

## 1 Samuel 22 God's School of Brokenness, pt. 3

Good morning and thank you for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to 1 Samuel 22?

We've now seen David lose his job, lose his position in the king's court, lose his family, lose his home, and lose his wife as a result of a paranoid king Saul who methodically and meticulously tries to hunt down David. Last week we finished our study of chapter 21 and we witnessed David go to Goliath's hometown of Gath, and fake insanity to try and protect his life.

I know this isn't exactly a cheerful section of scripture, you won't find any hallmark cards quoting these verses. But we must study these chapters because they are overflowing with practical lessons God desires to show us about not just enduring difficulty, but growing through our struggles and challenges as God shapes us and conforms us into His image.

We're going to study both chapters 22-23, and the title of this morning's message is God's School of Brokenness, pt. 3

Let's pray

**1 David therefore departed from there and escaped to the cave of Adullam. So when his brothers and all his father's house heard it, they went down there to him.** The cave of Adullam was a stronghold in the Valley of Elah. It was near the site where David slew Goliath.

A cave is not an easy place to live in. It's lonely, it's dark and discouraging. But Psalms 57 and 142, written while David was in the cave at Adullam, show a deep work going on in his soul...

Our desire is to be comfortable—but God knows that our souls don't grow in times of ease **Romans 5:3 3 And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces**

perseverance; 4 and perseverance, character; and character, hope.

And because God knows this, He puts us in places where His work can be done, and where His Word takes root.

If you're in a cave today, take heart because God does deep work in hard places.

2 And everyone who was in distress, everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented gathered to him. So he became captain over them. And there were about four hundred men with him. What a motley crew David attracts! He's joined by a bunch of misfits - the distressed - the debtors - the discontented. If we didn't know any better, this group could be called Calvary Chapel!

Yet shockingly, this group will eventually become David's mighty men, an elite fighting unit.

As we saw last week, David certainly had his flaws. Yet more is written of David than any other man in Scripture because he was a man after God's heart—a man who pursued God. And as these four hundred men spent time with David a transformation began. Over time, they'll become like David.

Like David's men, we too are a bunch of misfits. But the more we hang around the Son of David, Jesus Christ, an amazing thing happens: we become more like Him **2 Corinthians 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.**

The key to Christlike-ness is to hang around Jesus constantly. Choose to make Jesus your identity and your passion and slowly but surely, you'll see remarkable changes by our King.

3 Then David went from there to Mizpah of Moab; and he said to the king of Moab, "Please let my father and mother come here with you, till I know what God will do for me." " David is seeking safety and refuge for his family because he was worried Saul might harm his family to get to him. Hey if Saul could try and kill his own son Jonathan, of course David's family is at risk!

David hopes Moab will provide his family political asylum. Why this place, why Moab? Remember David had Moabite blood. His great-grandma, Ruth, was from Moab.

4-5

4 So he brought them before the king of Moab, and they dwelt with him all the time that David was in the stronghold.

5 Now the prophet Gad said to David, "Do not stay in the stronghold; depart, and go to the land of Judah." So David departed and went into the forest of Hereth. David is instructed to leave his safe place in the wilderness and get back to Judah.

**SHOW PIC** You know what's happening here-David's like the little bird kicked out of the safety of the nest! **CLOSE PIC**

We'll see a similar situation later with Elijah when he's in the safety of a cave, and God commands him to leave and go out.

When the battles become brutal, and there appears to be no end in sight, our usual reaction is to lay down our weapons and seek the safety of refuge. And in His grace and mercy, God is faithful to give us rest and reprieves in battle. But He always directs us after a time to go out in faith and fight.

6-7

6 When Saul heard that David and the men who were with him had been discovered—now Saul was staying in Gibeah under a tamarisk tree in Ramah, with his spear in his hand, and all his

servants standing about him— 7 then Saul said to his servants who stood about him, “Hear now, you Benjamites! Will the son of Jesse give every one of you fields and vineyards, and make you all captains of thousands and captains of hundreds? Saul’s saying “I’m the king – not David. I have the ability to give you power and treasure, not David!” Saul’s paranoia intensifies...

