assess David's real attitude toward Saul?
- What tragic consequences had resulted from David's "simple" lie in 1 Samuel 21:2? Put yourself in David's place---how would you have felt as you made the statement of 22:22?
- What principles of trust can we learn from this story of David?

Points to Ponder

- Can you think of a time when you have taken a situation into your own hands? What were the consequences?
- When you are afraid, how do your actions and decisions reflect or fail to reflect your trust in God?