Lessons from the Cave

Shawn Oleinik · 1 Samuel 24:2–20

INTRODUCTION

- How do you do that whenever you are in a bad spot? Where do you go to get the strength and the fortitude that you need to get through some of those trials?
- We could have truth all around us. But if we don't firmly compress and pack that down and make it solid, when you have trials or tribulations or problems, you may wash away a little bit.
- One thing that you'll never be without is God. Doesn't matter how deep or dark the cave is, there's a light at the end of it, and it's God.

1 Never Lose That Tender Conscience

1 Samuel 24:5

- It came about afterward that David's conscience bothered him because he had cut off the edge of Saul's robe.
- He had a tender conscience because he loved God's law. He loved God's word, and he had a respect for the authority that God had given Saul.
- Never lose that tender conscience because the more you step on it, the tougher it gets, and then the further you'll go before you turn around and make a correction.
- But leave your conscience tender. Leave it there.

2 He Knew His Place and Respected Authority

1 Samuel 24:6; 1 Samuel 24:8

- Far be it from me, because of the Lord, that I'm not going to do this thing to the Lord's anointed.
- He said, My Lord the King. And then what did he do? He prostrated himself face down to the ground.
- Whatever spot you're in, it doesn't matter who you are. You're under authority in some shape, form, or fashion.
- You may as well get happy in that spot because life will go better for you if you don't kick against the goads.

3 He Didn't Seek Revenge

1 Samuel 24:4

- He didn't seek revenge. Even when God made it available to him.
- Behold, the day that the Lord said to you, I'm going to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.
- But he wouldn't do it because he recognized that Saul was God's anointed.

4 His Heart Was Proved Through His Actions

1 Samuel 24:11

- See the edge of your robe in my hand, for in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you.
- Our actions are always going to speak louder than whatever we say.
- How we respond to people, what we do in the face of adversity, and where we turn in our minds when stuff happens, that proves what's in our hearts.

5 He Lets the Lord Judge and Decide

1 Samuel 24:12; 1 Samuel 24:15

- May the Lord judge between you and me. And may the Lord avenge me on you, but my hand shall not be against you.
- So he's even letting God do the avenging. God handed him Saul, but he didn't take it.
- Do not destroy him. For who can stretch out his hand against the Lord's anointed and be without guilt?
- Abishai, don't worry about it. God's got this.

6 Root Ourselves in God's Word

Psalm 1:1–4; Luke 6:47–49

- People are going to wrong us. The only thing we can control is our reaction. And where do we go to get the strength to do that? Well, we go to God's word.
- Even in the worst of times, in the pit of despair, he continued to trust God and God's timing.
- We need to root ourselves in God's word and stand firm in this foundation of truth.
- If you don't have it solid, then when the rains come, you're gonna have some erosion. But you've got to keep packing.
- But his delight is in the law of the Lord. And in the law he meditates day and night, and he will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water.

THE CHALLENGE

How we are building upon our foundation. What are we using for that foundation? Are we using sand? Are we using something that's stable that's gonna be there? Are we using something that can withstand trouble and trials and compacting?

MY NOTES