8 All of you have conspired against me, and there is no one who reveals to me that my son has made a covenant with the son of Jesse; and there is not one of you who is sorry for me or reveals to me that my son has stirred up my servant against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day.” Saul is enraged, he feels that his son Jonathan has betrayed him, and that everyone has conspired against him.

And now that shadowy figure we talked about last week makes an unfortunate appearance.

9 Then answered Doeg the Edomite, who was set over the servants of Saul, and said, “I saw the son of Jesse going to Nob, to Ahimelech the son of Ahitub. 10 And he inquired of the LORD for him, gave him provisions, and gave him the sword of Goliath the Philistine.” We saw this event unfold last week. Remember David went out to the priest Ahimelech, and he gave David some of the showbread. We learned Doeg was observing all those events, and now Doeg rats out Ahimelech the priest for helping David.

11-14

11 So the king sent to call Ahimelech the priest, the son of Ahitub, and all his father’s house, the priests who were in Nob. And they all came to the king. 12 And Saul said, “Hear now, son of Ahitub!” He answered, “Here I am, my lord.”

13 Then Saul said to him, “Why have you conspired against me, you and the son of Jesse, in that you have given him bread and a sword, and have inquired of God for him, that he should rise against me, to lie in wait, as it is this day?”

14 So Ahimelech answered the king and said, “And who among all your servants is as faithful as David, who is the king’s son-in-law, who goes at your bidding, and is honorable in your house? In other words, I thought David was an ally of yours!

15 Did I then begin to inquire of God for him? Far be it from me! Let not the king impute anything to his servant, or to any in the house of my father. For your servant knew nothing of all this, little or much.” Remember, David lied—he told Ahimelech he was on a mission for the king, not that Saul was seeking his life.

16-17

16 And the king said, “You shall surely die, Ahimelech, you and all your father’s house!” 17 Then the king said to the guards who stood about him, “Turn and kill the priests of the LORD, because their hand also is with David, and because they knew when he fled and did not tell it to me.” But the servants of the king would not lift their hands to strike the priests of the LORD.” Again Saul issues a rash order...he demands his servants murder the priests, but his servants don’t move a muscle. Evidently, they knew how wrong this was.

18 And the king said to Doeg, “You turn and kill the priests!” So Doeg the Edomite turned and struck the priests, and killed on that day eighty-five men who wore a linen ephod. Doeg was the only one evil enough to murder the priests. He does Saul’s dirty work individually slaughtering 85 priests. But that’s not all...

19 Also Nob, the city of the priests, he struck with the edge of the sword, both men and women, children and nursing infants, oxen

and donkeys and sheep—with the edge of the sword. Doeg carries out Saul's bloodthirsty wishes and commits genocide. He executes the inhabitants of this priestly city, showing no mercy to even the littlest of victims. We cannot fathom the horrendousness of this scene.

20-22

20 Now one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped and fled after David. 21 And Abiathar told David that Saul had killed the LORD's priests. 22 So David said to Abiathar, "I knew that day, when Doeg the Edomite was there, that he would surely tell Saul. I have caused the death of all the persons of your father's house. Here's the mark of a true leader, and a man after God's heart. Notice David's tender heart. He could've blamed Saul's rage or Doeg's diabolical self-seeking for this disaster.

David's first impulse was to search his own heart – rather than blame someone else. He took accountability for his actions.

BTW, back in chapter 2 we saw the prophecy against the household of Eli. God used David's poor choices as the instrument for the fulfillment of that prophecy here.

David promises the lone survivor Abiathar...

23 Stay with me; do not fear. For he who seeks my life seeks your life, but with me you shall be safe." Now there's a cool picture here that's being painted of Jesus. David is king, but he's yet to take the throne. In the meantime, David's gathering up society's rejects - and his followers are subjects of persecution. Saul, the usurper sits on the throne, and vents his rage on David's merry men.

And it's all a picture of Jesus. Though Jesus is King, Satan currently sits on the throne of the earth. **Luke 4:5 Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. 6 And the devil said to Him, "All this authority I will give You, and their glory; for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish."**

Like Saul, Satan is a usurper, and he persecutes Jesus and His followers.

But one day, King Jesus will take the throne, and rule over the earth. Satan will be judged, and the followers of Jesus will reign and rule with Him. What a day that will be!!

