

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: How to Behave in a Cave

SERMON REFERENCE: 1 Samuel 24:1-7

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #0822

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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