

## SERMON OUTLINE

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

**SERMON REFERENCE:** 1 Samuel 24:1-19

**LWF SERMON NUMBER:** #1952

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) King David was a mighty warrior who exercised kingdom authority.
  - i) He was a man known for victory.
- b) The greatest victory David ever had is recorded in 1 Samuel 24.
  - i) It was not a victory over someone else but a victory over himself.
  - ii) He learned that in order to have kingdom authority, we must remain under authority.
- c) It is not God's plan for us to be defeated by the world, the flesh or the devil.
  - i) When Jesus died and rose again, He gave to His children authority over these things.
  - ii) But we will never be over those things that God has put under us until we are willing to get under and stay under those things that God has put over us.
- d) 1 Samuel 24:1-7
  - i) At this time, Saul was the king of Israel.
    - (1) As such, he was God's appointed and anointed king, though he was a very unworthy king.
  - ii) God was going to replace Saul with David, a man after God's own heart.
  - iii) Saul recognized that David was the rising star while his own sun was setting.
  - iv) Saul was eaten up with envy and jealousy against David.
    - (1) So, Saul made David public enemy number one.
    - (2) All of the energies of the kingdom were focused on Saul's burning ambition to kill David.
  - v) Saul had a skirmish with the Philistines, and he learned that David was hiding in the mountains by the Dead Sea in a place called Engedi.
  - vi) Saul took 3,000 hand-picked men to go after one man, David.
  - vii) David was hiding in a cave, and Saul went into this cave to relieve himself.
  - viii) Saul could not see David in this dark cave, but the eyes of David and those of his companions were accustomed to the darkness.
  - ix) David's men told him that this was his opportunity to kill Saul and become the next king.
  - x) With his sword in the darkness, David cut off the hem of Saul's robe.
    - (1) But he wouldn't kill Saul.
  - xi) What David did in this episode was not to win a victory over Saul, but to win a victory over himself.
- e) Most Christians today are in the cult of self-realization, but the Bible teaches self-surrender.
  - i) In self-realization, all of the answers are in you.
  - ii) In self-surrender, all of the answers are in Jesus.
  - iii) In self-realization, you are centered in you.
- f) Proverbs 16:32
- g) David refused to take vengeance on Saul.
  - i) Romans 12:21

- (1) David practiced this Scripture.
  - h) We have a problem today with the spirit of rebellion.
    - i) Matthew 24:12
      - (1) The word “iniquity” in this passage is literally the word for “lawlessness,” “rebellion.”
      - (2) Jesus said that in the last days, rebellion would abound.
        - (a) Children are rebelling against their parents like never before.
        - (b) We see a spirit of rebellion in churches.
        - (c) In the world of religion, we see people in their arrogance who have revised and remodeled the Bible to make it politically correct.
          - (i) New translations have come out, not because of scholarship, but because of philosophy and political correctness.
          - (ii) This is sheer rebellion.
        - (d) We see rebellion in our streets.
        - (e) We see rebellion against government.
    - i) We need to learn how to be under those things that God has put over us so that we can be over those things that God has put under us.
- 2) RECOGNIZE KINGDOM AUTHORITY (1 SAMUEL 24:5-6)
- a) 1 Samuel 24:5-6
    - i) David understood the principle of kingdom authority.
    - ii) David understood that he needed to be under Saul even though Saul sought his life.
    - iii) Saul, though unworthy, was still at that time the king of Israel.
  - b) 1 Samuel 26:9
    - i) There came another opportunity to kill Saul, but David refused.
  - c) Romans 13:1-2
    - i) The “higher powers” in this passage refers to governmental authorities.
    - ii) When we rebel against those authorities that God has put over us, we are actually rebelling against Almighty God.
  - d) Romans 13:3-5
    - i) The minister of God for good in this passage refers to the governmental magistrate.
    - ii) At the time the Apostle Paul wrote this, Nero was on the throne.
    - iii) Even if we have an unworthy authority, we should not have a spirit of rebellion.
      - (1) Unworthy authorities may include parents, a husband, teachers, the president, a city councilman or a mayor.
    - iv) Police officers are ministers of God to us for good.
  - e) We need to recognize the authority that God has put over us.
  - f) What made the devil the devil was to rebel against authority.
    - i) He rebelled against Almighty God.
    - ii) Isaiah 14:13-14
  - g) Saul, who was David’s foe, had the spirit of the devil in him.

