

引言 INTRODUCTION

Life is a constant challenge. You are often in a hurry from the moment you get up till the time you lay down. You are fighting against time, juggling between priorities and rushing to various decisions. You are competing with yourself and with others. The reality-show “Survivor” is a good representation of your experience. It is a successful TV series started in year 2000. About twenty contestants are divided into “tribes” to compete against each other. They are sent to a remote location without any modern facility. The teams have to work together to build shelters, start a fire and look for food and water. Every now and then there will be group or individual challenges to see who are the strongest and smartest. Each TV show will end with a tribal council where the players will cast votes to decide who should be kicked out. The final winner will be rewarded with a cash prize. The entertaining part is not just about the race. You also see the best and the worst of humanity. Participants play psychological games on one other. There are rivalry, back-stabbing, betrayal and compromise. But you can also witness genuine friendship and self-sacrifice. The motto for the program says it all: outwit, outplay and outlast. David was also in a survival mode at this stage of his life. He had to employ similar strategies. He was chased after by king Saul. God used different ways to remind David that He was on David’s side. Likewise, God is always with us no matter what we are going through. It makes a huge difference who we follow as our leader.

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 智慧的頭腦 A Wise Head

We saw last time that David narrowly escaped from the Philistine town of Gath. David fooled everyone by pretending to be a madman. Playing tricks might protect David for a season. Soon he realized that he had to maintain a wise head by depending on God. The author tells us where David went next in verse 1-2 of today’s text: **1 David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. And when his brothers and all his father’s house heard it, they went down there to him. 2 And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was bitter in soul, gathered to him. And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.** Adullam was about midway between Gath and David’s hometown of Bethlehem. The site has a lot of caves, which served as an ideal hiding spot for David. Some of those caves are even big enough to hold several hundred people. Here we see David had some travel-mates for the first time. David’s brothers brought their parents to him. We shall see later that David found a refuge for his parents. Besides David’s family members, four hundred men also came to David. They were social-outcasts based on the three descriptions in verse 2. Perhaps they were fed up with Saul’s leadership. Just like David, they had no money and nowhere to go. Therefore, they made him their leader. They surely knew David’s background and his current status. Probably they put their hope in David that he would overthrow Saul and become a future king. Those four hundred men turned out to be faithful soldiers of David in later stories. They realized that they were confronting the authority. That reminds me of a movie titled “Alone in Berlin.” It was based on a true story. Otto and Elise Hampel were an ordinary German couple

living in Berlin. They were upset with the Nazi regime. Elise's brother served in the army. Unfortunately, he lost his life in a battle. The couple then started a secret campaign to protest against the government. They wrote over 200 postcards with messages that encouraged people not to donate money to the ruling party and refuse to serve in the military. Day after day, they dropped those notes into people's mailboxes or left them in public places. Two years later, the police caught the couple. They were penalized by death sentence. Shortly after the war was over, they were recognized as heroes who resisted an evil government. Today, we are called to follow Jesus. We are not fighting against a political party but we are involved in a spiritual warfare. Jesus made it clear that people will hate us because they hate Him first. They reject the truth because it reveals their sins. We have to prepare for opposition and even persecution from the world. Do not be surprised if people mistreat you when they know that you are a Christian. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 10:28 – **“And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.”** Jesus' disciples and many Christians throughout history suffered greatly. Some of them lost their families, home and even their lives for sharing the gospel. But God preserved their souls. Indeed, we will endure some losses when we follow Jesus. You may lose people's acceptance, your face and even your job. But do not lose your faith and hope in Jesus. The Lord comforts us in the next verse: **“Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father.”** He who cares for little birds cares much more about His children. God will protect us from harm. We are secure in the mighty arms of our Heavenly Father. Do not be frustrated when people are against you because of your relationship with Jesus. That is part of the cost for following Him. In David's case, even his family was affected. Therefore, he had to find a safe haven for his parents. We see David's plan in verse 3: **And David went from there to Mizpeh of Moab. And he said to the king of Moab, “Please let my father and my mother stay with you, till I know what God will do for me.”** David took his parents to Moab, which was on the eastern shore of the Jordan River. He was using his wise head. The country was a constant enemy of Israel. Saul might not want to fight a battle there just to look for David or his family members. But why would the king of Moab allow David's parents to stay? Perhaps it was because David's great-grandmother Ruth was a Moabite. Regardless, a senior couple could not do any harm to Saul. Notice how David phrased his request to the king. He wanted to wait and see what God would do for him next. In the previous chapter, David deceived people to protect himself. Now David determined to wait on the Lord. Finally, he knew who to rely on. David's action proved his words. Look at verse 5: **Then the prophet Gad said to David, “Do not remain in the stronghold; depart, and go into the land of Judah.” So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth.** The word “stronghold” here could be an elevated area where it is easy to hide but hard for enemies to attack. David was an army commander. He definitely knew how to protect himself. However, David listened to the counsel of a man of God and left a strategic location. After he ensured the safety of his parents, he and his men moved to Hereth. From now on, he had to care for welfare of four hundred men. The fallen world may appear like a jungle to us. There can be hidden dangers if we are not paying attention. Just like David did, we should listen to God's instructions. God will speak to us through the Bible and through godly friends. Then we can apply objective truth to our situations. We wait on the Lord, evaluate the options and make decisions with a wise head that can benefit others and ourselves.

