

"Crutches Removed"

Part 2

1 Samuel 19-22

Introduction: Last week we looked at a message from the life of David. As we started, we looked at two verses in which we are told something about David that we must keep in mind.

1 Samuel 13:13-14

13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

David was a man after God's own heart. This Truth never changes but this does not mean that David is perfect. He has many flaws, and he needs refining.

Let me refresh your memory on some background concerning David.

- David comes on the scene as he is anointed by Samuel to be the next king of Israel.
- He is then summoned by Saul's men to play the harp for Saul.
- Israel then entered into battle with the Philistines and David defeated Goliath.
- David then became a military commander set over the soldiers of Saul.
- David went wherever Saul sent him and he was victorious over the Philistines.

Everything David set his mind to he accomplished. But King Saul hated him because David received the praise of the people.

Notice 1 Samuel 18:5-9

God would use the hatred of Saul as a means of refining His man David.

"The Removal of David's Crutches"

Even people who desire to seek the heart of God can develop crutches and there are times when God takes the crutches away. The removal of crutches can be very painful because we all get used to them. God removes them so that we will lean upon Him for that is what He desires.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:1

Saul was determined to kill David and this hatred led to the removal of many crutches in the life of David.

1. The Crutch of Position

Notice 1 Samuel 19:9-10

Here is the first crutch that is stripped from the life of David. He lost his position in Saul's army. This would have been very difficult. He had gone from a poor shepherd boy to the king's son-in-law and to being the highest commander in Saul's army.

Now as he flees this is all stripped away from him. He lost his power, position, popularity, and income. For a man this would be very painful.

2. The Crutch of Family.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:11-12

When David fled from Saul's presence he went directly to the place where he would expect to find peace and that was his home. But Saul sent men who surrounded his house and therefore David had to flee from his wife and his home.

So, David is on the run and he has lost two crutches that were of great value to him. His wife Michal did not help his situation when he fled. She fell under the spirit of fear just as David did.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:13-17

She was afraid and she lied to her father and told him that David threatened her life. This would have increased the anger that Saul had toward David.

3. The Crutch of a Good Spiritual Friend.

We have all been in a situation where our world seems to be falling apart and one of the first people that we run to is a friend whom we know has a good relationship with God. We want them to pray for us and to advise us in what we are to do. They have the connection to God so maybe they can get through to heaven.

Notice 1 Samuel 19:18

David flees to Samuel. This is the man who anointed him to be the next king. He has connections with God so surely, he can do something for David.

When David gets to Samuel, he tells him all that Saul has done. Why does he tell him everything which Saul has done? I believe he wants someone on his side. He wants Samuel

to have pity on him and stand up for him. We see in this verse that David and Samuel leave Samuel's hometown and they go to Naioth which is where the prophet's camps were. The thought here is that David longs to have many on his side to make him feel secure.

Application:

We all know what it is like when someone is against us. You want people on your side, so you tell the story from your perspective in hopes of getting people to side with you.

Sometimes the last thought on our mind is to tell God. Like David we look for security in friends or acquaintances. This is not what God desires.

Matthew 11:28-30

²⁸ *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*

²⁹ *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*

³⁰ *For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

Isaiah 26:3-5

³ *Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.*

⁴ *Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH is everlasting strength:*

⁵ *For he bringeth down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he layeth it low; he layeth it low, even to the ground; he bringeth it even to the dust.*

Notice 1 Samuel 19:19-24

When Saul's men came, they were overcome with the Spirit of the Lord and were put into some kind of trance or an ecstatic state. The point is, God stopped them from carrying out their evil plans.

Application:

There is much comfort in all of this for us. Saul and his men were not able to kill David because God had plans for him. It was not David's appointed time to die. No matter what the king threw at him David was safe. **Had he been walking close to the Lord**

at this time he would have known this and would have had the peace that he sought from his crutches.

This is such an important truth for us to grasp especially in the days ahead. God has an appointed day for us to die and when that day comes, we will die. Until that time, we are under the protective hand of God and we are not to live in fear.

Job 14:1, 2, 5

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

² *He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.*

⁵ *Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;*

Getting back to David, God preserved his life but continued to allow the crutches to be removed. He has now lost his good spiritual friend.

4. The Crutch of His Best Friend.

Notice 1 Samuel 20:1

David now comes to his best friend, Jonathan. We can certainly understand his reasoning here. First of all, they are best friends and second, Jonathan is the perfect connection. Saul is his father and if anyone can change the situation it is Jonathan.

Let us notice how David is feeling at this time.

Notice 1 Samuel 20:1-3

David tells Jonathan there is but a step between him and death.

Application:

Have you ever been at this place in your life? Not that death is on your heels but that you feel like you are only staying one step ahead of the problems that have been plaguing you. You feel like if you make one slip the situation you are facing will completely overtake you. Maybe you are there right now with the holidays approaching. You are just doing your best to keep your head above the water.

When this happens where do you turn for help? God has permitted this to happen to David to get David to look to Him for the safety and protection he is looking for. The same is

also true when these situations come upon us. God could stop the pressure but when He permits it is to drive us to Him.

I am not going to read all of chapter 20, but it is a beautiful story. Jonathan goes to Saul to find out if he is set on killing David and he discovers he is and he then reports this to David.

Notice 1 Samuel 20:35-42

Here we see that David has now lost the crutch of his best friend.

5. The Crutch of Self.

Notice 1 Samuel 21:1-6

David now comes to the high priest. He then asks for bread that was only for the priests and it is given to him.

There is something here that we need to see, and it is seen in the Words of Jesus.

Matthew 12:1-4

At that time Jesus went on the sabbath day through the corn; and his disciples were an hungred, and began to pluck the ears of corn and to eat.

² *But when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto him, Behold, thy disciples do that which is not lawful to do upon the sabbath day.*

³ *But he said unto them, Have ye not read what David did, when he was an hungred, and they that were with him;*

⁴ *How he entered into the house of God, and did eat the shewbread, which was not lawful for him to eat, neither for them which were with him, but only for the priests?*

Jesus tells us that David was hungry. He was physically hungry but there was also a spiritual hunger within him. He was running and taking matters within his own hands and was getting no relief. This was a situation that he could not control, but he was determined to strengthen HIMSELF to deal with the situation. We see this in his lies. He is trying to control the entire situation.

Application:

This is what happens to many of God's people today. They are faced with something they cannot control but they try to. They have within them a spiritual hunger but in the chaos

of the situation they give little thought to slowing down and getting alone with God. But instead, they go from one fix to another. They rely upon SELF.

Again, I remind all of us that God permits this to draw us to Him.

Let us get back to David. There was a spy there when David came to the high priest.

Notice 1 Samuel 21:7-10

He now flees again.

6. The Crutch of Self Dignity

Notice 1 Samuel 21:10-15

David begins to act like a mad man. His dignity is gone and, in his fear, here is God's man with spit running down his beard, and he is scribbling on the doors. He is acting like he is a mad man.

Notice 1 Samuel 22:1

Conclusion: He ends up in this cave and now he is where God can work with him. All crutches are gone.

In this cave he wrote several Psalms. Psalms 34, 57, and 142.

Psalm 34:1-4

I will bless the LORD at all times: his praise shall continually be in my mouth.

² My soul shall make her boast in the LORD: the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

³ O magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together.

⁴ I sought the LORD, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears.

If God is removing your crutches it is because He wants you to lean upon Him.