- i) Saul rebelled against Almighty God.
  - ii) Samuel was God's prophet; therefore, he spoke for Almighty God.
  - iii) Samuel told Saul to do something, but Saul refused.
  - iv) Samuel rebuked Saul.
    - (1) 1 Samuel 15:23
      - (a) God says that if you have the spirit of rebellion, then you are practicing a sin like witchcraft.
        - (i) Witchcraft is trafficking with the devil.
        - (b) When you have rebellion in your heart, then you are in the devil's territory.
  - h) Saul was a man after the devil's own heart; David was a man after God's own heart.
    - i) Saul had the spirit of rebellion; David had the spirit of submission.
    - ii) You will never be more like the devil than when you're a rebel.
    - iii) You will never be more like the Lord Jesus than when you submit.
  - i) David's greatest victory was the victory he won over self when he submitted to those authorities.
    - i) For that reason, God made him Israel's greatest king.
    - ii) Submission to authorities does not mean that we approve of what some people may do, any more than David approved of what Saul did.
    - iii) David understood the principle of kingdom authority; and, therefore, David learned to rule with great power and great authority.
- 3) RESPECT KINGDOM AUTHORITY (1 SAMUEL 24:8-15)
- a) 1 Samuel 24:8-15
    - i) If we do not understand this, then we will never understand spiritual authority.
    - ii) Saul was an unworthy authority, but David recognized and respected that authority.
  - b) David spoke to Saul with reverence.
    - i) David bowed his head.
    - ii) He even gave Saul the benefit of the doubt, and suggested that he had perhaps been misinformed.
      - (1) 1 Samuel 24:9-10
    - iii) This did not mean that David gave in to Saul's wicked ways.
      - (1) He trusted God; he was not trusting in Saul.
      - (2) 1 Samuel 24:12
      - (3) 1 Samuel 24:15
  - c) It is one thing to grudgingly give in to unworthy authority, but it is another thing to respect those leaders that God has put over us.
    - i) Respecting these authorities is the hard part.
    - ii) There are parents who don't deserve respect, but children should respect them anyway.
    - iii) There are teachers who don't deserve respect, but respect them anyway.

- iv) If you have a pastor who doesn't deserve respect, respect him anyway.
  - v) If you have a government that doesn't deserve respect, respect that government anyway.
    - (1) You are not respecting the individual, but you are getting yourself in a place under authority.
      - (a) When you get to that place, then God will begin to work in your life in an incredible way.
  - d) Jude 8-9
    - i) Jude is speaking about apostates in this passage.
    - ii) Michael the archangel did not give in to the devil.
      - (1) He disputed with the devil, stood against the devil and was opposed to the devil.
      - (2) But he would not speak disrespectfully or bring a railing accusation against the devil.
  - e) When we in front our children criticize authorities (teachers, police officers, pastors, presidents, etc.), we are building into our children a spirit of rebellion.
    - i) This does not mean that we give in to wickedness or that we approve error.
    - ii) It was David's submission that brought Saul's kingdom crashing down and made King David the king that he was.
  - f) 1 Peter 2:18-20
    - i) The "froward" in this passage means the "evil."
    - ii) We need to learn to respect authority.
    - iii) Philippians 4:4
  - g) We need to learn to exercise submission to authority, but not acquiescence.
    - i) It doesn't mean that we agree.
- 4) REST IN KINGDOM AUTHORITY (1 SAMUEL 24:15)
- a) We need to rest in kingdom authority.
    - i) Not rest in the government or in the Saul's, but rest in the Lord.
  - b) 1 Samuel 24:15
    - i) David understood the spirit in Romans 12:19-21.
  - c) 1 Samuel 24:19
    - i) Saul acknowledged that what David did to him was beyond human nature.
      - (1) Submission is against human nature.
      - (2) Proverbs 16:32
  - d) David had killed a bear, he killed a lion, he killed Goliath, but the greatest victory David ever had was that day in the cave where he put himself under those people whom God had put over him so that he could be over those things that God had put under him.
  - e) This does not mean that we blindly obey ungodly government.
    - i) The prophets in God's Word preached against the wickedness in the kingdom.

- (1) Nathan warned David when he did wrong.
  - (2) Elijah warned Ahab.
  - (3) Eleazar spoke to Jehoshaphat.
  - (4) Daniel spoke to Nebuchadnezzar.
  - (5) Moses spoke to Pharaoh.
- ii) Our pulpits should not be silent when little babies are being murdered in the womb and when wickedness prevails in many ways.
  - iii) We do not acquiesce, but there must be in us a spirit of humility and surrender over ourselves.
  - iv) When we get under those things that God has put over us, then God can trust us to bring these wicked kingdoms crashing down.
    - (1) The church is not the master of the state nor the servant of the state, but we're the conscience of the state to preach God's truth.

## 5) CONCLUSION

- a) You will never win a victory over self or over anything else until you yield to Jesus Christ.
  - i) You must submit, first of all, to the King of kings and Lord of lords, Jesus Himself.
- b) When you give your heart to Jesus, He will cleanse you and forgive you of every sin.
  - i) He will send His Holy Spirit into your heart to empower you and to give you peace, comfort and direction.
  - ii) And when you die, He will take you to Heaven.
- c) If you want to be saved, you can be saved right now by receiving Christ.
- d) Pray to Him today, 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