

People of Whom “The World Was Not Worthy”

“Wall of Honor” at Cru’s Lake Hart Campus

Hebrews 11:35-38 “Women received back their dead by resurrection. Some were tortured, refusing to accept release, so that they might rise again to a better life. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were killed with the sword. They went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, afflicted, mistreated— <sup>38</sup> **of whom the world was not worthy**—wandering about in deserts and mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.”

*The sources of inevitable danger in our lives*

- Our own sin – our own moral failures often bring destruction into our lives
- The fallen world – natural disaster, disease, old age, etc.
- Injustice and oppression – ungodly people in positions of power mistreat the powerless

Context: David is running for his life from evil king Saul.  
 Big Idea: When we are in danger, we should run to the presence of God

**The Presence of God is a Refuge**

What is God’s protection?

God’s protection is the assurance of being *aligned* with his purposes... then you know, no matter what happens, that God is with you and will make all things right, either now or later.

Is Saul also among the prophets? (remembering 1 Sam. 10)

1 Samuel 10	1 Samuel 19
The Spirit comes on Saul to enable him to protect God’s people from their enemies	The Spirit comes on Saul to protect God’s people from Saul himself!
Saul’s enemies are the Philistines	Saul’s enemies are the prophets and David
The prophesying is evidence of God’s Spirit on Saul	The prophesying is evidence of God’s Spirit on David
Saul becomes king	Saul’s kingly garments are torn off
Saul is honored and praised	Saul is naked and ashamed
1 Sam 10:12 “Is Saul also among the prophets?”	1 Sam 19:24 “Is Saul also among the prophets?”

*Saul, who seems to have all the power, authority, and prestige is opposed to God and is being stripped of his kingdom, humiliated, and is in much greater danger. David, who seems to have lost everything and is on the run, is aligned with God and will thus receive the kingdom, honor, and is actually in no danger at all.*

*Being aligned with God results in peace, security, comfort, guidance, assurance, hope, grace, mercy, and contentment.*

Learning from Corrie Ten Boom

Corrie Ten Boom: “The safest place to be is in the center of God’s will.”

“Corrie’s 84-year-old father died soon after in prison. Corrie and her sister Betsie ended up in a concentration camp. Later that year, Corrie watched her beloved sister die with these words on her lips, ‘There is no pit so deep that He [God] is not deeper still.’

When I moved with my family into a Cambodian slum to live among the urban poor, I soon came face to face with that very hard truth that Corrie and her devout family must have grappled with: Obedience to God’s calling doesn’t earn a Christian any kind of magical protection.” – Craig Greenfield

**The Presence of God is a Refreshment**

Saul’s behavior changes in the presence of God.

*David’s lyre drives out the harmful spirit (1 Sam 16:23)*

*Jonathan’s exhortation gives moral clarity to Saul (1 Sam 19:4-6)*

*The Spirit of God restrains his murderous rage (1 Sam 19:23)*

What is this prophesying, anyway?

What is prophesying?

Did Saul and the messengers lose control? (1 Corinthians 14:32, Galatians 5:22)

What were they saying?

A warning! The use of powerful spiritual gifts in no way is evidence of a person’s true spirituality.

They experience God’s presence in a “company” of prophets.

*The normal way for people to experience God is in the community of God’s people*

**Questions for Study and Reflection**

1. Where do you go in times of danger?
2. How is God a refuge for believers? What does that mean and not mean?
3. How is God’s presence experienced in community?
4. Why are gifts not evidence of a person’s spirituality? Who are gifts for?