

WHEN LIFE GETS BROKEN!

(DAVID'S CAVE; CAUGHT IN A CAVE;
WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS, MAKE LEMONADE)
Ocala, FL – 1992; Crystal River, FL – July 2012;
Ft. McCoy, FL – January 2013

Please turn to **I Samuel 22**, which is our study text,
and also be ready to read with me from **Psalm 142**.

PRAY!

Today, we take a look at one event in the life of David.

At this precise moment in history,
King Saul is still in power;
but he is a madman,
given to bouts of intense depression.
He hates David and is intent on
finding him and killing him.

In a downward swirl of circumstances,
David has lost his job,
his wife,
his home,
his counselor,
his closest friend,
and finally his self-respect.

And we find David
in **I Samuel 22:1**, running for his life.
**“David departed ... and escaped to the
Cave of Adullam ...”**

This was the lowest moment of David's life to date.
He had no security,
no food,
no one to talk to,
no promise to cling to,
and no hope that anything would ever change.

He was alone in a dark cave,
away from everything
and everybody he loved –

EVERYBODY, THAT IS EXCEPT GOD!

If you want to know how he really felt,
he wrote it all down in –

Psalm 142 LB

**“How I plead with God, how I implore His mercy,
pouring out my troubles before him.
For I am overwhelmed and desperate,
and you alone know which way I ought to turn
to miss the traps my enemies have set for me.
(There's one – just over there to the right!)
No one gives me a passing thought.
No one will help me;
no one cares a bit what happens to me.
Then I prayed to Jehovah,
'Lord,' I pled, 'you are my only place of refuge.
Only you can keep me safe.
Hear my cry, for I am very low.**

**Rescue me from my persecutors,
for they are too strong for me.
Bring me out of prison, so that I can thank you.
The godly will rejoice with me for all your help.”**

Can you feel –
the loneliness of that desolate spot?
David’s despair?
the depths to which his life has sunk?

**THERE IS NO ESCAPE!
THERE IS NOTHING LEFT!**

This is a perfect place for

1. a pity party!
2. a “why me” wail!
3. an “I’m forsaken, forgotten, & finished” lament!
4. or a “gloom, despair, & misery on me” song!

YET, David has not lost sight of God!
Even in this place of isolation,
he cries out for the Lord to deliver him!

Because WE know the beginning and the ending
of this story,
we know that
David is in this cave by divine appointment!

He has been brought to a place
where God can truly begin to shape him
and to use him!

***** PERSONAL:**

It will do us well to remember this:

When the sovereign God
brings us to a place of isolation,
it is to re-route our lives –
NOT TO END THEM!

**HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOUR LIFE & mine!
& He's trying to get us back on track!**

God says, "It's true, you're in a cave;
but this is not the end!
IT CAN BE THE BEGINNING of something better!"

*** * * BACK TO DAVID:.**

At this time in his life, except for God,
he has been absolutely alone;
but now he has –
COMPANY IN THE CAVE!

I Samuel 22:1

**"When his brothers and all his father's household
heard of it (David's escape to the cave), they went down
to him."**

Now, it hasn't been all that long
since David's family didn't pay any attention to him.

His own father
had almost forgotten he existed
when Samuel came to the house
looking for a candidate for kingship.

And his brothers
had made fun of him
prior to the battle with Goliath.

But here he is, broken, crushed in spirit –
and who shows up but
those same brothers,
and his father,
along with the entire household.

*** * * PERSONAL:**

HAVEN'T THERE BEEN TIMES IN YOUR LIFE
WHEN YOU DIDN'T WANT ANYBODY AROUND?

YOU WERE MISERABLE,
AND YOU WANTED TO BE ALONE
IN YOUR MISERY?

*** * * BACK TO DAVID**

Well, I think that's how David felt;
but God sent
the entire family to him anyway.

They all crawled
right into that cave with him!

AND THEY WEREN'T THE ONLY ONES!!!!

I Samuel 22:2

“And everyone who was in distress, and everyone who was in debt, and everyone who was discontented, gathered to him; and he became captain over them. Now there were about 400 men w/him.”

