

Christ, the Gatherer of the Broken

1 Samuel 22:1-2

I. Intro

A. Robin Hood and His Band of Merry Men:

1. A legendary figure who gathered a group of outcasts and misfits.
2. Together, they became more than just outlaws—they became a force for good, defending the poor and standing against injustice.
3. Like Robin Hood, David finds himself in a situation where he gathers a group of broken and distressed ppl, turning them into a community with purpose.

B. CONTEXT: David, once a favored servant of King Saul, is now a fugitive, running for his life.

1. Prior to this, David had pretended to be insane before the king of the Philistines to avoid capture (1 Samuel 21:10-15) - that was last week
2. He escapes to the cave of Adullam, a place of refuge, where his life takes a dramatic turn.
3. The cave is a physical shelter, but it also represents a spiritual and emotional retreat—a place where God meets David in his deepest sorrow.

C. What do we do when we find ourselves in our own “caves of Adullam”? When life presses in, where do we seek refuge?

1. We can learn from David’s encounter with sorrow to see the pattern God uses for redeeming broken people and giving them purpose
2. Just as David gathered the broken to himself, Christ gathers us in our brokenness to heal, restore, and transform us into a community of hope.

II. *1 Samuel 22:1–2 [1] David departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam.*

A. **Point #1: David is a man acquainted with sorrow**

B. Cave of Adullam

1. The location of Adullam is in the Judean wilderness, roughly 16 miles southwest of Bethlehem. The name "Adullam" is thought to mean "refuge" or "retreat," fitting for a place where David finds temporary safety.
2. It's interesting to me that Adullam can mean refuge or retreat b/c those words can have layered meanings depending on your circumstances.
 - a) We go on retreats to be refreshed
 - b) Refugees seek asylum in safe places
3. Our suffering drives us to a place of needing to retreat and seek refuge, but it is often during those times that God does amazing work as you seek him in the Word and prayer
4. Like we discussed two weeks ago, your suffering shapes you if you keep bringing it back to the Word and the Spirit in submission to Christ

- C. All this is to say, David is a man of sorrows
 - 1. He knows the pain of loss (his wife isn't with him, his reputation is shattered, his future hopes seem dismal)
 - 2. He knows the sting of embarrassment and shame (feigned insanity)
 - 3. He must feel here like he can't go any lower
 - D. Jesus too was a man of sorrows... THE Man of Sorrows
 - 1. Isaiah 53:3 describes Jesus as "a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief," prophesying that His life would be marked by suffering and pain
 - 2. Jesus faced rejection from the very people He came to save, including being scorned by the religious leaders and even some of his family
 - 3. Jesus was betrayed by Judas Iscariot, one of His 12 disciples, for thirty pieces of silver, leading to His arrest and crucifixion. Betrayed by a kiss
 - 4. During His greatest moment of need, he was abandoned by most of His disciples, leaving Him to face His trials and crucifixion alone (Mark 14:50).
 - 5. Jesus endured intense physical suffering through scourging, mocking, and ultimately crucifixion, all of this was compounded by the emotional anguish of carrying the sins of the world (Matthew 27:27-50).
 - 6. Bearing the sin of all humanity on the cross caused sorrow we thankfully won't have to experience. Jesus cried out, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" (Matthew 27:46).
- III. *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.*
- A. Point #2: The broken gather around David**
- B. David's family gathers to him... quite a change of pace for them
 - 1. They might be fleeing from Saul's potential wrath against David's family.
 - 2. They may be now aligning themselves with David despite the dangers.
 - 3. Their arrival also foreshadows David's eventual role as the leader and protector of not just his family but an entire nation.
 - C. "Everyone who was in distress, in debt, and bitter in soul":
 - 1. Distress (Hebrew: מַצּוֹק, matsok): Refers to those experiencing hardship or oppression. This can be interpreted as both external persecution and internal turmoil.
 - 2. In Debt (Hebrew: נֶשֶׁה, nashah): Many were financially burdened. Although the Mosaic Law had provisions for debt, many still found themselves in irreversible financial ruin.
 - 3. Bitter in Soul (Hebrew: מַר נֶפֶשׁ, mar nephesh): Refers to those who are discontented or embittered, which could include those suffering from injustice, loss, or general disillusionment
 - 4. What kind of distress, debt, bitterness has to befall you before you just run into the wilderness to hide? Or in the case of Robin Hood - and wear tights?
 - D. Ever notice how broken people kind of stick together?
 - 1. Drinking buddies, a gang, misery loves company (so to say)