2. 邪惡的心腸 A Wicked Heart

David guided his men with a wise head. We see a contrasting picture in Saul. He led his people with a wicked heart. The king spoke to his officials in verse 7-8: **7 ... “Hear now, people of Benjamin; will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, will he make you all commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, 8 that all of you have conspired against me? No one discloses to me when my son makes a covenant with the son of Jesse. None of you is sorry for me or discloses to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as at this day.”** We can sense Saul’s paranoid in his words. He knew that God had rejected him and appointed David as the next king. Plagued by insecurity, Saul still tried to hold onto his authority as much as he could. He reminded his assistants that only he could give them material possessions and titles. Fame and fortune can buy people’s loyalty. That was how Satan tempted Jesus. He promised Jesus the treasures of the world if only Jesus bowed before him. Of course, our Lord did not budge. Today, the devil entices us the same way. A little compromise to our faith, a small white lie or dishonesty will give us extra profit. Satan whispers to our ears: “Everybody does that. What’s the big deal?” Jesus says it clearly in Matthew 16:26 – **“For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?”** So many people think that this world is all that it is. The fact is that money and reputation will only exist for a while, but our souls will remain forever. Therefore, do not just focus on how to enrich your life but ignore your soul. Only God can give us an eternal life through Jesus. But often even Christians can be fooled by the world. In every decision we make, we have to be clear which Master we serve. Are you willing to forsake what you can get hold of because you love the Lord? Perhaps you can get a promotion but you will have to sacrifice family time and ministry opportunities. Perhaps a renowned college gives you a bigger scholarship. But you know that the school is a tough battleground for Christians. Perhaps a nice boy or girl has a crush on you. But the person tells you upfront that he/she hates God. How will you choose? It takes faith to believe that God has reserved the best for you. Moreover, the world appeals to the here and now, but God may ask you to wait. Saul surely did not want to wait. His wicked heart caused him to seize every opportunity to get rid of David. Just when his officials were clueless, Doeg spoke up. He reported that he saw Ahimelech the priest provide food and Goliath’s sword to David. Ahimelech also inquired of the Lord for the fugitive. Saul was furious. He summoned Ahimelech immediately. He accused the priest for conspiring with David. Ahimelech defended in verse 14-15: **14 ... “And who among all your servants is so faithful as David, who is the king’s son-in-law, and captain over your bodyguard, and honored in your house? 15 Is today the first time that I have inquired of God for him? No! Let not the king impute anything to his servant or to all the house of my father, for your servant has known nothing of all this, much or little.”** Ahimelech declared his innocence. He said he knew nothing about David’s situation. He thought it was unthinkable for David to rebel against the king. David was a loyal soldier, a respected general and even a son-in-law of Saul. But of course, Saul would not listen. He had determined to kill David. Therefore, anyone attempted to help David became an enemy. Saul gave an order in verse 17: **And the king said to the guard who stood about him, “Turn and kill the priests of the Lord, because their hand also is with David, and they knew that he fled and did not disclose it to me.” But the servants of the king would not put out their hand to strike the priests of the Lord.** Saul wanted to vent his anger to all the priests under Ahimelech’s care. The symbolic meaning is clear. Saul understood that God had abandoned him. Therefore, he saw the priestly system as useless to him. He also wanted to use the incident as an object-lesson to his officials. Anyone who stood in his way would end up in the same way. However, no one dared to lay a hand on the priests. It was a silent protest to a wicked king. Saul’s officials still

