

David: A Man After God's Own Heart

Questions From The Cave

Background

How you respond in the midst of discouragement?

1 Samuel 21:10-15.

"David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam" 1 Sam 22:1.

Where is the cave?

Four characteristics of discouraged people.

i. They Compromise.

"But David thought to himself, "One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand." So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath. David and his men settled in Gath with Achish." 1 Samuel 27:1-3

2. They Escape (1 Samuel 22:1)

3. They Lose Focus (1 Samuel 22.2)

- Achish, gives David and his refugees a small country town to live in, called Ziklag.
- David sent out on raids in the towns of the Geshurites, Girzites and the Amalekites (1 Sam 27.8).
- David earns favour with the king, but the other Philistine commanders are angry and disapprove (1 Samuel 29.4)
- Achish tells David to return to Ziklag (1 Samuel 29:6-8)

1 Samuel 30.

- David returns to Ziklag to find his town burned and their wives captured
- "So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep". (Vs 4)

iv. They Quit

Remedy

"but David found strength in the Lord his God" (NIV) or

"David encouraged himself in the Lord his God" (KJV)

How do you encourage yourself in the strength of the Lord?

1. Relate your discouragement to the Lord

Ps 142

2. Remember what God has done

Remember God's goodness to you in the past.

Remember God's closeness to you in the present.

Remember God's power available to you for the future.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight" (Proverbs 3:5-6)

"Never doubt in the dark what God told you in the light" (Victor Raymond Edman).

Psalm 77.

3. Resolve to take positive action

1 Sam 30:7 ... "and David enquired of the Lord".

4. Resist the temptation to take a short cut

1 Samuel 24

5. Recognize that your ultimate refuge is in the Lord