

## **Finding Safety in Christ** **1 Samuel 22**

### **Introduction:**

1. When we finished last week, David was running for his life. Notice where David ended up (vs. 1). Adullam was a city in Judah, and David fled to a cave there and took up residence.
2. But, while he was in the cave, a band of misfits began to migrate to David and they fled to him for refuge (vs. 2). They obviously knew that David had been anointed by the prophet Samuel to be the next king, and they believed in David and put their hope in him.
3. In this chapter, David and King Saul are incredible pictures for us, today:
  - David represents Christ, the anointed - yet rejected - King. Like Christ, David is willing to receive these needy people, and will transform them into mighty warriors. David provides a place of refuge for these people. vs. 23
  - Saul represents Satan. Saul uses his power to kill and destroy, just as Satan, the prince of this world, uses his power to seek to kill and destroy. Saul murders and slaughters all the priests of the Lord, convinced they are all against him.
4. Every person on this earth belongs to one of two families - either the family of Satan or the family of Jesus Christ. Notice what Jesus told a group in John 8:44.
5. This spiritual position has nothing to do with your physical surroundings. Satan's people were following wicked King Saul, but were living in a palace. God's people were following David, but were living in a cave.
6. You are in a position of either being safe in Christ or dead in your sins. Which family are you in? If you want life (eternal life, true life), you must trust and believe on Christ.
7. You may be asking, "But how do I know that Christ would even want me in His family?"
8. David is a picture of Jesus Christ, here in our text, and from this we learn several wonderful truths about Christ.

### **Christ welcomes the distressed.**

1. The word "*distressed*" carries the idea of confinement or disability. It is the picture of a person who is under incredible pressure and stress, and is about to break under the stress load. There seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel.
  - As one discouraged person said, "When you finally see that light at the end of the tunnel, don't get your hopes up; it is probably just an oncoming train!" It's just another crushing blow.
  - But David said to these distressed men, "I'll take you in, and you can be part of my band."

2. Today Jesus, likewise, welcomes those who are distressed. He said in Matthew 11:28, “*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”
3. There is a story in Matthew 8:23-27 where Jesus and His disciples are in a ship, and an incredible storm came and began to rock their boat and rock their world. The disciples were fearful and full of anxiety until they ran to Christ. Then Jesus calmed the storm.
4. Maybe you feel like you are in a storm today. The circumstances of life are rocking your world. Let me encourage you to do what these men did here in our text. Just as they fled to David, flee to Jesus Christ.
5. Once you come to Christ and believe on Him, He comes to dwell in you. The Bible says that Christ gives a peace which passes all understanding and will keep your heart and mind safe in Him. Philippians 4:7
6. Christ is called the Prince of Peace. One day, He will return to this earth as the King of this earth, and He will bring with Him peace over all the earth. But today, He is the rejected King who offers to give **individuals** peace in their personal hearts.
7. If you will believe on Christ and receive Him, He will come and live in you and be the Prince of Peace in your heart, today. Are you distressed? Christ will welcome you into His family!

#### **Christ welcomes the debtor.**

1. These were probably people who had borrowed against their property and maybe even their own freedom and had lost everything. They had nothing to bring David except themselves. All they could do was humble themselves before him.
2. Every single one of us had a debt that we owed to God that was created by our sin. The Bible says in Romans 6:23 that the “*wages of sin is death.*” This is the payment we all owed and had absolutely no way to pay it ourselves.
3. But Jesus Christ paid our sin debt when He died on the cross. You say, “But you don't know all the sins I have committed.” When you come to Jesus Christ with that heavy debt load He says to you, “I've got good news. I paid your debt on every sin. It has all been paid for.” Galatians 1:4; Colossians 2:13
4. Just like these men in our text, there is nothing you can bring to God to pay off your sin debt. He wants you to throw yourself at the mercy of the King. Believe on Christ, trust Him and what He accomplished for you on the cross.
5. These men were in debt and had no way to pay, but they found safety with David. Every one of us owed a sin debt we could not pay, but you can find safety in Christ. He will receive you if you will humble yourself before Him. Acts 16:31

#### **Christ welcomes the discontented.**

1. The word “*discontented*” carries the idea of people with a deep bitterness in their souls. They are uneasy and dissatisfied.

2. This describes so many people today. They have drunk from very well this old world has to offer, but none of it can satisfy their thirsty souls. There is still a longing deep inside of them for something that will truly satisfy.
3. Jesus met a woman in Samaria like this. She had a thirsty soul and had tried to drink from all the old wells that this world could offer. Jesus said to her... (John 4:10, 14).
  - That day she drank from Jesus' well, and for the first time knew what it was to have her soul fully satisfied.
4. Are you troubled? Are you thirsting for something real that will quench your thirst? Just like these men came to David, come to Jesus. Put your faith and trust in Him today. He will welcome you, and He will satisfy your thirsting soul.

### **In Conclusion:**

1. As I mentioned, Saul is a picture of Satan in this chapter. Saul has a deep hatred for God's anointed one, and seeks to destroy and kill. He goes on a murderous rampage, killing 75 priests of the Lord and their families.
2. But, one man managed to escape by fleeing to David (vs. 20). Notice what David tells him in verse 23. Saul wants to kill you, but you're safe with me.
3. My friend, if every one of us was left in our sins with no way out, we would all be doomed and forever in bondage to Satan and his destruction.
4. But, thank God there is a place to flee to for safety. There is a place where we can go and find mercy, grace, and forgiveness for every one of our sins. That place is Jesus Christ!
  - David is such a picture of Jesus Christ who receives sinners distressed with sin, discontented in their present state and unable to pay their debts.
5. When you place your faith and trust in Him, the Bible says that you are placed spiritually "in Christ." There is no safer place to be than in Christ. Romans 8:34, 39
6. Are you in Christ? You can be! Christ will welcome you into His family today.