

SERMON APPLICATION GUIDE

A TALE OF TWO KINGS

I SAMUEL 22:1-23

JANUARY 7TH, 2024

- I. David's Four Movements: vs. 1-5
- II. Saul's Royal Pity Party: vs. 6-10
- III. Saul's Paranoia and Horrific Murder: vs. 11-19
- IV. David's Compassion: vs. 20-23

Questions:

1. Although we cannot relate to David being hunted by Saul and hiding in the cave of Adullam, we all know what it's like to be fearful, anxious, and overwhelmed. We go through our own "cave-like" experiences of difficulty and uncertainty. David provides a helpful example of trusting in the Lord in the midst of these trials and expounds on his experience in Psalm 57 and Psalm 142 (very likely written about his experience in the Adullam cave).
Split up into two groups and assign one group to look at Psalm 57 and the other to look at Psalm 142. Spend about 10 minutes digging into what it looked like for David to trust in the Lord. In other words, looking at Psalm 57 and 142 what are some specific examples of David's faith in action and what might this look like in our own lives? Then, come back and have both groups share their insight.
2. When you go through challenging situations like David, what are you most tempted to trust in or rely upon to help you get through them besides the Lord?
3. An important theme in David's life is his dependency on hearing from the Lord. We see that in vs. 5. As you think about 2024, what are some ways you can immerse yourself more consistently in the Word of God? What are your biggest barriers to digging into the Word and how can the small group help encourage you and hold you accountable?
4. Throughout this chapter, there is a contrast between David and Saul. Name as many differences as you possibly can from this chapter. Then, discuss the significance of the comparison between David and Saul.
5. This chapter includes the horrific killing of the priests of Nob by Doeg. How can we see God's sovereign purposes being fulfilled even through this evil act? How might this encourage us when thinking about suffering and evil?
 - Hint: see 1 Samuel 2:27-33
 - Acts 2:23
6. In vs. 20-23, we see David as the compassionate protector of Abiathar. Read Psalm 142 as a group and open it up to anyone who wants to share specific ways they need God's help right now and prayer from the group.