WHAT A GROUP!

1. “Everyone who was in distress” came.

From the Hebrew word *zūk* meaning
in distress,
under pressure,
under stress.

So here came hundreds of stressed out people!

2. “Everyone who was in debt” made their way there.

From the Hebrew word *nashah* meaning
to lend on interest,
to have a number of creditors

So these were people who couldn't pay their bills!

3. Here came “everyone who was discontented.”

From the Hebrew *maar nephesh* meaning
to be in bitterness of soul
to have been wronged, mistreated & abused.

Yes, that group came, too!

Think about it –
here David is in a cave,
his life totally broken
and
BEFORE HE CAN SPIT,
his brothers show up,
then his father, then the entire household –
and before he can find a place
for THEM to sit down,
strangers of all sorts – 400 of them –
begin to drop in!

They were Saul’s outcasts &
society’s rejects!

AND, they’re looking to HIM
to lead THEM out of their misery!

Friend, it’s bad enough to be in that cave alone,
feeling like a worm;
but to have 400 more worms
crawl in there with you!
WHAT A MESS!!

BUT, LOOK OUT!
GOD'S UP TO SOMETHING BIG!

THE DEVIL MEANT IT FOR EVIL!
GOD IS ABOUT TO SHOW UP AND SHOW OUT!

SURE AS YOU'RE ALIVE,
HE'S GONNA TURN THIS THING AROUND!

'Cause, all of a sudden,
that smelly, dark cave
becomes a place of training
for those who would be the beginning
of an army that called –

DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR!

That's right!
This motley crew,
these rejects from society,
this bunch of mavericks,
these –
 in debt,
 out of work,
 abused,
 stressed-to-the-max people
 would become his mighty men in battle;

He literally turned their lives around
and built into them
 order, discipline,
 character, and direction!

DAVID WAS BEATEN ALL THE WAY DOWN
UNTIL THERE WAS NO WAY
TO LOOK BUT UP!

AND WHEN HE DID LOOK UP –
GOD WAS THERE!

What a turning point in David's life,
when he made the crucial decision
not to walk away.

He was in a dark and lonely place.
He saw no way out.

He saw no hope that things would ever be different;
but he decided he would not run,
he would wait
and see what God would do.

He put his trust and faith in the One
who could not fail.

*** * * PERSONAL:**

My friend,
you've been thinking about walking away
from everything –
your home,
your job,
your family,

your life!
your church!

You've been toying with the idea of ending it all!
This last trial
took your breath away
and even stole your last dream.

Please,
take a lesson from David
and wait on the Lord.
Give God a chance to turn it all around.
He still has the power to make it work out
for your good
and His glory!

*** * * BACK TO DAVID:**

Look at David here in the Cave of Adullam!
Who would have ever guessed
that the next king of Israel
was training his troops in a dark cave,
where nobody saw and nobody cared.

Yet, NONE OF THIS WAS AN ACCIDENT!
GOD HAD A PLAN!

*** * * LET'S GET PERSONAL:**

& HE HAS A PLAN FOR YOU!

His Word declares it in

Jeremiah 29:11

**“I know the plans I have for you,
plans to prosper you and not harm you,
plans to give you hope and a future.”**

Oh, it looks dark today, but

“Wait on the Lord!

**Be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart.
Wait I say on the Lord!”**

In Psalm 142, David had said:

**“I’m in the cave; I’m at the end;
There’s no one on the right hand or left.
I have no one who cares.”**

But now, he cries out his

DECLARATION OF DEPENDANCE ON GOD!

And that’s what God has been waiting on!

***** LET’S GET PERSONAL:**

- 1 You’ve been handling your problems the macho way.
- 2 shadow boxing with your demons.
- 3 facing the darkness of your trial
with adrenaline and nerves.

Tell me: How are things going this morning?

You might say,

“My life is broken,
and all the king’s horses
and all the king’s men
can never put it back together again”
HEAR ME!!

GOD CAN!!

Isn’t it about time you cried out
your unhappiness and anger to HIM,
and turned
you,
your problems
and your future over to the One who is more than enough?

