

“Lessons from the Life of David” – Pastor Jim Ruddy

Study # 9 – THE CHURCH AT ADULLAM 1 Samuel 22:1-5

I. THE OPPRESSION OF DAVID BY KING SAUL

A. DAVID RUNS FROM SAUL 1 Sam. 19:8 - 21:15

1. HIS DISPOSITION AT GIBEAH 19:8-10

- David feared Saul and fled from his presence and from the palace.
- cf. 1 Sam. 10:26; 15:34; 19:10,18; 20:3; 23:19

2. HIS DECEPTION AT NOB 21:1-9

- David fled to the priestly city of Nob where he lied to Ahimelech, eventually resulting in the death of the High Priest and his family, along with the inhabitants of the City. cf. 1 Sam. 22:11-22

3. HIS TRANSFORMATION AT GATH 21:10-15

- David feigns madness before the Philistines at Gath.

B. DAVID RESTS IN GOD 1 Sam. 22:1-23

1. HIS RECOVERY 22:1a

- David escaped to Adullam where he recaptured his faith and re-centered his life in God. From this point forward, it is never again mentioned that David feared fled or ran from Saul.

2. HIS DISCOVERY

a) The Coming of a People 22:1b-4

- v1b - David's family, who are obviously under threat from King Saul, come to seek refuge at Adullam.
- v2 - A host of disenfranchised Israelites rally to David and form the nucleus of what will eventually become his "mighty men."
- cf. 1 Chr. 11; 2 Sam. 23:8-39
- v3-4 - David travels to Moab, the region of his ancestors, and secures refuge for his parents. cf. Ruth 4:10-22

b) The Calling of a Prophet 22:5

- David receives direction from the Prophet Gad.
- cf. 2 Sam. 24:10-14, 18-19; 1 Chr. 29:29; 2 Chr. 29:25

c) The Caring of a Priest 22:20-23

- Abiathar, the priest-elect, joins forces with David and becomes a fellow-fugitive from a renegade King Saul.
- cf. 1 Sam. 23:6-11; 30:7,8; 2 Sam. 15:24-36; 20:25

II. THE PREPARATION OF DAVID BY THE LORD

A. FROM THE PALACE TO THE PIT

- David's faith is formed in desperation and affliction.
- cf. Ps. 142:1-3; 119:67, 71, 75, 92, 107, 153; 34:19

B. FROM POPULARITY TO OBSCURITY

- David's faith is forged through isolation and rejection.
- cf. Ps. 142:1-3; 57:6

III. THE COMPARISON TO CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH

A. THE SUPERIORITY OF OUR CAPTAIN

- *“he became captain over them!”* v2 - i.e. “commander” “prince”
- *“as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.”* Josh. 5:14
- *“Him God has God exalted... to be Prince and Savior...”* Acts 5:31
- Our Jesus, who also experienced isolation and rejection, desperation and affliction, has become our commander, leader, pioneer, and prince. He is the author of the new life which we His followers now share with Him. cf. Heb. 2:10; 12:2

B. THE POVERTY OF OUR COMPANY

- *“For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.”* 1 Cor. 1:26-31

1. EVERYONE WHO WAS IN DISTRESS

- *“distress”* = Lit. “straits,” “distress,” “stress,” or “anguish.”
- Denotes the anguish of soul created when an enemy besieges a people. cf. Deut. 28:45-57; Is. 51:13
- Saul placed Israel in continual distress, as he ordered them to do evil. cf. 1 Sam. 14:24-45; 22:16-17
- God will use the tight places of life to draw many to the Captain of their salvation! cf. Luke 15:17-24

2. EVERYONE WHO WAS IN DEBT

- *“in debt”* - Literally! cf. 2 Kings 4:1-7; Prov. 22:26,27
- Denotes the heartless actions of a creditor exacting payment (+ usury) for a loan! (*“bite”* = similar in the Hebrew).
- Saul was burdening the people through heavy taxation, as prophesied by Samuel. cf. 1 Sam. 8:10-18; Neh. 5:7
- God longs to draw those who have “nothing to pay” into the fullness of His free salvation. cf. Mt. 18:23-27; Rom. 3:24

3. EVERYONE WHO WAS DISCONTENTED

- *“discontented”* = Lit. “bitter-souled”
- Denotes the emotional response to destructive, heart-crushing situations. cf. Gen. 27:34; 1 Sam. 1:10; Esth. 4:1
- Saul’s reign had invited the cruel mistreatment of others, which resulted in great disappointment and dissatisfaction.
- God desires to draw those who have been ill-treated in life to the cross, by which He alone can heal the bitter places of life!
 - cf. Ex. 15:22-26; Is. 38:9-20
- God delights in calling “no-bodies” to be “some-bodies” in His Kingdom, that He alone might receive the glory! cf. Eph. 2:1-9
- This rag-tag group of malcontents will, along with David, be shaped by God to become the governmental force in the Land.
 - cf. 2 Sam. 23:8-39