

1st Samuel Ch 22

Vs1

So here we have the beginning of a significant time in David's life whereby we could coin him, "Dave in the cave." You recall that he's on the run from king Saul, Saul has tried to pin David to the wall with his spear now on numerous occasions and though Jonathon has sought to reason with him, David has done nothing to warrant his jealousy and paranoia, yet still Saul wants him wiped off the face of the earth. And so Jonathon told David you need to get out of here because my dad's gone off the deep end and he'll stop at nothing to see you dead, he's got a point that he wants to make concerning you and it's right on the tip of his spear.

And so David fled to the city of Nob, having gone to the prophet Samuel previously, this time he goes to the priest Ahimelech, and he actually lies to the priest because the priest was all, "Why are you out here all alone, I mean you're a dignitary, you need the secret service and your royal body guards and all, you're the king's son-in-law." And David said, "Well, I'm on a secret mission for the king that no one can know about, and I've got some men with me but they're hiding out." And so he convinced the priest that he was on a secret mission, the priest turned him on to some bread, and the sword of Goliath (whom David had killed) and off David went. But the direction that he went wasn't wise because he fled to Gath which was the city of Goliath, and on his side he's was carrying their champion's sword like a big trophy that shouted out catch me if you can. And that's exactly what they did, they captured him and out of desperation for his life David faked being insane, and began to foam at the mouth and scratch at the doors of the gate, and just began to really flip out. And so the king said, "Get this guy out of my house" and so they kicked him out and David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam, which is where we find him now in our present text.

And though he's been acting in the flesh, God's been working in his heart, and as you read Ps 56 and 34 you get a glimpse at what's been taking place in his heart during this period of his life, they both sprang out of this particular episode. Ps 56 is basically his prayer for help in the midst of this circumstance whereby he's surrounded by his enemies, and how he's in fear for his life but he's casting himself upon the mercies of God knowing that God is in control. And Ps 34 is more or less his hymn of praise after the Lord spared his life and delivered him from their hands having heard his cry, vs 6 of Ps 34 says, "*This poor man cried out, and the LORD heard him, And saved him out of all his troubles.*" Ps 34:6 And this just goes to show the age old saying that you just can't judge a book by it's cover, a lot of times people do strange things, they act crazy, and it's difficult to reconcile their actions and so we have a tendency to label them, or place them in a certain category of instability or just plain insane. But God is searching the deep recesses of the heart, and though on the outside everything pointed to the fact that David was just out to lunch, doing things that made no sense, acting in the flesh, God was dealing with his heart, and David was responding and repenting, and we'll see later where he takes responsibility for his actions, doesn't try to cover it up, or make excuses, but he confesses it, and bears fruits worthy of repentance.

So here we find Dave in the cave, and it's in these hard times that God will really begin to mold him and shape him, break him down and build him up into the man of God that He desires him to be. And this really isn't all that uncommon for God to do, it's what we might consider His school of "hard knocks." And it's during the down times like this that God so often begins to do a deep work in the hearts of His people, preparing them for a great work. We're reminded of Joseph, and the work that God did in his heart during his "down" time in life, down in prison that is, for some 3 years in a dark and dank dungeon, but God was doing something deep in his heart. Jonah had what we might call a serious "down time" down in the belly of the great fish, and yet it was there that God stirred his heart, prepared him for the greatest revival possibly of human history.

Someone has said, "Don't waste your suffering" those times of being down, hard pressed, in the caves of despondency, God's wanting to do a deep work in your life, but it comes by brokenness, God has a special place in his heart for broken vessels, again in Ps 34:18 "*The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, And saves such as have a contrite spirit.*" So if you find yourself in the cave of despair tonight, a time of deep despondency, know that God loves you, hasn't left nor forsaken you, but He's molding you, preparing you, breaking you, that you might become a man or a woman who's after His heart, yielded to Him, and His will for your life, because He's got a plan for you, and it always comes through humility and brokenness. Prov 15:33 says, "*The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.*" And God is doing a deep work in David's heart while he's in the cave of Adullam, Ps 57, and Ps 142 come from this time in David's life, as he comes to the understanding that it's God who is his refuge, not this cave, it's under the shadow of *His* wings that he finds security, and rest. And I believe that God would have us all come to this point where we seek refuge and rest, and security in Him, not in the things of this world.

