

Sermon Notes: 1 Samuel 22 & 24

1. Don't despise the cave
2. Look around in the cave
3. Beware of shortcuts in the cave
4. Worship in the cave

"There are no crown-wearers in heaven who were not cross-bearers here below." Charles Spurgeon

"The way to heaven is a rough road. There are no gains without pains. The cross must be carried before the crown can be worn." JC Ryle

"Everyone has noticed how hard it is to turn our thoughts to God when everything is going well with us. We 'have all we want' is a terrible saying when 'all' does not include God. We find God an interruption. As St. Augustine says somewhere 'God wants to give us something, but cannot, because our hands are full—there's nowhere for Him to put it.' Now God, who has made us, knows what we are and that our happiness lies in Him. Yet we will not seek it in Him as long as He leaves us any other resort where it can even plausibly be looked for. What then can God do in our interests but make 'our own life' less agreeable to us, and take away the plausible sources of false happiness? It is just here, where God's providence seems at first to be most cruel, that the Divine humility, the stooping down of the Highest, most deserves praise." CS Lewis

Often your greatest ministry comes from greatest pain.

"It is doubtful whether God can bless a man greatly until He has hurt him deeply." AW Tozer

"Patience with God means refusing to get ahead of Him, even when His promises feel delayed." Tim Keller

"Lament is a prayer in pain that leads to trust. It is not the opposite of faith; it is faith looking for understanding." The lament Psalms typically look like this: 1) turning to God in prayer, 2) bringing our complaints, 3) asking boldly, and 4) choosing to trust (or praise). Mark Vroegop

"I believe truly that Satan cannot endure praise and so slips out of the room more or less when there is a true song." Amy Carmichael

"Next after theology I give to music the highest place and the greatest honor. Experience proves that next to the Word of God only music deserves to be extolled as the governess of the feelings of the human heart." Martin Luther