had a clear conscience. Back then Saul requested to kill Jonathan because he violated an oath that no one could eat until paying revenge to the Philistines. Fellow soldiers stood up to protect Jonathan. In both instances, Saul looked like a fool for giving irrational commands. But even the most wicked leaders will have their followers. Saul asked Doeg to execute his order. The man gladly took charge of it. Doeg did not only slaughter eighty-five priests on the spot, he even exterminated all the residents and animals in the town of Nob. All but one person was spared. Continue to read verse 20-23: **20 But one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the priests of the Lord. 22 And David said to Abiathar, "I knew on that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have occasioned the death of all the persons of your father's house. 23 Stay with me; do not be afraid, for he who seeks my life seeks your life. With me you shall be in safekeeping."** David's lie to Ahimelech led to a great price. A whole village was gone completely. David learned a painful lesson that sin has its consequence. Disobeying God's clear commands may give us some temporary benefits. But in the long run, we will reap what we sown. We will suffer loss, or the people we sin against may get hurt. Therefore, we should always put God first when we make decisions. We ask how God will receive glory through what we do. But God's way is always higher than ours. Even our sins will not spoil His plans. In God's wisdom, a tragedy turned out to be a blessing for David. From then on, Abiathar joined the camp of David. This young priest later gave spiritual counsel to David. Eventually, David appointed Abiathar as a high priest when he ascended to the throne. As a king in training, David must learn how to take care of his followers. Any future decision would affect the whole group, not just himself.

結論 CONCLUSION

It makes a huge difference who we follow as our leader. Saul tried to buy people's hearts with fame and fortune. But people who looked for a righteous leadership went after David. A fugitive thus became the chief of a guerilla force. Those people left the comfort and convenience of their homes and followed an outcast. There would be sacrifice and suffering ahead of them. They did not know how long it took for David to become their king. But they decided to follow him anyway. Today, Jesus calls us to be His disciples. He never guarantees us health and wealth. There may even be challenge and pain in front of us. We look like outcasts in the world. But we should not lose sight of a glorious future. No matter what we may go through, our Lord is always faithful and true. He will give us enduring strength to outlast in this earthly journey.

引言 INTRODUCTION

生命是一場持續不斷的挑戰。從起床到躺下，你常常都在忙。你需要與時間搏鬥，處理日常事務，並要做出各種決定。你在與自己競爭，也在與別人競爭。電視節目「求生者」很恰當地代表了你的經歷。這個遊戲節目是在 2000 年開始。大約二十名選手被分配到不同的部落互相競爭。他們被送到一個沒有任何現代設施的偏遠地區。這些團隊必須齊心努力建造棲身的地方、生火並尋找食物和水。不時會有團體或個人挑戰，看看誰是最強壯和最聰明的人。每次電視節目結束前都有一次投票，讓參賽者決定誰應該被踢出局。最終獲勝者將得到現金獎勵。精彩的部分不僅僅是比賽。你還會看到人性中最好和最壞的一面。參與者要玩心理戰術。他們明爭暗鬥、背後捅刀子、背叛和妥協。但你也可以看到真誠的友誼和自我犧牲。這個遊戲的口號是：鬥智、鬥力和堅持。大衛在目前的階段也處於生存模式。他必須要採取類似的策略。大衛被掃羅王追捕。但是神用不同的方式提醒大衛，祂與大衛同在。同樣，無論我們經歷什麼事情，神總是與我們同在。我們選擇誰作為領袖會產生截然不同的結果。

