**1 Samuel 22**

**Main: God will exert pressure to bring us back to Himself**

**Our response is critical!**

**Review: In Chapter 21, we begin to see David falling into the same trap as Saul by reacting to fear.**

**Now, as Saul rapidly declines, pressure is exerted on David to come back spiritually.**

**Under pressure, David begins acting like Saul:**

* **He deceives the priests**
* **He deceives Achish and the Philistines**
* **He seeks protection from the enemies he once defeated when he walked with God**

**1 Samuel 22:1-5**

**God will allow life to exert pressure to bring us back to Himself.**

* **David’s family comes to him**
* **Hundreds of men and their families come to him**
* **David does the right thing and begins to care for others more than himself (David’s family connections – Ruth 1:4; 4:21-22)**
* **God is continuing to prepare David as He refines his leadership skills.**
* **God will prepare us for tomorrow by what happens today, even with difficult things.**
* **Now, David is willing to listen to wise, godly counsel - v. 5**

**1 Samuel 22:6-15**

* **Ahimelech learned the hard way: You can’t reason with an unreasonable person. Sin overwhelms reason.**
* **Saul was unwilling to accept God’s will and his issues earlier.**
  + **He knew he had issues of insecurity/ inferiority**
  + **He knew his sin had cost him the kingdom**
  + **He knew a replacement was coming**
  + **He knew that man was David**
  + **He would not deal with any of that**
  + **God still loved and cared for Saul.**
  + **Obedience = not only right thing to do, but also a help to him and his family.**
  + **Now, his stubbornness has created major issues in his life and the ripples keep growing.**
* **We should learn from this! Romans 15:4**
* **When we live in fear, it is very common to exaggerate our problems.**
* **Doeg’s case only goes to prove the wisdom of the old saying: Consider the source!**
  + **Context is critical, especially when from second-hand accounts and questionable sources.**
  + **A sinful mindset is a self-centered mindset.**
* **Saul is now consumed with feelings of self-pity and paranoia.**
  + **Truth is not his goal, but having to be right and “winning”.**
  + **It is impossible to have a mind that is fixed on the things of the flesh and not eventually see bad results - Galatians 5:16-26**
  + **It is clear from this passage that a believer’s default mode is sin**
  + **When we have a fleshly perspective, we have little concern for what is true and we produce “the works of the flesh”**
* **At this point, Saul just wanted to be right and win. And, it cost the lives of innocent people.**

**1 Samuel 22:17-18**

* **When it got so bad that Saul’s men refused the King’s command and put their lives in danger, it should have been a wake-up call for Saul.**
  + **He didn’t pay attention to Jonathan, Michal, Samuel, or the Lord earlier.**
  + **God will often give us an “out”; we should take it!**
* **Why should Saul care if the priest inquired of God for David? If God was for Saul, that wouldn’t matter!**

**1 Samuel 22:19**

* **Saul has already shown signs of being psychotic when he tried to murder David and his own son. Now, he is paranoid and becomes a mass murderer.**
* **Continued refusal to respond to God and our need to address issues can have terrible results, not only for ourselves, but also for those around us.**

**1 Samuel 22:20-23**

* **David saw Doeg, but he didn’t think, he was not spiritually with it and perceptive.**
  + **How many times have each of us said, “I knew it! I should have known better”?**
  + **David admitted he suspected what his sin might bring, but he ignored the warnings of his heart.**
  + **We often have that “Twinge” inside of us when we know we’re wrong and ignore it. It’s never a good idea to ignore the warnings of our conscience.**
* **God will allow life to exert pressure to bring us back to Himself.**
  + **David’s family comes to him**
  + **Hundreds of men and their families come to him**

**Now…**

* **He discovers his actions have led to the slaughter of the priests and their families**
* **David has allowed his fear to control his thinking and his actions.**
  + **Just as in Saul’s case, others paid a price for it. Now, his tender heart has brought him back.**
  + **Will yours?**

**Psalm 52**

**David’s massive failure had disastrous results. After he learned what Doeg had done, David’s theme in Psalm 52 was a common one for his life:**

**THE MERCY OF GOD!**

**So, it should be for us!**

**Main: God will exert pressure to bring us back to Himself**

**Our response is critical!**