

## SERMON OUTLINE

**SERMON TITLE:** How to Behave in a Cave

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Samuel 24:1-7

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #0822

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide this outline produced from a sermon preached by Adrian Rogers while serving as pastor of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tennessee. This outline is intended for your personal, non-commercial use.

In order to ensure our ability to be good stewards of Adrian Rogers' messages, Love Worth Finding has reserved all rights to this content.

Except for your personal, non-commercial use and except for brief quotations in printed reviews, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means –electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or any other– without the prior permission of the publisher.

Copyright ©2021 Love Worth Finding Ministries, Inc.

1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Young David was hiding from Saul.
- b) 1 Samuel 24:1-7
  - i) Saul had been told that David was in the wilderness of Engedi.
    - (1) So, Saul took three thousand men and went to find David.
  - ii) Saul went into the cave to relieve himself.
  - iii) Saul's eyes, used to the desert sun, could not see David and his men hiding in the nooks and crannies of that cave.
    - (1) They could see Saul, but Saul couldn't see them.
  - iv) While Saul was in the cave, David arose and cut off a piece of the skirt of Saul's robe without Saul's knowledge.
  - v) David refused to harm Saul, who was the Lord's anointed.
- c) David was a young warrior who had won some mighty battles.
  - i) When he was just a little boy, he slew a lion and a bear.
  - ii) He had killed the mighty Goliath.
  - iii) Later on, he led an attack against the Philistines and won that battle.
  - iv) But perhaps the greatest battle David ever won was this battle in the cave.
- d) In today's message, we will learn how God's people ought to act when they experience a situation like the one David in which found himself.
  - i) The great victory that David won in this cave was a victory over self.
    - (1) There is no greater victory than the victory over self.
    - (2) Proverbs 16:32
  - ii) Another victory very close to the victory over self is to refuse to take vengeance and revenge on one's enemy when you have the opportunity to do so.
    - (1) David won both of these victories in the cave that day.
      - (a) He won a victory over self.
      - (b) He won a victory over Saul.
        - (i) Not by killing Saul, but by letting him live.
        - (ii) Not by doing Saul evil, but by doing him good.
    - (2) Romans 12:21
      - (a) The way to kill evil is not with a dagger but with a heart full of love.

2) A GREAT PRINCIPLE

- a) A great principle motivated, captivated and controlled David that day.
  - i) What kept David from losing his song was that he understood this great principle.
  - ii) We, too, need to understand this principle if we are to have power with God and with man.
    - (1) We will never be a person after God's own heart until we understand what David understood.
- b) The principle that David understood was the principle of spiritual authority.
  - i) 1 Samuel 24:5-6

- (1) David's conscience was smitten because he had not acted with respect toward Saul.
  - (a) The average person would have justified killing Saul because he was the enemy and trying to kill David.
  - (b) But David's heart convicted him because he had cut off a piece of Saul's skirt.
- ii) 1 Samuel 26:9
  - (1) Even though Saul was not right with God and was undeserving and meant him harm, David knew that Saul was his God-given authority.
  - (2) David refused to have a rebellious spirit against his authority.
- iii) Romans 13:1-7
  - (1) The word "powers" here means "authorities."
  - (2) This passage is speaking about civil authorities and the Roman government specifically.
  - (3) This is what the New Testament says about a principle that David had discovered long ago in the Old Testament.
- c) The subjects of spiritual authority
  - i) Romans 13:1
    - (1) "Let every soul be subject..."
      - (a) This means all of us.
      - (b) We are not excluded.
- d) The source of spiritual authority
  - i) Romans 13:1
    - (1) Authority comes from God.
  - ii) The Bible says that God upholds all things with the word of His power (authority).
    - (1) Hebrews 1:3
  - iii) Matthew 28:18
    - (1) All authority literally comes from God.
  - iv) Any civil authority, spiritual authority or domestic authority has authority that roots from God.
    - (1) If we stand against that authority, we are really standing against God.
      - (a) We are not sinning against our authority, but we're sinning against God.
  - v) Romans 13:2
  - vi) When we reject those whom God has put over us, we are not rejecting that person but God Himself.
- e) The seriousness of authority
  - i) Romans 13:2
    - (1) The word "damnation" as it is used here does not mean to go to Hell, but that you're going to receive the judgment of God.
  - ii) There is no way we can have a rebellious spirit and be right with God.
- f) Saul was God's spiritual authority.
  - i) He was the man who had been anointed king over Israel.

- ii) Saul was not a good man.
  - (1) He was an apostate man and a man out of fellowship with God.
  - (2) He was a wicked man.
- iii) Saul was seeking David's life, but David understood the principle of spiritual authority.
- g) 1 Samuel 15:22-23
  - i) Saul lost his kingship because he would not submit to his spiritual authority, who was the prophet Samuel.
    - (1) 1 Samuel 15:1-19
  - ii) "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..."
    - (1) The sin of witchcraft is following the devil.
    - (2) We are never more like the devil than when we're rebellious.
      - (a) The devil himself became the devil by rebelling against spiritual authority.
      - (b) Isaiah 14:13-14
    - (3) Anytime we have a rebellious spirit, we are practicing witchcraft.
      - (a) We are placing ourselves in the devil's domain.
- h) David was a man after God's own heart, while Saul was a man after Satan's own heart.
  - i) Saul had the principles of Satan.
- i) Because Saul refused to be under authority, he no longer could be over.
  - i) 1 Samuel 15:23
- j) All authority is mediated.
  - i) It all comes from God, but it comes down and is mediated authority.
  - ii) When we rebel against the authority that God has placed over us, we're not just rebelling against the man but against the authority of God that is in that man.
    - (1) Therefore, we are rebelling against God.
- k) Even though God had rejected Saul, he was still king of Israel.
  - i) He was still David's king; therefore, David had no right to touch or to harm the Lord's anointed.
  - ii) 1 Samuel 24:5-6
- l) When we criticize government officials, the president, the mayor, the police force, etc., in front of our children, we are building into them a spirit of rebellion.
- m) We ought not even to speak disrespectfully about the devil.
  - i) Jude 8-9
    - (1) Michael the archangel did not bring a railing accusation against the devil.
    - (2) This does not mean that Michael gave in to the devil.
  - ii) The devil is not our spiritual authority.
    - (1) He has no authority over us whatsoever.
  - iii) We need to be careful about speaking evil of anyone.

