

## **Trusting the Lord's Timing**

In last week's readings, we watched the prophet Samuel anoint a young shepherd named David as Israel's next king even though there was already an Israelite king sitting on the throne. Can you imagine what went through King Saul's mind once he found out what Samuel did? Can you feel the anger, fear, and personal disappointment that surged through his body when he realized that God was taking away his legacy and giving it to this boy?

This is where God begins preparing David for his future responsibilities. During this week's readings, we will travel with young David as he suffers Saul's unrepentant wrath. Thinking he can overthrow God's will, Saul tries multiple times to kill David. David finally flees for his life, leaving behind his good friend Jonathan. It is important to note that David did nothing against King Saul; he didn't choose to be anointed as the next king. It was God's call that resulted in David's unfair treatment and, even worse, a jealous hunt for this life.

I would like you to consider two things as you read this week. First, note that David doesn't abandon God's call in the midst of this scary stuff. He could have easily said, "Forget all of this! It's not worth risking my life. God, do something else." He also could have been like the angry king and attempt to take matters into his own hands, as he had many opportunities to kill Saul. Instead, David decides to trust in a faithful God and His timing.

Second, pay attention to the psalms David writes as he goes through these trials and periods of running for his life. See that he calls on God and praises Him even in his fear and insecurity! It's a good reminder that God pays attention to those who call on Him. He can quiet our hearts and give us confidence, even during chaos and upheaval (Psalm 57:7).

Has there ever been a time that you felt like David? You thought you were on the right track, but, suddenly, there's an unforeseen turn of events. Chaos hits. Fear creeps in. You don't have a clue what's going on or why. Here is where you need to make a choice.

You could pick what looks like a good escape from all the mess, go your own way, and start over. Or, like David, you could decide to trust God and give the situation to Him. Pray, plunge into the psalms, or even write your own psalms! Ask God to quiet your heart and give you the strength and confidence you may need amidst uncertainty and fear. And above all, wait patiently on God's timing. As David's story teaches us, it is always perfect.

*"I sought the Lord, and he answered me; he delivered me from all my fears."*

Psalm 34:4

*"When I am afraid, I will trust in you."*

Psalm 56:3

*"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him."*

Psalm 34:8

*"A righteous man may have many troubles, but the Lord delivers him from them all."*

Psalm 34:19

**~Tiffany Johnston**

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### **April 15th Readings**

1 SAMUEL 20:1-21:15

PSALM 34

### **April 16th Readings**

1 SAMUEL 22:1-2

PSALM 57

PSALM 142

1 CHRONICLES 12:8-18

1 SAMUEL 22:3-23

PSALM 52

1 SAMUEL 23:1-12

### **April 17th Readings**

1 SAMUEL 23:13-29

PSALM 54  
1 SAMUEL 24:1-25:44

**April 18th Readings**

1 SAMUEL 26:1-27:7  
1 CHRONICLES 12:1-7  
1 SAMUEL 27:8-29:11  
1 CHRONICLES 12:19  
PSALM 56

**April 19th Readings**

1 SAMUEL 30:1-31  
1 CHRONICLES 12:20-22  
1 SAMUEL 31:1-13  
1 CHRONICLES 10:1-14  
1 CHRONICLES 9:40-44  
2 SAMUEL 4:4  
2 SAMUEL 1:1-27

**April 20th Readings**

2 SAMUEL 2:1-3:5  
1 CHRONICLES 3:1-4  
2 SAMUEL 23:8-17  
1 CHRONICLES 11:10-19  
2 SAMUEL 23:18-39  
1 CHRONICLES 11:20-47

**April 21st Readings**

2 SAMUEL 3:6-4:3  
2 SAMUEL 4:5-4:12