2. Often we find people who have experienced similar things to us and we latch on to them (support groups, recovery groups)
 3. There are some experiences that set you apart in a different way, and it's hard to imagine anyone in the world can understand you unless they walked the same path
 4. Well as David suffers, he wakes up and finds himself surrounded by people suffering just like him (different reasons, but same brokenness)
- E. As a side note, all of us are broken people. We are broken by the pain of sin
1. We've sinned against others and against God
 2. We've had people sin against us
 3. We know the sting of sin all too well. We know brokenness.
 4. This is why I don't think you have to cherry-pick some sins over others, acting like you're great and that guy with the homeless sign is a mess
 5. Since we are all broken it doesn't really matter if one guy struggles with his temper while another struggles with pride
 - a) In and of ourselves, we are all in same boat → broken people who need to be made whole! Sinners who need saving.
- F. The broken were drawn to Jesus like a magnet
1. Jesus consistently reached out to those suffering from physical ailments, healing the blind, lame, lepers, and those with chronic illnesses, demonstrating His compassion and power to restore (Matthew 9:35).
 2. Jesus sought out those marginalized by society, including tax collectors, prostitutes, and Samaritans, showing them grace and love
 3. Jesus forgave the sins of those who were burdened by guilt and shame, such as the woman caught in adultery, offering them a new start and freedom from condemnation
 4. He delivered individuals oppressed by demonic forces, freeing them from spiritual bondage and restoring their dignity
 5. Jesus comforted those in deep sorrow, like when He raised the widow's son in Nain and brought Lazarus back to life, demonstrating that HE was the Resurrection and the Life
 6. The Good Shepherd extended an open invitation to all who were weary and burdened, offering them rest for their souls and freedom from the heavy burdens of life and trying to be good enough by the Law
- G. The broken gathered around David, but Jesus intentionally sought out the broken.
1. He stepped out of glory to come and pursue broken people
 2. *Luke 4:18–19, [18] "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, [19] to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."*

3. Are you broken, ashamed, worn-down, and spiritually tired? You're in good company with Jesus. You're in bad company with religious pharisees, but good company with Jesus.

IV. *And he became commander over them. And there were with him about four hundred men.:*

A. **Point #3: David Gives this Community Purpose**

1. David doesn't just hang out with these guys. He becomes the leader and protector of these outcasts, forming them into a community with purpose.
2. David's leadership of this group marks the beginning of his transformation from fugitive to king. He leads not by force but from the thick of it by shared experiences of suffering and need.

B. If David does this, Jesus does it beyond comparison

1. Christ, our greater David, not only gathers the broken but also heals and restores them, transforming them into His Church, he calls us his body.
2. Like David's band of followers, the Church is a powerful testimony to God's ability to redeem and restore lives.
3. Jesus heals us. He looks at our broken, messed up lives - shipwrecked by nature and b/c of lots of bad decisions and he restores us. He heals us.
4. The Church is a living witness to His healing and restorative power.
5. Just as David's followers were united under his leadership, the Church is united under Christ, our ultimate leader and healer.
6. The Church is made up of individuals who were once broken but are now being healed and restored by Christ.

V. CONCLUSION

A. **As broken people made whole, we are called to be Christ's hands, feet, and voice, sharing the grace we've received and spreading the gospel to heal a broken world.**

B. *2 Corinthians 1:4 says, He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us.*

1. Is there any greater comfort than the healing power of Jesus for broken sinners?
2. Is there any greater healing or a medicine with more redemptive power?
3. Have you experienced consolation from the Spirit in times of trouble?
4. Have you tasted the forgiveness of God during times of sin and shame?
5. Have you sought the Lord only to find him far more present than you could possibly imagine?
6. Then go and do likewise, and one great way to do that is to share your story
 - a) Who you were... How Christ saved you... What he's done since...

B. David points to Jesus

1. Christ, the greater David, gathers the broken to heal, restore, and form them into a community of hope and redemption.

2. As the church, we are that community of hope. It's not because we are awesome in and of ourselves, but because we have received amazing grace
3. Now it is our privilege and responsibility to share that grace with the world around us
4. We should go to the poor, the persecuted, the impoverished, and the broken because we have Good News to share