

Christmas Sermon – He came down so we can come out.

Delivered in 2012

1 Samuel 22: 1-5

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.

² And every one that was in distress, and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

³ And David went thence to Mizpeh of Moab: and he said unto the king of Moab, Let my father and my mother, I pray thee, come forth, and be with you, till I know what God will do for me. ⁴ And he brought them before the king of Moab: and they dwelt with him all the while that David was in the hold.

⁵ And the prophet Gad said unto David, Abide not in the hold; depart, and get thee into the land of Judah. Then David departed, and came into the forest of Hareth.

The Situation: David has been anointed king to replace Saul. David has already experienced a mighty move of God in his life. The lion and the bear have already been killed. Goliath has already been killed. Thousands of the enemy have already been killed. But he finds himself on the run from Saul who is his father-in-law because Saul is jealous of David and wants to kill him. You may have a season like this. Notice this; David's enemy doesn't want him to be king and rule over the people. David is a type of or representation of Christ. Saul is a major hater so David is on the run. He first runs seeking refuge in the enemy's camp but escapes. We've probably experienced that too where we have faced problems and run to the wrong person or wrong place for help and find you are even worse off. Then he arrives at this cave seeking a hide out from the enemy. Remember now, David's destiny is to be king and sit on the throne and rule over God's people. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Verse 1 – David makes it to a cave called Adullam = justice of the people or refuge. On the run from his enemy and arrives at this cave. Called a place of refuge. When you are in trouble you need to find a place of refuge from your problem.

- Folks and relatives come down to meet him. Where he was at before, they couldn't or didn't visit him there. But when he gets to this place of humility and refuge he finds that here is a place where others that he loves can now visit because where he was at before, nobody was coming around to visit that craziness.
- Your family will be unable to reach you until you get to the place of brokenness when you stop trying to work things out on your own. It was at the point when things started going bad for

David, it was the point when he finally rested his mind and sought refuge in the right place....God. Before when trouble was chasing him he sought refuge in the wrong place, acting crazy.....when you are in the wrong place in your mind and acting crazy don't expect family members to be able to reach your butt. I got a crazy relative...full of themselves, can't tell them anything; will blow your Facebook page up with scriptures...and crazy as a loon.

Verse 2 – Not only did family and relatives come down to visit him, but some other folks did too...when he stopped running, stop trying to work it out and found a place where he could seek God...he writes two Psalms while in the cave (57, 142). Everyone who was distressed, broke, unhappy, bitter, discontented, they came to the place of refuge as well.

- Observations: Broke folks, rejects, they are the ones who came to the place of refuge. I'm looking for broke folks because folks who think they got it all together I have a hard time working with.
- David could relate to their condition because he had been in their shoes.
- He become their captain while they were in that place. Means if they had not gotten to that place of refuge, David would not have been able to be their leader in that situation.
- To be their captain, three things have to happen. One, David has to be able to be a good leader. Two, David has to agree and want to be their captain and three, they have to agree to be led.
- 400 hundred men. I didn't get an amen so you missed it. When he made it to the place of refuge he didn't have much with him, on the run, he was scared, hiding from trouble and trying to get out of a mess. He had already lost some stuff, lost peace of mind, lost his joy, lost some material items, lost his spouse, nice house is gone.....oh David could relate to what these 400 folk were going through because he was acquainted with their suffering. But notice when he got to the place of refuge, and stopped running, chilled out there in that place, he found he had more in that place with him, then he had before. That means he had more than what he started out with. More peace than what he had before he got there. Even though it wasn't the palace, even though it wasn't his final destination, even though things were not perfect, even though trouble was still trying to find him, even though the problem and the haters were still out there.....they couldn't find him in that place of refuge and he experienced a season of increase in that unlikely cave.
- I can tell when someone has arrived at the right place because even though they may be going through, even though they might not have everything they need, even though everything might not be going their way, the enemy really can't find them, they are still standing, and they are experiencing increase that you wouldn't have expected. Got more than they should have. More joy than you would expect them to have, talking about increase.
- Have you been there? I've been there. I ain't got it all, ain't quite got all the promises and blessings coming to me, ain't at the place where He ultimately wants to take me but I'm in a place of refuge where the enemy can't touch me and I'm experiencing a season of increase in an unlikely place. Come and go to that land.

- David places himself in a position where he could receive increase. Jesus put off some stuff to come down here, but when He humbled Himself to come down to that manger He experienced increase....Shepherds, wise men came and dropped off some gifts. He didn't have the throne yet but still experienced increase while his haters were trying to find Him to take Him out. It is beginning to look a lot like Christmas.

Verse 5 – Didn't have a prophet before, but now he has added to him a prophet, a man of God. The prophet gives him a word, that's what prophets do. You missed it again. I can tell when folks who are in the right place are really in the right place to be blessed because God will always give them a Word. You are in the right place if you getting a word.

- Word said don't stay here in the cave or stronghold. Leave and get to the land of Judah. Boy ya'll missed that too.
- Ya' see there was an expiration date for him to stay hidden in that place. Even though it was a stronghold from the enemy, even though it was a safe place, even though he found some comfort there...eventually the word told him there was a time when he needed to move out from there and start to pursue his destiny. His release from that place was just about up.
- You might be in a place of refuge but you know it's not God's best place for you, just hold on. Might not be the best job or the best home even though it's working for you right now. Ain't it nice to know there is someplace better than where we are now.
- His release from the cave was connected to Judah. He was leaving that place headed to another place and better place called Judah. On his way to Judah was a sure sign that a better season was on the way. Don't you wanna go to that Land. Hmmm, still ain't got it...Judah means praise in Hebrew. His next move from that place to a new place was associated with praise. The word was get to praise. So when the prophet told him to arrive at praise, David knew this season of hiding was just about over and a new season of praise was about to begin. Don't you wanna go?
- David obeys the word and goes to the place called praise.
- Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me, Psalm 142:7.
- Oh, I can tell when someone is about to get a bigger blessing, more increase, when God is about to release some stuff because they start to praise like never before. Praise is a sign of release, praise is a good indication that things are about to get better. Praise is connected with release anybody ready to praise?

So what does this have to do with Christmas?

Location of the cave was near Bethlehem. David comes to a place near Bethlehem where everybody else could meet him. He met these broken people where they were. He made himself available where they could find him. The enemy, the King, couldn't find him but these broken folks didn't have any problem hooking up with David because they had no place else to go in that condition.



It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. Christ arrives on the scene as a child, humble, rejected....no room at the Inn, poor broke and busted....King Herod his enemy couldn't find Him, but humble folks like those reject shepherds did. Like David, Christ came down to where broken and rejected people were and became their captain.

What came out of that cave? What came out of that season with David?

They joined David before he would return to Jerusalem as the king. Joined him while they were in the wilderness season. But because they joined him before he became king and stayed with him and fought for him, they inherited the kingdom with David. They got their reservations for the Kingdom in advance.

They became later his mighty men. The more they hung out with David...the more they were like him. Hang around where he hangs around. Transformation takes time and trials but the good news is they started out as broke rejects but ended up as heroes. The first step to being great in the kingdom is being broken and humble. Broke but they didn't stay like that. Unhappy, but they didn't stay like that, rejected but they didn't stay like that. Broken, but they didn't stay like that. Bitter and hurt, but they didn't stay like that. Running from stuff but they didn't stay like that because soon they would be running after stuff. The enemy was chasing them but soon they would have their problems on the run.

2 Sam 23, Isa 53