Imagine the grief David carried because of his lies to the priest, knowing full well he bore the guilt of their deaths because of his deception.

Chapter 23 PS 54, 27, 31

**1 Then they told David, saying, "Look, the Philistines are fighting against Keilah, and they are robbing the threshing floors."**

It was harvest time and Philistines raiders were stealing grain. It's hard for us to imagine how difficult this was for the victims.

See when you steal the grain at the end of a harvest, it steals all the people's food, which results in starvation, plummeting the city into utter chaos. This is a huge deal.

And whose job was it to defend Keilah, and all Israeli territory? King Saul, of course.

But Saul was too busy fighting his friends – and killing his own priests – and plotting to catch David – to do his job. Saul was so self-centered and determined to protect his own position he lost sight of the real enemy.

Tragically, this can even happen to devoted followers of Christ. A new church pops up in town, or a new home fellowship springs up, or a freshly formed ministry group becomes popular.

Suddenly we can feel threatened, and jealousy starts to tip-toe into our hearts, often times undetected. And then we circle the wagons and we build up walls, trying to protect what was never ours in the first place. And without realizing it, our focus shifts from fighting the devil and building God's kingdom, to picking apart a fellow soldier of Christ.

Hey without realizing it we can be throwing spears @ David while the Philistines march against us. Sounds a lot like King Saul.

No battle is ever won when we forget who it is we're supposed to fight.

So David hears of this attack from the Philistines...

**2 Therefore David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I go and attack these Philistines?"**

**And the LORD said to David, "Go and attack the Philistines, and save Keilah."** Notice David's not bitter towards God! He's not saying I lost my house and my wife and I'm homeless, no money, and God I'm done following you. He asks for God's direction.

**3 But David's men said to him, "Look, we are afraid here in Judah. How much more then if we go to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?"** Remember, David is a fugitive, he's hiding from King Saul. David's men are afraid if they go and attack the Philistines they'll blow their cover and draw attention to their location. Not only that there's only 400 of them to go to battle against the Philistines!



4 Then David inquired of the LORD once again. Pause here...David didn't say 'hey I was the one anointed with oil, you listen to me'. No in humility he asks God again.

...4 And the LORD answered him and said, "Arise, go down to Keilah. For I will deliver the Philistines into your hand." David was such a different leader than Saul. Saul murdered God's priests, David seeks God's will...

5-8

5 And David and his men went to Keilah and fought with the Philistines, struck them with a mighty blow, and took away their livestock. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

6 Now it happened, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David at Keilah, that he went down with an ephod in his hand.

7 And Saul was told that David had gone to Keilah. So Saul said, "God has delivered him into my hand, for he has shut himself in by entering a town that has gates and bars." 8 Then Saul called all the people together for war, to go down to Keilah to besiege David and his men. Obviously, God didn't deliver David to Saul. Saul is completely self-deceived and declares the circumstances are the Lord's doing.

9 When David knew that Saul plotted evil against him, he said to Abiathar the priest, "Bring the ephod here." Now we studied in Exodus 28 how God manifested His will through the Urim and Thummim in the priestly breast piece on his ephod...

Here David is looking for confirmation of God's will.

Of course we don't have this today because we have the HS who guides and directs our paths.

10-12

10 Then David said, “O LORD God of Israel, Your servant has certainly heard that Saul seeks to come to Keilah to destroy the city for my sake. 11 Will the men of Keilah deliver me into his hand? Will Saul come down, as Your servant has heard? O LORD God of Israel, I pray, tell Your servant.”

And the LORD said, “He will come down.”

12 Then David said, “Will the men of Keilah deliver me and my men into the hand of Saul?”

And the LORD said, “They will deliver you.” Remember what just happened. David and his men just SAVED the city of Keilah. David put his own life in jeopardy to save their lives, and this is how they repay him-they’re gonna rat him out to Saul? This reveals how fearful the people were of Saul, who had recently destroyed another town, Nob, for harboring David.

The residents of Keilah are gonna stab David in the back.

Hey you wanna serve the Lord, get ready to have your back used like a pin cushion sometimes.

David, in God’s school of brokenness is learning a lesson. He’s being raised up to fight the battles of the Lord, not the battles of David. How we all need to learn this lesson!

