

Sermon Outline

“David: Praising God in a Cave,” – Never Give Up, Part 3 1 Samuel 21:10-22:4; Psalm 57 – Joshua Harris – April 29, 2012

Introduction

We are wrapping up a three-part series called “Never Give Up.” It is a study of the low points in the lives of three of God’s most well known servants. We are looking at the moments when they wanted to give up and they felt like they couldn’t go on.

David had everything going for him. He was young, famous, handsome, a warrior, a musician and the whole nation of Israel loved him. David was a young shepherd boy who knew the favor of God. Overnight David went from being a shepherd to being anointed by the prophet Samuel as the next king of Israel. Because of King Saul’s disobedience, God rejected him as king and chose David as the new king.

Saul knew that David would replace him as king and began to be jealous and hate him for it. After Saul attempted to murder David several times, David finally fled for good. It is here in chapter 21 that David realizes that he can never go back. It is here in the cave of Adullam that it must have truly sunk in for David just how much he had lost.

Reading Recommendations: the story of David’s life in the Bible starting in 1 Samuel 16 and “David: Man of Prayer, Man of War” by Walter Chantry

TEXT: PSALM 57

1. He Comes Seeking Mercy From God (verse 1)

- a. David is honest about his trouble, but he never loses sight of his need for mercy. David comes to God as a humble sinner recognizing his need for mercy. No matter what trial or “cave” you are experiencing, never lose sight of your need for mercy. This will put your trial or “cave” in perspective.
- b. Our God is full of mercy. He gave his Son to pay for our sins. Jesus paid the penalty and bore your shame. All who believe in him find safety from God’s wrath. With David, you can say, “In you my soul takes refuge.” Sometimes it takes losing all your earthly sources of safety and security to truly know that God is our refuge. David’s soul can only find refuge in God.

2. He Comes With Confidence in God (verses 2-3)

- a. In verses 2 and 3, David reminds himself of who God is and declares his confidence in God. God has more power than every ruler of the earth and power over all things. He is GOD MOST HIGH. He is not limited. He is not weak.

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- b. David then declares, “I cry to God who fulfills his purpose for me.” David is saying, “I pray to the God who is using what I can’t understand to fulfill his purpose.” God needed to shape him and prepare him for leadership through the trials in the wilderness.
 - i. *“He makes nothing of you before he makes something of you. This is the way with David. He is to be king in Jerusalem, but he must go to the throne by way of a cave.”*
—Charles Spurgeon
- c. God uses suffering for our good. This is why James 1:2 can tell us to, “consider it pure joy when we face trials of many kinds.” God will teach us lessons in the cave that we could never learn in a palace. Don’t despise his work there. You’re not just in any cave—you’re in God’s cave, and his purpose for you is being fulfilled.

3. He Comes with Defiant Praise for God (verses 4-10)

- a. In verses 4 and 6, David is brutally honest about his situation—but that will not stop him from worshipping. In verse 7 when David says, “My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast!” it is as if he is saying, “I’m ready to worship God. I’m holding my ground. I’m not backing off! My heart is resolute! I’m going to praise you! My God has not changed! You are still worthy! I am in a cave, I’ve been battered and hurt by the sins of others, but I will not stop singing!”
- b. Paul and Silas come with defiant praise for God in Acts 16:25 by singing hymns in the Philippian jail after they had been severely flogged. Job comes with defiant praise for God after he lost his children and his wealth by saying, “The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD. (Job 1:21)”
- c. “Defiant praise” is rooted in the belief that God is mighty, and he is fulfilling his purpose even when we can’t see it. It’s refusing to measure God’s love by our circumstances. It is choosing to measure God’s love and faithfulness by the mighty Salvation he has won for us.

4. He Comes With an Overriding Zeal for God’s Glory

- a. Notice the refrain in verse 5 that is repeated in verse 11? This refrain divides the psalm into two parts—1) David crying for mercy and 2) crying to God in praise. At the end of each section we read these words: “Be exalted, O God, above the heavens! Let your glory be over all the earth!” (vs. 5 and 11)

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- b. David wants to see God universally exalted and praised! His burning desire is to make God seen, worshiped and loved in the whole earth. David has an overriding zeal and is living for something bigger than himself and his glory. He wants to see God glorified in all the earth.

- c. There is only one way to move forward from any crisis we face—to care more about God’s glory than our own comfort and name. We are here to make Jesus known and to spread his glory. A child was born in the city of David 2000 years ago —the long promised descendent of David (2 Samuel 7) who is Christ the Lord. Jesus is a greater champion than David, and his kingdom will never end. He is the fulfillment of every promise of God. In Jesus, sinners like us can find mercy and refuge. It is in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection that we find forgiveness and eternal life.

Fellowship Starters

1. Take time as a Care Group to read 1 Samuel 21:10-22:4 and Psalm 57.
2. Have you seen your need for God’s mercy? If so, what are ways that you have recognized your need and cried out to God for help?
3. David declares his confidence in God by reminding himself of who God is. What are some truths about God that build your confidence?
4. What are some promises from God’s Word that have helped you persevere in your “cave”?
5. What are some ways you as an individual can glorify God in all the earth? As a family? As a Care Group? As a local Church?
6. What things in your life promote the glory of self and rob God of his due glory? What things encourage you to want to promote and magnify the glory of God?