解釋 EXPLANATION

1. 智慧的頭腦 A Wise Head

上次我們看到大衛很驚險地逃出非利士的迦特城。大衛假裝成瘋子來愚弄所有人。耍花招可能會保護大衛一時。很快他意識到他必須依靠神來保持智慧的頭腦。作者在今天經文的第 1-2 節告訴我們大衛下一步去哪裡：**1 大衛就離開那裏，逃到亞杜蘭洞。他的弟兄和他父親的全家聽見了，就都下到他那裏。2 凡受窘迫的、欠債的、心裏苦惱的都聚集到大衛那裏；大衛就作他們的頭目，跟隨他的約有四百人。**亞杜蘭大約在迦特和大衛的家鄉伯利恆之間。那裡有許多洞穴，是大衛的理想藏身之處。其中一些洞穴甚至大到可以容納數百人。在這裡，我們看到大衛第一次有同行的人。大衛的哥哥們帶著父母來找他。稍後我們會看到大衛為他的父母找到了避難所。除了大衛的家人以外，還有四百人來到大衛那裡。根據第 2 節中的三個描述，他們是社會的邊緣份子。也許他們不滿意掃羅的領導。就像大衛一樣，他們沒有錢也無處可去。因此，他們立大衛為領袖。他們當然知道大衛的背景和現狀。可能他們寄望於大衛推翻掃羅並成為未來的君王。在後面的故事中，那四百人成為大衛忠心的士兵。他們知道是在對抗權威。這讓我想起了一部名為「孤身在柏林」的電影。它是根據一個真

實的故事改編的。奧圖和埃莉斯是住在柏林的一對普通德國夫婦。他們對納粹政權感到不滿。埃莉斯的哥哥在軍隊服役。不幸的是，他在一場戰事中喪生。這對夫婦隨後發起了一場秘密運動，抗議政府。他們寫了兩百多張明信片，鼓勵人們不要向執政黨捐款和拒絕服兵役。日復一日，他們將這些紙條投進人們的郵箱或留在公共場所。兩年後，警察逮捕了這對夫婦。他們被判處死刑。戰爭結束後不久，他們被公認為反抗邪惡政府的英雄。今天，我們蒙召跟隨耶穌。我們不是與政黨爭鬥，而是參與屬靈的爭戰。耶穌明確表示，人們會恨我們，因為他們首先恨祂。他們拒絕真理，因為它揭露他們的罪。我們必須為來自世界的反對甚至逼迫做好準備。如果人們知道你是基督徒而對你不友善，不要感到驚訝。耶穌在馬太福音 10:28 節提醒我們：「那殺身體、不能殺靈魂的，不要怕他們；惟有能把身體和靈魂都滅在地獄裏的，正要怕他。」在歷史上，耶穌的門徒和許多基督徒都遭受了極大的苦難。他們有些人因為傳福音而失去了家人、家園，甚至生命。但神保全了他們的靈魂。當我們跟隨耶穌時，我們也會蒙受一些損失。你可能會失去人們的認可、你的面子甚至你的工作。但不要失去對耶穌的信心和盼望。主在下一節安慰我們：「兩個麻雀不是賣一分銀子嗎？若是你們的父不許，一個也不能掉在地上。」關心小鳥的天父更關心祂的兒女。神會保護我們免受傷害。我們在天父大能的臂膀中是何等的穩妥。當人們因為你與耶穌的關係而反對你時，不要感到沮喪。這是跟隨祂的部分代價。就大衛而言，甚至連他的家人也受到了影響。因此，他必須為父母找一個避風港。我們在第 3 節看到大衛的計劃：大衛從那裏往摩押的米斯巴去，對摩押王說：「求你容我父母搬來，住在你們這裏，等我知道神要為我怎樣行。」大衛帶著他的父母來到約旦河東岸的摩押。他在使用他有智慧的頭腦。長久以來，摩押是以色列的敵人。掃羅可能不想為了抓大衛或他的家人而去那裡打仗。但為什麼摩押王會願意收留大衛的父母呢？也許是因為大衛的曾祖母路得是摩押人。無論如何，一對年長的夫婦無法傷害掃羅。請注意大衛是如何向摩押王提出請求的。他想等著看神接下來會為他做什麼。在上一章中，大衛為了保護自己而欺騙人們。現在大衛決定等候耶和華。他終於知道該依靠誰了。大衛以行動證明了他的話。請看第 5 節：先知迦得對大衛說：「你不要住在山寨，要往猶大地去。」大衛就離開那裏，進入哈列的樹林。「山寨」可能是一個高處，易守難攻。大衛是一名將軍。他肯定知道如何保護自己。但是他聽從一位神人的勸告，放棄一個有利的據點。在他確保了父母的安全之後，他和手下轉移到哈列的樹林。從此以後，他要照顧四百人的利益。墮落的世界對我們來說可能看起來像個森林。一不留神，就會遭遇危險。就像大衛一樣，我們必須聽從神的指示。神會透過聖經和敬虔的朋友向我們說話。然後我們可以將客觀真理應用到我們的情況中。我們等候主，評估各種選擇，並以智慧的頭腦做出利人利己的決定。

