

Run for Refuge

Read: Joshua 20:1-9

Main Idea: When judgment is on your heels, God Himself has provided somewhere to run, because the death of our High Priest is what sets the condemned free.

Key Verses: “that the manslayer who strikes any person without intent or unknowingly may flee there. They shall be for you a refuge from the avenger of blood.” **(Joshua 20:3)** “We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us.” **(Hebrews 6:18)**

Key Principles

- God shows mercy to the guilty without ever excusing guilt, and the cross is where His mercy and His justice meet without either one being softened.
- Knowing where refuge can be found saves no one, because safety belongs only to the person who actually runs while there is still time to run.
- Your freedom rests on the death of your High Priest, so assurance grows when you look at what Christ finished rather than at what you have done.
- God opened His refuge to the outsider from the very beginning, so no background, nationality, or past failure disqualifies anyone who runs to Christ.
- People cannot flee to a refuge they have never heard of, so the way to Christ stays clear only when His people keep pointing to Him.
- A church that screens people before it welcomes them has forgotten it was built for people running from judgment.

Discussion

1. Why does God give the guilty a place to run instead of simply overlooking what they have done?
2. What does it tell you about God that He had these cities set apart before anyone needed one?
3. What makes it so hard to be honest with God about our guilt, and what does He promise to those who are?
4. How does the death of the high priest setting a guilty man free help you understand what the death of Jesus accomplished for you?
5. Where are you tempted to run for safety instead of running to Christ when guilt or fear catches up with you?
6. Who in your life still does not know where to run? What step will you take this week to tell them?

Prayer

- Pray that everyone who hears the gospel this week would run to Christ for refuge.
- Pray for:
 - Those still standing at the gate, undecided about Christ.
 - Believers who fear their guilt is greater than the cross.
 - Our church to be a place where the guilty are welcome.

Run for Refuge
Joshua 20

- I. Receive the rescue God provides. 20:1-3**
 - 1. God made a way. 20:1-2
 - 2. You need a Savior. 20:3

- II. Enter the shelter God opens. 20:4-6**
 - 1. Come as you are. 20:4
 - 2. Rest in His freedom. 20:5-6

- III. Share the refuge God offers. 20:7-9**
 - 1. Tell everyone of His grace. 20:7-8
 - 2. Welcome everyone to His safety. 20:9

NEXT WEEK:
Faithful in the Details
Joshua 21