And we see here that when his brothers and everyone in his father's house heard that he was there they all went down there to him. Now you remember that his brothers were in Saul's army, we encountered them when he slew Goliath, so they've apparently defected and the reason being (and this is an assumption on my part) but I imagine that they were in fear for their own lives. Because Saul had it in for David and because they were associated with David they probably felt threatened themselves, and so they sought to take refuge with him away from Saul. (And notice vs2)

Vs2

Now these are the men who will become David's elite fighting force. 1 Chron 12:8 refers to them as, "*mighty men of valor, men trained for battle, who could handle shield and spear, whose faces were like the faces of lions, and were as swift as gazelles on the mountains.*" But notice that's not who they are right now, right now they're in distress, in debt, and discontented, they're just a rag tag group of guys who are at the end of their rope and they're looking to David to turn things around.

And this is such a picture of you and me, and the captain of our souls, the captain of our salvation, the son of David, the Greater than David Jesus Christ Who is it that Jesus appeals to primarily, people that have it all together? People that are content with the things of this world, people that have no worries in this life? No, He appeals to those who are in distress, in debt, and discontented, Jesus said, *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”* Matt 11:28 Those who realize the emptiness of this world, who understand that they have a sin debt that they could never reconcile, that are discontented, and disillusioned regarding the reality of life and the vanity therein apart from true meaning that only comes by submission to Jesus Christ They’re the ones who forsake their lives to give their lives to Jesus Christ and allow *Him* (though rejected of this world, being in exile as it were) to become the captain of their salvation.

And there’s 2 other really practical things that we need to see here briefly before we move on, and that is, that #1 this is not a “Mob mentality” this wasn’t a free for all of random acts at the whim of the masses, there was immediate order established.

David became their captain, 1 Cor 14:40 says, *“Let all things be done decently and in order.”* We serve a God, not of mass chaos and confusion, but of order and clarity, and all throughout the scriptures we see that God does things in a very clear and orderly fashion and this was no exception. The 1st thing that was established in this small multitude was order. And # 2 We see that when God establishes order He always selects a single individual through which He facilitates His will and then it flows down from there in rank (for lack of a better term). Even as He did with Moses, as He did with Joshua, as He did with Samuel, and He’s doing here with David, God leads through 1 man, but having said that we need to understand that He rarely calls one man to do the work. And so though there’s 1 primary leader whom God leads and guides through, most often He calls other men to come along side that 1 man to help support him in that work. And that’s what we’re seeing established here, God had a great work planned for David’s life, but it was too great for David alone, and so God calls some base things, and weak things of this world to come along side him, to support him and encourage him so that God’s plan might be fully established.

Vs3-4

Now when David fled to Gath, it was a real problem, here we see him going to Moab, but I believe that this is a bit of a different scene because David has somewhat of a kindred spirit with the Moabites (not spiritually) but physically through who? Ruth was David’s great grandma and she was a Moabitess, and so David could go there in some form of confidence knowing that they would be sympathetic to his cause.

Vs5

So Dave's in the cave of despair and despondency, but along comes the prophet, (who will interact with David from time and again) and says it's time for you to move on. Go to the land of Judah, and I'm sure you know where this is headed, Judah means "praise", and so though God can do great works in our hearts while we're in the down and out, and He does, that's not where He wants to abide continually. There comes a time when we need to pull out and get back to that place of praise, depart from that stronghold and begin to praise God again, and this is where some of you may be tonight, you've been in the stronghold long enough, get back to the place of praise. Begin to worship God for His goodness once again, get your eyes off yourself and look up, God is calling you from the place you're in back to the place of praise, to that 1st love relationship that you once had with Him.