2. 邪惡的心腸 A Wicked Heart

大衛以智慧的頭腦帶領他的手下。我們在掃羅身上看到一幅對比鮮明的圖畫。他以邪惡的心腸指揮他的子民。他在第 7-8 節中對官員說：7 ... 「便雅憫人哪，你們要聽我的話！耶西的兒子能將田地和葡萄園賜給你們各人嗎？能立你們各人作千夫長百夫長嗎？8 你們竟都結黨害我！我的兒子與耶西的兒子結盟的時候，無人告訴我；我的兒子挑唆我的臣子謀害我，就如今日的光景，也無人告訴我，為我憂慮。」我們可以從掃羅的話中感受到他的神經質。他知道神已經拒絕他，並任命大衛為下一任君王。掃羅被不安全感所困擾，但他仍然儘量抓住權力。他提醒他的助手們，只有他才能給他們物質、財富和頭銜。名利可以收買人的忠誠。撒旦就是這樣試探耶穌的。他向耶穌承諾，只要耶穌拜他，祂就會得到世上的財富。當然，主並沒有讓步。今天，魔鬼以同樣的方式誘惑我們。只要我們稍為在信仰上妥協，講一個善意的謊言或不誠實都會給我們帶來利益。撒旦會在我們耳邊說：「大家都是那樣做。有什麼大不了的？」耶穌在馬太福音 16:26 節清楚地說：「人若賺得全世界，賠上自己的生命，有甚麼益處呢？人還能拿甚麼換生命呢？」很多人以為這個世界是最值得他們去拚命的。事實上，金錢和名譽只會存在一時，而我們的靈魂卻會永遠存在。因此，不要只關注如何享受生活而忽視你的靈魂。唯有耶穌能賜給我們永生。但是，即使是基督徒也常常被世界所欺騙。在我們做的每一個決定中，我們都必須清楚我們事奉哪一位主人。你願意因為愛主而放棄你所能得到的東西嗎？也許你可以升職，但你必須犧牲與家人相處和事奉的機會。也許一所名學會給你的孩子更多獎學金。但是你知道那一所學校是基督徒的一個艱難戰場。也許一個不錯的男孩或女孩喜歡上了你。但是那個人對你說他討厭神。你會如何選擇？你需要信心，相信神已經為你保留了最好的。此外，世界保證立時的利益，但神可能會要求你等待。掃羅當然不想等待。他邪惡的心腸促使他抓住每一個機會除掉大衛。就在官員們毫無頭緒之時，多益開口了。他報告說，他看到祭司亞希米勒為大衛提供食物和歌利亞的刀。亞希米勒並且為那個逃犯求問耶和華。掃羅大怒。他立即把亞希米勒召來。他指責祭司與大衛串通。亞希米勒在 14-15 節中辯護：14 ... 「王的臣僕中有誰比大衛忠心呢？他是王的女婿，又是王的參謀，並且在王家中是尊貴的。15 我豈是從今日才為他求問神呢？斷不是這樣！王不要將罪歸我和我父的全家；因為這事，無論大小，僕人都不知道。」亞希米勒表明自己的清白。他說他對大衛的處境一無所知。他認為大衛背叛王是難以想像的。大衛是一個忠心的士兵，一名受人尊敬的將軍，甚至是掃羅的女婿。但是，掃羅當然聽不進去。他決心要殺死大衛。因此，任何試圖幫助大衛的人都成了敵人。掃羅在第 17 節下令：王就吩咐左右的侍衛說：「你們去殺耶和華的祭司；因為他們幫助大衛，又知道大衛逃跑，竟沒有告訴我。」掃羅的臣子卻不肯伸手殺耶和華的祭司。掃羅想要找亞希米勒和他指導的祭司來出