**“He can do exceeding, abundantly, above
all you can think or ask!!”**

*** * * BACK TO DAVID:**

Take a page out of David’s life,
‘cause that’s what he did!
And when he saw this 400 men marching in step,
using the sword,
and spear
and bow with skill,
he says to them:

Psalm 34 –

**“O magnify the Lord with me,
let us exalt His Name together.
I have sought the Lord, and He answered me,**

and delivered me from all my fears.

- 1. TO THE DISTRESSED AMONG THE GROUP:**
**“O taste and see that the Lord is good;
how blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him!”**
- 2. TO THOSE IN DEBT:**
**“O fear the Lord, you His saints;
for to those who fear Him, there is no want.”**
- 3. TO THE DISCONTENTED:**
**“The young lions do lack and suffer hunger;
but they who seek the Lord
shall not be in want of any good thing.”**

& DAVID’S FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT:
comes to all of us today!

**“Many are the afflictions of the righteous
(dark and lonely are the caves of the righteous);
but the Lord delivers him out of them all.”**

WHAT CHANGED DAVID’S ATTITUDE?

*He got desperate enough to admit His need!
He was honest enough to cry for help!
He was humble enough to wait on God.*

*** * * LET’S GET PERSONAL:**

PERSONAL QUESTIONS:

Do you feel like you're a cave dweller today?

..... your life is broken beyond repair?

..... you're isolated and alone?

..... you're cut off from friends & family?

Do YOU need a refuge?

..... a place to hide and heal?

..... encouragement?

..... a timely word from the Lord?

..... a confidante?

When David finally said,

“In Thee, O Lord, I have taken refuge.”

His life turned around;

& so will yours!

Simply say:

“O.K. God, I'm in a cave.

My life is totally broken; and

I don't know what to do,

or where to turn –

except to You.

Show me how to turn this trial

into a marvelous victory!”

**& when you reach this place
of utter dependence on God,**

you will find David's refuge.

The One he called,

1. MY STRENGTH,
2. MY MIGHTY ROCK,
3. MY FORTRESS,
4. MY STRONGHOLD,
5. MY HIGH TOWER,

6. DELIVERER,
7. SHIELD
8. LAMP,
9. LIGHT,
10. FRIEND

IMPORTANT:

LISTEN!

**YOU HAVEN'T BEEN FORSAKEN OR
FORGOTTEN!!**

You thought He had forgotten you,
but right now He's calling you by name!

The devil said you were finished;
but hell had better duck
'cause you're coming out of your cave!

You thought God wouldn't give you a second chance,
but this is your day!

You thought God wasn't hearing your prayers,
when all the time
He was listening to every whimper
and every whispered word!

YOU KNOW HIM!

HE'S THE REFUGE OF THE AGES!

HIS NAME IS JESUS!

AND HE'S AVAILABLE
TO YOU & TO ME!!

LIVE ILLUSTRATION: GOD IS!

IN YOU – I John 4:4

“Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world.”

BENEATH YOU – Deuteronomy 33:27

“The eternal God is thy refuge
and underneath are the everlasting arms.”

BEFORE YOU – Isaiah 52:12

“The Lord will go before you.”

BEHIND YOU – Isaiah 52:12

The God of Israel will be your rear guard.”

Isaiah 30:21

“You will hear a voice behind you

BESIDE YOU – Psalm 16:8

“The Lord is at my right hand

ABOVE YOU – Psalm 34:15

“The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous.”

ALL AROUND YOU – Psalm 125:2

“The Lord is round about His people from henceforth,
even forever.”

Right now!

Today!

God is able to turn your deep dark cave & your brokenness
into one of the most glorious moments of your entire life!

SONG:

“Turn your eyes upon Jesus, look full in His wonderful
face; and the things of earth will grow strangely dim, in the
light of His glory & grace.”

SONG:

“Pick up the broken pieces & bring them to the Lord;
Pick up the broken pieces, trust in His holy Word;
He’ll put them back together and make your life complete;
Just place the broken pieces at the Savior’s feet.”