13 So David and his men, about six hundred, arose and departed from Keilah and went wherever they could go. Then it was told Saul that David had escaped from Keilah; so he halted the expedition. 14 And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand. 15 So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.[fn] we cannot fathom the exhaustion-physically, emotionally, spiritually. The

things David's wrestling with... 'God you chose me to be the next king, and this is the thanks I get for following your will?'

16 Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God. David needs some encouragement – and it arrives in the form of an old friend, Jonathan. Notice the wording... Jonathan “strengthened his hand in God.” He rallied David's faith.

Notice how God was protecting David. Jonathan could find David, but Saul and his intelligence experts couldn't locate him.

Their brief time of fellowship refocused David on God's faithfulness and His unfailing promises.

17-18

17 And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.” 18 So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house. This is the last meeting of these best friends. The next time we see Jonathan his head is cut off, and his body is hanging on a wall in Baashan.

19 Then the Ziphites came up to Saul at Gibeah, saying, “Is David not hiding with us in strongholds in the woods, in the hill of Hachilah, which is on the south of Jeshimon? 20 Now therefore, O king, come down according to all the desire of your soul to come down; and our part shall be to deliver him into the king's hand.” Ziphites are from tribe of Judah-David's own tribe. And they quickly sell out David.

You can expect the Ziphites to show up after the Jonathan's. God gives us refreshment, encouragement, and then comes along those who oppose us.

The next time someone betrays you, or stabs you in the back, or gossips or slanders you, realize the Lord's allowed it as part of the shaping.

STORY?

21 And Saul said, "Blessed are you of the LORD, for you have compassion on me. Saul's out of his mind, complete hypocrisy

22-26

22 Please go and find out for sure, and see the place where his hideout is, and who has seen him there. For I am told he is very crafty. 23 See therefore, and take knowledge of all the lurking places where he hides; and come back to me with certainty, and I will go with you. And it shall be, if he is in the land, that I will search for him throughout all the clans<sup>[fn]</sup> of Judah." 24 So they arose and went to Ziph before Saul. But David and his men were in the Wilderness of Maon, in the plain on the south of Jeshimon. 25 When Saul and his men went to seek him, they told David. Therefore he went down to the rock, and stayed in the Wilderness of Maon. And when Saul heard that, he pursued David in the Wilderness of Maon. All these places mentioned belong to what Israelis today call the "Negev" – which is Hebrew for "south". I

Both then and now, the temperature in the Negev can soar - upwards of 120 degrees. Psalm 63 is prefaced, "A Psalm of David when he was in the wilderness of Judah." It was probably written on a hot day in the Wilderness of Maon.

26 Then Saul went on one side of the mountain, and David and his men on the other side of the mountain. So David made haste to get away from Saul, for Saul and his men were encircling David and his men to take them. This looks like it's it- David is surrounded – when God comes to the rescue by moving a pawn on His chessboard.

27 But a messenger came to Saul, saying, "Hurry and come, for the Philistines have invaded the land!" 28 Therefore Saul returned from pursuing David, and went against the Philistines; so they called that place the Rock of Escape.[fn] Psalm 54 is prefaced, "A contemplation of David when the Ziphites went and said to Saul, "Is David Not Hiding with Us?"

29 Then David went up from there and dwelt in strongholds at En Gedi. When we tour Israel we always visit En Gedi. **SHOW PIC** Today it's a nature reserve on the western shore of the Dead Sea. It's an oasis in the midst of the desert. En Gedi is a beautiful place-fresh water, palm trees, waterfalls, and abundant wildlife. **CLOSE PIC**

There are numerous caves all over the cliffs above En Gedi. They were perfect shelter from the heat, and wind, and rain. And they even provided shelter from Saul, as we'll see the drama unfold of David and Saul meeting face to face next week.

In God's school of brokenness, despite what our circumstances appear, our Lord is faithful to us.

God delivered David by bringing information to his ears that David needed to protect himself. God also delivered David by distracting Saul.

God answered David's prayers, and brought other godly people to encourage David- Abiathar the priest, who helped him in prayer and Jonathan the prince, who reminded him of God's promises.

This is why staying and fellowshiping and eating is so important. You're not alone!