氣。其中的象徵含義很明顯。掃羅明白神已經厭棄了他。因此，他認為祭司製度對他毫無用處。他還想以這件事為實物教材。誰擋他的路，就會得到同樣的下場。但是，沒有人敢對祭司下手。這是對邪惡君王的無聲抗議。掃羅的官員仍然有良心。掃羅曾經要求殺死約拿單，因為他破壞了誓言，在向非利士人報仇之前，他吃東西。士兵們站起來保護約拿單。在這兩次事情中，掃羅發出無理的要求，從而顯出他的愚昧。但即使是最邪惡的領袖也會有他們的跟班。掃羅吩咐多益執行他的命令。多益欣然聽從。他不僅殺死現場的八十五名祭司，他甚至滅絕了挪伯鎮的所有居民和牲畜。除了一個人之外，所有人都喪命。請繼續看第 20-23 節：**20 亞希突的兒子亞希米勒有一個兒子，名叫亞比亞他，逃到大衛那裏。21 亞比亞他將掃羅殺耶和華祭司的事告訴大衛。22 大衛對亞比亞他說：「那日我見以東人多益在那裏，就知道他必告訴掃羅。你父的全家喪命，都是因我的緣故。23 你可以住在我這裏，不要懼怕。因為尋索你命的就是尋索我的命；你在我這裏可得保全。」**大衛對亞希米勒撒謊導致了巨大的代價。整條村莊完全消失了。大衛學到了一個慘痛的教訓，罪會有其後果。違背神明確的命令可能會給我們帶來一些暫時的好處。但最終我們將收割我們播散的種子。我們會遭受損失，或者我們冒犯的人可能會受到傷害。因此當我們做決定時，我們應該把神放在首位。我們問神如何通過我們所做的得到榮耀。但是神的道路總是高過我們的道路。我們的罪無法破壞神的計劃。在神的智慧中，一場悲劇變成了大衛的祝福。從此，亞比亞他加入了大衛的陣營。這位年輕的祭司後來給了大衛屬靈的指示。大衛在登基後任命亞比亞他為大祭司。作為正在接受訓練的君王，大衛必須學會如何照顧他的跟隨者。未來的任何決定都會影響整個團隊，而不僅僅是他自己。

結論 CONCLUSION

我們選擇誰作為領袖會產生截然不同的結果。掃羅試圖用名利收買人心。但追求正義的人卻跟隨大衛。一名逃犯因此成為游擊隊的首領。那些人離開了他們舒適和方便的家，跟隨了一個逃兵。他們將面臨犧牲和痛苦。他們不知道大衛過了多久才成為他們的王。但他們還是決定跟著他。今天，耶穌呼召我們成為祂的門徒。祂從不保證我們財富和健康。甚至可能還有挑戰和苦難擺在我們面前。我們看起來像世上的逃兵。但我們不應忽視榮耀的未來。無論我們經歷什麼，我們的主永遠是信實和可靠的。祂會給我們持久的力量，使我們在塵世的旅程中繼續走下去。