

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.  
1 Thess. 5:23

I will raise up for myself a faithful priest, who will do according to what is in my heart and mind. I will firmly establish his priestly house, and they will minister before my anointed one always.  
1 Samuel 2:35

# FAITHFUL MEN

1 Samuel 22

WEEK #: 17

This 22nd chapter of 1 Samuel has a lot of potential personal applications. First we notice that David is hiding out in a cave or stronghold called Adullam, which actually means “refuge”. Notice that he is hiding out with those who are discontent, debt ridden and in distress. Let’s look at this situation as it may pertain to us as men or other men in our life.

1. Men like “man-caves”. Ideally, “man-caves” are places to hang out apart from everything and everyone else. This of course can be a good thing. We all need a break from time to time. Who doesn’t need a golf or football weekend. “Man-caves” get to be a problem when they are man made places of refuge that actually hide us away from life, problems or even ourselves. Good refuges can become detrimental if we don’t stay on top of things.
2. Do you have “man-made” man-caves that you frequent too often?
  - a. Perhaps the following examples may help you identify such man caves
  - b. Too much...alcohol, virtual fantasy, goofing off, procrastination, excuse making, deception, sarcasm, anger, career... and on and on it can go.
3. The problem with out of balance “man-caves” is that they look innocent enough but they can keep us from the small quality investment needed by our wives, children and grandchildren. Little by little, man-made hiding places erode our level of contentment, fruitfulness and purpose.
4. God is meant to be our “Hiding Place” You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance. (Psalm 32:7)
5. Consider journaling the areas of your life where you hide from others, communication, intimacy, responsibility, ministry to others. Notice in 1 Samuel 22 that those who hide are not doing so well-they are discontent, indebted and distressed. I encourage you to also journal some ideas to get into a more balanced approach to dealing with what needs to be dealt with.
6. Notice, at times we tend to surround ourselves with like-minded people. Show me your closest friends and I will show you your future. We tend to sound like those around us as we tend to think like those around us. Be close to mature, seasoned men and be one as well. Mature men can associate and socialize with men in distress and chaos and help them more than be personally influenced.

There is a lot to think about in this chapter. Take advantage of this opportunity this week.

Here is a dangerous prayer to pray this week. Use with caution!

Lord take from me anything or even anyone that keeps me from you. Amen

Blessings,

Gary