

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE CAVE

No one likes to be rejected. In the day in which we are living, rejection has been taken to a whole new level. Not only can you be unfriended, you can be cancelled! Before we go any further in this discussion, let me remind all of you who know Christ as personal Savior that according to Ephesians 1:6, you are "...accepted in the beloved." I Samuel 22:1: "David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard it, they went down thither to him." We see that David's family and four hundred fled to him into the cave of Adullam.

I. MISERY LOVES COMPANY

I Samuel 22:1, 2

English naturalist and botanist John Ray (1627–1705) is credited with the quotation, "Misery loves company." The 14th-century Italian historian Dominici de Gravina wrote in his *Chronicon de rebus in Apulia gestis*, "*Solamen miseris socios habuisse doloris*," which translates to "It is a comfort to the unfortunate to have had companions in woe." In Act III, Scene 1, of Shakespeare's "*Measure for Measure*" we have the Bard's antidote for misery: "The miserable have no other medicine - But only hope."

Psalm 119:114: "Thou art my hiding place and my shield: I hope in thy word."

Psalm 146:5: "Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope is in the LORD his God."

II. THE PURPOSE OF THE CAVE

I Samuel 22:3, 4

A. A place to find direction: Verse 3

B. A place to protect your family: Verse 3

I Timothy 5:8: "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

III. THE PROPHETIC PARENTHESIS

I Samuel 22:5

One of the difficult times of life is when you know you've heard from God and then you discover God has altered the original plan. The cave seemed like a safe place, but now God sent David and his men into the woods. Acts 16:6-10 tells how God interrupted the plans of Paul and sent him from Asia to Europe. That shift westward became a blessing to those of us whose ancestry hails from those districts.

IV. THE TORTURED KING

I Samuel 22:6-8

A. Saul lives with a sword in his hand. Verse 6

Matthew 26:52: "Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword."

B. Saul believes that he may bribe and buy love and loyalty.

Exodus 23:8: "And thou shalt take no gift: for the gift blindeth the wise, and perverteth the words of the righteous."

Proverbs 15:27: "He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live."

C. Saul wallows in self-pity. I Samuel 22:8

I Kings 21:1-6 shows us the danger of a man with power who is selfish and wants everyone to give him what he wants. And if he does not get what he wants -- he pouts.

Dr. R.G. Lee in his famous sermon *Pay Day Someday* tells us of Ahab's attitude when deprived of humble Naboth's vineyard: Naboth's quick and firm and final and courteous refusal "took all the spokes from the wheels" of Ahab's plan and desires. The stream of his desire ran against a barrier that turned it aside and changed it into a foiled and foaming whirlpool of sullen sulks." Dr. Lee went further into the description of Ahab swirling downward in his self-pity, that in many ways would describe Saul: "What a ridiculous picture! A king acting like a spoiled child, impotent in disappointment and ugly in petty rage. A king whining like a sick hound. A king pouting like a spoiled and sullen child. He went to bed in the middle of the day, and "turned his face to the wall," his lips swollen with his mulish moping, his eyes full of cheap anger fire, his heart stubborn in its petty rebellion."

V. THE WITNESS OF AHIMELECH

I Samuel 22:11-17

This was possibly the singular event that turned the rest of Israel's heart toward David. Ahimelech is one of the most righteous and respected men in Israel. Saul's insane anger knows no limits of degradation.

Ahimelech testifies to David's integrity. Verse 14

Ahimelech was unquestionably innocent of all so-called conspiracy. Verses 13, 15

The soldiers refuse to slay the priests of the Lord. Verses 16, 17

VI. THE DIRTY DEED OF DEPRAVED DOEG

I Samuel 22:9, 10, 18-21

Doeg has a damaged conscious. I Timothy 4:2b speaks of those given over to seducing spirits, "...having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

Psalms 52 was written at the time of Doeg's shameful executions. The Bible records in I Samuel 21:7, "Now a certain man of the servants of Saul was there that day, detained before the LORD; and his name was Doeg, an Edomite, the chiefest of the herdmen that belonged to Saul." Doeg had been bought off by King Saul, so Doeg is leaning on the riches that Saul had granted to him.

David's psalm reflects that in Psalm 52:7: "Lo, this is the man that made not God his strength; but trusted in the abundance of his riches, and strengthened himself in his wickedness."

VI. THE PRESCIENT PROMISE OF DAVID

Abiathar is promised shelter in I Samuel 22:23: "Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou shalt be in safeguard." As we study the life of David, there will be vignettes such as this verse (Verse 23) that reveal the type of our Lord. This is especially true when we examine the Scriptures in the New Testament that associate Christ with David.

Matthew 12:23: "And all the people were amazed, and said, Is not this the son of David?"

Colossians 3:3: "For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

John 15:5: "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

Romans 1:1-4: "Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God, (Which he had promised afore by his prophets in the holy scriptures,) Concerning his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, which was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead."

The incarnation of Christ is nothing short of miraculously amazing! The Lord Jesus Christ was God come to earth through the medium of the virgin Mary, from the House of David, who after she was with Child of the Holy Ghost (Matthew 1:18b) married Joseph in direct lineage of David's royal house. While Jesus addressed the Pharisees he quoted from Psalm 110:1, where David says, "The LORD (Jehovah) said unto my Lord (Adonai), sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool." Here is our Lord's question He brings to the Pharisees:

Luke 20:41-44: "And he said unto them, How say they that Christ is David's son? And David himself saith in the book of Psalms, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Till I make thine enemies thy footstool. David therefore calleth him Lord, how is he then his son?"

We see in the life of David purity and power and, at times, it is contrasted with his compromise and failures. So we therefore, observe that Jesus, the Son of David is perfectly pure and never compromised in thought or deed. Only Jesus could say in John 8:46: "Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?" Our sinless Savior is the only One Who can save us. And He is worthy: Colossians 2:9 "For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily." Like Abiathar, in Christ we have shelter (Isaiah 25:4).

-Pastor Pope-