- n) David did nothing outwardly to harm Saul, but his heart smote him just because he had a disrespectful attitude by cutting off a portion of Saul's skirt.
  - o) 1 Samuel 24:4
    - i) We need to be careful about operating on appearances rather than principle.
    - ii) It appeared to David's men that this was of God and that God had delivered Saul into David's hands.
      - (1) Live by principle and not by appearance.
    - iii) Not everything that happens is God's will.
      - (1) Don't operate according to appearances or circumstances, but operate according to principle.
- 3) A GENTLE PLEA
- a) What do we do when we have a spiritual authority that's not worthy to be a spiritual authority?
    - i) What does a Christian boy or girl do when their parents are ungodly?
    - ii) What do we do when our government seems to be unworthy, and they initiate laws and rules that we believe are not right?
    - iii) What do we do when someone commands us to do something that we believe is contrary to the will of God?
  - b) 1 Samuel 24:7-15
  - c) How did David deal with Saul?
    - i) He had reverence for Saul.
      - (1) 1 Samuel 24:8
      - (2) David bowed down in front of someone who was trying to kill him.
    - ii) He showed respect to Saul.
      - (1) 1 Samuel 24:9
        - (a) David was giving Saul the benefit of the doubt.
          - (i) He was saying that surely someone had been giving Saul wrong information.
      - iii) He tried to reason with Saul.
        - (1) 1 Samuel 24:11
        - (2) David had the opportunity to kill Saul but didn't; therefore, it was reasonable to see that he wasn't Saul's enemy.
      - iv) He relied upon the Lord.
        - (1) 1 Samuel 24:12
          - (a) David trusted God to bring him out of this situation.
        - (2) 1 Samuel 24:15
      - v) David did not vilify his spiritual authority, but he did plead his righteous cause.
    - d) When we are faced with unworthy spiritual authorities, we ought to do what David and Daniel did.
      - i) When Daniel was taken into captivity and was faced with defiling himself with the king's meat, he came with a spirit of humility.

- (1) Daniel 1:1-14
  - (2) Daniel came with a gentle spirit.
  - ii) We are not to do something that is ungodly.
  - iii) If someone commands us to do something wicked or that is in direct contradiction to the Word of God, we must obey God rather than men.
    - (1) Acts 5:29
  - iv) We must be careful that when we have an unworthy authority over us, that we don't have a spirit of rebellion.
  - e) When David acted this way toward Saul, Saul's conscience was immediately stricken.
    - i) When David got under authority, God started to work on Saul.
    - ii) Unfortunately, Saul later on still hardened his heart against God and died, but God brought tremendous conviction.
  - f) 1 Peter 2:17-21
    - i) We need to learn to be respectful to those whom God has set over us.
  - g) Proverbs 15:1
  - h) Proverbs 16:7
  - i) Proverbs 21:1
  - j) Romans 12:19
  - k) David refused to touch God's anointed.
    - i) God would do a better job than David would do, and God did.
- 4) A GRACIOUS PROMISE
- a) 1 Samuel 24:16-22
    - i) Saul had come with murder in his heart, but now he has softened.
    - ii) Even Saul could see that when David was willing to be under, that God was going to put him over.
  - b) Saul recognized that he could have been killed.
  - c) Saul also recognized that David one day would be king.
  - d) Saul asked David to promise that when he became king, that he would be gentle to his loved ones, and David agreed.
    - i) David was doing good to his enemies.
    - ii) Romans 12:19-20
  - e) David never won a greater victory than he won that day in the cave.
    - i) It was a victory over self, over Saul and, therefore, a victory over sin.
  - f) 1 Samuel 24:22
    - i) This was David's gracious promise.
    - ii) David, though, was not foolish.
      - (1) He did not go down where Saul could kill him.
      - (2) David went back to the rocks and back to the cave.
    - iii) David was gentle as a dove, but he was wise as a serpent.
      - (1) Matthew 10:16

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) The difference between Saul and David is that Saul was a man after Satan's heart and a rebel, while David was a man after God's own heart.
  - i) Acts 13:22
- b) David had learned to respect authority; therefore, David had authority.
  - i) If we want spiritual authority over our families or in our prayer lives, then we need to be submissive to the authorities that God has set over us.
    - (1) Children are to be submissive to their parents.
    - (2) Wives are to be submissive to their husbands.
    - (3) We're to be submissive to government authorities.
  - ii) God cannot bless someone with a rebellious spirit.
- c) The greatest victory you'll ever win is the victory over self with a submissive spirit.
  - i) The first step is to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.
    - (1) Have you been saved?
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
  - i) Romans 3:23
  - ii) Romans 10:9-10
  - iii) Romans 10:13
  - iv) Acts 16:31
  - v) John 3:16