

David Flees to Adullam Cave

I Samuel 22

Introduction:

- Chapter begins the period of David's life when he survives by hiding out in caves, dens, and forests to escape Saul who is hunting him down
- See I Sam 26:20, Psalm 57:1-6
- Note the heading of Psalm 57

I. David at Adullam Cave- v. 1-5

a. Adullam is a rocky mountain natural fortress in a valley between Philistia and Hebron

b. The name Adullam means refuge, but the cave wasn't to be David's refuge. **God wanted to be David's refuge in this discouraging time.**

c. Ps 46:1- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

d. Many turn to drugs, entertainment, money, etc.

e. Psalm 142 may have also been written during this time

f. David's family came to him.

g. Then, God called an unlikely and unique group to David in the Adullam cave.

These were not the men David would choose for himself but they were the ones God called to him.

i. These men were in distress. Their own lives weren't easy or together. They had problems of their own, yet God called them to David at the Adullam cave.

ii. These men were in debt. They hadn't seen a lot of success in the past, and were stung from their past failures. They had problems of their own, yet God called them to David at the Adullam cave.

iii. These men were discontented. The Hebrew word for discontented means bitter of soul. They knew the bitterness of life, and they were not

satisfied with their lives or with King Saul. They wanted something different, and something better, and God called them to David at the Adullam cave.

- h. There are great applications for us in this passage
 - i. Sometimes we end up in the cave- and that is good for us
 - ii. More importantly we see parallels to who Christ is through David's life!
 - iii. Matthew 8:20- And Jesus saith unto him, The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head.
 - iv. Jesus was friends with the publicans and sinners and desired to reach them!
 - v. Matthew 11:28-30
 - vi. David was made captain- Christ is captain of our salvation Heb 2:10
 - vii. V. 1-4- Adullam is a great picture of the Church/union in Christ
 - 1. A place of escape/refuge
 - 2. A place of mercy/clemency/compassion
 - 3. A place of submission- lordship
 - 4. A place we must all come to!
 - i. God always works through an anointed man- but that man never works alone
 - j. V. 3-4- David wanted his parents to be safe. David took his parents to Moab because his great-grandmother Ruth was a Moabite (Ruth 4:18-22; 1:4). Naomi's sufferings would bear fruit a century later in helping David.
 - k. (1Sa 22:5) David hears from the prophet Gad to depart.
 - l. This probably wasn't what David really wanted to hear but he obeyed anyway
- II. Saul has the priests murdered- v. 6-19
 - a. David and the men who were with him had been discovered: When it was just David hiding out from Saul, he could remain hidden for a long time. But you can't hide 400 men. When David came back into Judah, Saul's network of informants quickly discovered them.

- b. Saul complains to his servants
 - c. 1Sa 22:9-10 Doeg, the Edomite reports on Ahimelech and David to King Saul.
 - d. 1Sa 22:11-15) Saul accuses Ahimelech of conspiracy with David.
 - e. V. 8, 13- He also thought that David was out to kill him (that he should rise against me, to lie in wait). Saul thought of himself as the victim, that David and Ahimelech were out to get him!
 - f. V. 14-15- David's lie to Ahimelech left him vulnerable
 - g. (1Sa 22:16-19) Saul commands the execution of the priests and their families, and Doeg the Edomite carries it out.
 - h. Saul was reluctant to kill the enemies of the Lord when he was commanded to (1 Samuel 15:9). But he wasn't reluctant to murder the priests of the Lord in cold blood. Saul is clearly going off the deep end.
 - i. Doeg, who was not a Jew but an Edomite, didn't hesitate to murder the priests and their families. Doeg was detained before the Lord at the tabernacle (1 Samuel 21:7) but it didn't change his heart at all.
 - j. God's prophecy was fulfilled- I Sam 2:30-36
- III. David protects Abiathar v. 20-23
- a. 1Sa 22:20-23) David protects Abiathar, the only survivor of Ahimelech's family.
 - b. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house: it was David's mere presence with Ahimelech that made him guilty before Saul and there really wasn't anything David or anyone could do about that. In the lesser way, David's lying to Ahimelech made the priest vulnerable before Saul.
 - c. We know from both 1 Samuel and the Psalms that David turned his heart back to the Lord and asked forgiveness after his lies to Ahimelech. David was restored, but there was still bad fruit to come of the lies, and now David sees and tastes that bad fruit.
 - d. With me you shall be safe: David could not do anything about the priests who were already murdered. He confessed his guilt in the matter, and sought

forgiveness from the Lord. Now, all he can do is minister to the need in front of him – Abiathar, the surviving priest.

Conclusion:

- God's mercy in preserving a remnant- in wrath remember mercy
- This is a sign of how God always preserves His people in the midst of destruction
- i.e. Moses, baby Joash rescued by a dear lady, Joseph and Mary vs. Herod
- Not all God's servants are immune of course, but God will not allow **all** of his servants to be destroyed
- God doesn't promise that we will never die for His kingdom, but that His kingdom will never die