

The Cave Dwellers of Adullum

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (From the “Crazy’s” to the Cave)

1 Samuel 21 was not a good chapter in David’s life. We see him running scared... lying... and even being rejected by his enemies because he acts like he’s crazy!

1 Samuel 22 finds David “holed-up” in a cave. (“*Adullum*” means “refuge”)

I believe the writer of Hebrews 11:38 must have had David in mind when wrote, “*they wandered in the deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth.*” Some of God’s best saints have been cave dwellers.

I **Da d CAVE** (v. 1).

A. The **PLACE** of the cave.

1. Damp... dark... depressing... and **filled with** loneliness... frustration... and anxiety.

➡ How many of you have ever felt like you were in a cave?

2. David’s life has bottomed out. David has lost practically everything, including his self-respect (21:13). He had no security... no friends... no job... no food... In short, David was “bummed.”

B. The **PROFIT** of the cave— This cave of Adullum becomes a place of renewal and ministry.

1. David has got his eyes back on the Lord here (cf. v. 3).

2. It was during this exile that David wrote Psalm 34; 57; 142. (Note esp. 57:1; 142:4-7).

3. The path towards Christian maturity will often be routed through the cave Adullam.

4. Remember, no matter what cave you may find yourself in, God is also in that cave with you.

II **Da d CRY** (Ps. 142).

- Sometimes it takes a cave to get us back on praying ground.

A. **HE Poured out** his complaint.

1. **Who do you complain to?** There is nothing wrong with having a complaint! It's just a matter of where you pour it!
2. If you do not "pour out" your complaint to God, you will "pour it on" someone else.

➡ Husband—Your wife is not the "pour on" place for your complaint. God is waiting for you to "pour out" your complaint before Him, not your spouse.

B. He was OVERWHELMED (v. 3).

1. How many times have you had a set of circumstances that were "eating you alive?"
2. Overwhelmed by pressure, problems, persecutors, pain. Not enough money... not enough time... not enough help?
 - But aren't you glad you can take it to Jesus,
 - Aren't you glad you can pour out your heart to God
 - And aren't you glad He won't gossip about you?

➡ Here is a secret of staying somewhere—You need to learn where to "pour out" your complaint and your trouble. God is strong—He can take it.

III David CONSOLATION (1 Sam. 22:1).

- David is consoled by his estranged brethren (cf. 17:28).
 - As is often the case, a trial of affliction (a sickness... disaster) will bring people who were at enmity back together.
- A. The REUNION—At the cave of Adullam God brings the whole family back together and gives David what he lost previously—a family, all reunited down in Adullam.

It should be remembered that at this point David's older brothers were still soldiers of Saul. So they have committed treason by joining David. They were now traitors and would be killed if they were caught.

- B. The APPLICATION—There are some "cave dwellers" here at BBC. In every section of this auditorium sits someone who sits in a "cave-like" situation.

- A cave of mounting financial debt... cave of marital conflict... cave of parental frustration... cave of bitter affliction... cave of physical infirmities.
- They need someone to come to their cave and console them and help them out of their cave-like experience.

IV **Da d COMPANY** (v. 2).

➡ God gave David a “ministry” in this cave. In type, the cave at Adullam is a picture of the church (Refuge Baptist Church).

- God brought to David a “rag-tag,” motley band of 400 misfits and renegades looking for some leadership.
- 400 stressed-out, discontented, rebels with empty pockets and angry creditors on their tail! (Today they would be called a bunch of “losers”).

➡ Talk about **misery loves company!** It is bad enough to feel like you’re a worm. But to have 400 other worms slither into your cave with you, that makes for a dismal scene.

- David must have thought, “You’ve got to be kidding me!”
- God was about to teach David lessons on “leadership.”

➡ When we are in a cave-like existence, the best way to help yourself out of your suffering is to minister to someone else who is suffering the same way you are.

DAVID became their “*captain*”— A TYPE OF CHRIST, as “*the captain of our salvation*” (Heb. 2:10).

- David is persecuted without a cause—Jesus was persecuted without a cause.
 - David was a King in exile awaiting the Lord’s timing. Jesus is a King in exile awaiting the time of His return.
 - The company who come to David are a picture of those who come to Christ:
- A. The **DISTRESSED** (“stressed-out”— Do you have problems you cannot solve? Have you run out of options?)
1. Most people will not come to Jesus until there is some discomfort in his life.

➡ The prodigal son went home when he was distressed. The reason many have not yet come to Christ is they are not distressed enough.

2. The Holy Spirit's conviction is meant to distress people who need to go to Jesus!
3. Many people today are trying to find a way out of their troubles and are turning to all kinds of relief—some to drugs, some to drink, and some to suicide.

B. The **DEBTED** (We are all debtors). These people had too many credit cards! They didn't have anything to give except themselves. In that day when a man in debt could lose his property and he could be sold into slavery. So they came to David.

1. Sin has made us slaves to Satan and debtors to God—We are spiritually bankrupt (Rom. 3:23). You have nothing that you could offer to pay your sin debt to God.
 - ➡ We owe a debt we cannot pay. Jesus paid the debt He did not owe for me who owed the debt I could not pay!
2. Even after you are saved you are a debtor (Rom. 1:14).

C. The **DISCONTENTED**. Empty- Discontented with King Saul (Prov. 29:2) – The circumstances and experiences of life had soured them and made them resentful.

➡ There is a restlessness within our society. People marching in the street to protest about this, that, and the other thing. There is an undercurrent of dissatisfaction / discontentment.

➡ **THE WORLD WILL DISAPPOINT YOU!** Are you looking for more than the world has to offer? **Things never bring contentment.**

➡ Those who are self-satisfied will not come to David / Jesus.

SUMMATION: Why did these come to David?

- Because they had no where else to turn.
- Because they believed in David and his cause. Do you believe in Jesus and the cause of Christ.

- Because they decided it would be better for them to be with David than to remain with Saul. Won't it be better for you to come to Jesus than to remain in the camp of Satan? You need to CHOOSE.
- Because they recognized David's right to reign over them. They submitted to David's leadership and authority. Don't you recognize Jesus' claim on your life?

➡ **How did these get to David?** They went "DOWN" to David (v. 1). The only way to get to Jesus is down. You must admit you are nothing without Him.

➡ **What happened to these 400?** They later grew to 600 (23:13) and became the greatest army in the history of Israel—DAVID'S MIGHTY MEN OF VALOR. They never lost a battle.

- They were no longer distressed.
- Their debt was canceled.
- They found real contentment in following David.

➡ The same can be yours if you will come to Jesus, and make Him your Captain.