Vs6-8

Have you ever noticed that we never see Saul with a sword in his hand, and unfortunately you never will, the bible tells us that the word of God is the sword of the Spirit. But Saul never wields the sword, he's got a "point" of his own to make, he's in the flesh and he's wielding his spear and he wants David to get his point. And what a contrast between David who's attracting men to him in his innocence and integrity, vs Saul who's having to use guilt and manipulation and constraining people by fear to be loyal to him and to serve him. Now Saul was of the tribe of Benjamin, and so he's appealing to these guys of his tribe saying, "I can't believe that you guys (in his own self-pity party) don't feel sorry for *me*, and won't do what it takes to help *me*, do you think that David is going to give you positions that are dignified and of authority?" David was of the tribe of Judah, and so he's saying, "He's not going to do you guys right like I do, I'm taking care of my own." And he accuses his son of conspiracy, stirring up David against him, and none of these things are true.

Vs 9-10

Now you may remember this guy from ch 21, the original snoop Doeg who proves to be about as much value to David as Dog doo! Now it's true that Ahimelech gave him provisions and a sword, but it's not true that he inquired of the Lord for David, but Doeg is here trying to stir up trouble and that's exactly what he does.

Vs11-14

So Ahimelech is ignorant of this whole thing, and Saul is enraged with David and Ahimelech is singing his praises to Saul, he's all, "David is more faithful than anyone towards you" (Which was true) "and besides he's out right now running errands for you." Remember that's what David told him.

Vs15-17

So Ahimelech says, “I don’t know what you’re talking about, I’m innocent of this whole mess.” And Saul tells his guards, “Kill em’ all” and they just stand there in no doubt what was a very awkward moment. Just as when he told them to kill Jonathon and they refused, there’s 2 types of people that don’t amount to much and that’s those who can never do what they’re told, and those who can do nothing but what they’re told. We’re to be submissive to those who are over us, but never to the extent of compromising the word of God, and Saul is calling for outright murder here which is a radical violation of God’s Word.

Vs18-19

This is definitely an all time low for Saul; he refused to wipe out his enemies the Amalekites but he has no problem wiping out the priests of God in his own nation. And Doeg who was obviously wicked to the core who was not a Israelite but an Edomite was all too eager to do his bidding going even beyond the call of duty taking out the city of priests, women, children and even the animals.

Now this is what’s important to see here, David’s deception brought about radical consequences in lives other than his own. You can be sure that your sin will find you out, and that the things you do in the secret will be shouted from the roof tops, but when you sow to the wind, unfortunately the whirlwind that you reap does damage to multiple lives all around you, sin never affects just you. And so by it’s very nature sin is very self-centered taking into consideration nothing concerning the well being of the lives around you, because you don’t care enough for those people not to hurt them, you’re simply consumed with your own pleasure for a season regardless of the cost. And that’s heavy, but it’s true, because as those who are Christ’s we’re to crucify the flesh with it’s passions and desires, and yet when we refuse to crucify the flesh, but rather walk in the flesh, other lives are destroyed and hurt.

Now David will own up to this, and bear fruits worthy of repentance, but the damage is done, and there’s nothing that can be done about it, if he’d have been honest and open with Ahimelech in the beginning things could’ve gone much different, but hurt and destroyed lives are as such the reward of lies and deception.

Vs 20-23

Underline these 2 phrases, “Stay with me; do not fear... with me you shall be safe” We read in Josh 1:9 “*Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*” This is what the captain of our salvation says to us, it doesn’t mean that there’s never going to be trouble or hardship, David’s life shows us anything but that, in this world we will have tribulation.

But, “*Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.*” 2 Cor 4:17-18

And *“Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written: “For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.” Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* Rom 8:35-39

And one more, Paul told Timothy, *“I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day.”* 2 Tim 1:12

“Stay with me; do not fear... with me you shall be safe.”