

Series: Popular Bible Stories
Title: The King and his Nothings
Text: 1 Sam 22:1-2
Date: May 13, 2021
Place: SGBC, NJ

1 Samuel 22: 1: David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house heard *it*, they went down thither to him. 2: And every one *that was* in distress, and every one that *was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him; and he became a captain over them: and there were with him about four hundred men.

David is a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ was called the Son of David because he came through David after the flesh. Those who knew the scriptures knew the Messiah was to be the Son of David. Christ asked men one day,

Matthew 22:42...What think ye of Christ? whose son is he? They say unto him, *The Son of David*.

Blind Bartimaeus knew Christ was the Son of David. He cried out,

Mark 10: 47 And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out, and say, Jesus, *thou* Son of David, have mercy on me. 49 And Jesus stood still, and commanded him to be called.

David is a type of Christ Jesus the Lord. David was God's anointed king—Christ came into this world King of kings. Yet Saul appeared king and David was in a disgraced position in a cave, despised and rejected of the multitudes. Christ came into the world the king—our Righteousness, our Prince, our Sovereign Savior—yet he was despised and rejected of men. He still is today

Yet, 400 men, a remnant, came to David and David became captain over them. It would have no test of faith to identify with David when all acknowledged him to be on the throne. But these came to David when he was despised and rejected of the multitudes. They came to David when they could be killed for identifying with him.

Christ Jesus is the Lord's Anointed King. Yet, most in our day have no discernment that Christ is King. When he walked this earth Christ was despised and rejected of men—but he still is. And it will get worse and worse as nations grow more hardened against Christ and his people. But while multitudes reject Christ and persecute his people more, Christ tries the faith he gives. By his grace, his true people rally to Christ our Captain, our King, and identify with him come what may. Christ said I send not peace but a sword. But Christ said that his people shall not be ashamed to identify with him and stand with him and confess him before men.

Proposition: We see in the 400 who came to David a picture of Christ and his believing people.

Subject: The King and his Nothings

Who comes to Christ? What kind of people does Christ save? Who is willing to lose their life that Christ might have all the glory?

HIS BRETHREN, HIS FATHER'S HOUSE

1 Samuel 22: 1: David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father's house...

It is Christ's "brethren" who come to Christ believing on him. They come believing him and continuing believing Christ. They come trusting Christ to save us beginning to end. This is God the Father's will. Those who come believing on Christ are his brethren. One day many were congregated together hearing Christ preach and he said,

Mark 3: 33...Who is my mother, or my brethren? 34 And he looked round about on them which sat about him, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! 35: For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.

John 6:40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

1 John 3:23: And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

But his brethren came to David when it meant great danger. David was a wanted man. Imagine if the president put a bounty on the head of any church who identified with Christ. The visible church would look drastically thinner. That is how serious this was for David's brethren.

Those in whom the Spirit of Christ abides come to Christ and shall continue when it means rejection and danger from the world. The faith God gives stays on Christ even when it means being despised and rejected of men. When it means being persecuted by the world, killed IT WILL BE BY THE SUSTAINING GRACE OF GOD KEEPING US BY HIS POWER that his people continue trusting Christ alone. We read of saints in the past who God kept in faith, who:

Hebrews 11: 36:...had trial of *cruel* mockings and scourgings, yea, moreover of bonds and imprisonment: 37: They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; 38: (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and *in* mountains, and *in* dens and caves of the earth. 39: And these all, having obtained a good report through faith,...

Brethren, we have had it mighty easy. But persecution from this world is going to get worse and worse in our lifetime. It is beginning now but it will get worse and worse. This pandemic is the least of what is coming. God speaks of a famine of the word when the two witnesses shall lay fallen in the street for a time. But "we are kept by the power of God"—so that the true worshippers shall continue believing Christ, continue gathering with his people even if in the woods or in caves under cover of darkness in persecution and rejection for his name's sake.

Those who come to Christ are God the Father's house and they ALL come—are "*ALL his father's house.*" Those who come to Christ belong to his Father's house. They are "beloved"—loved before—by God the Father in Christ from eternity by divine election. They

ALL shall come. Christ said, “All the Father hath given me shall come to me and him that cometh to me I shall in no wise cast out.”

THOSE WHO HAVE HEARD

1 Samuel 22: 1: David therefore departed thence, and escaped to the cave Adullam: and when his brethren and all his father’s house HEARD *it*, they went...

Those who come believing on Christ are those who have heard. The word of the Lord is the living word. Christ said the words I speak are spirit and they are life—the spirit that quickeneth—that continually renews—keeps us coming to Christ—are the words Christ speaks—the flesh profits nothing. It is the Spirit of God that quickens dead sinners. And Christ said, “My words are spirit and life.’ If any will come to Christ they must first hear CHRIST HIMSELF SPEAK IN THE HEART—and being quickened we must continually be renewed, revived, as a branch in the vine.

Acts 13:48 And when the Gentiles heard, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

THOSE WHO COME DOWN

1 Samuel 22: 1...*They went down to him.* 2: And every one *that was* in distress and every one *that was* in debt, and every one *that was* discontented, gathered themselves unto him;

We know the doctrine...

Psalms 51: 17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.

Psalms 34:18 The LORD *is* nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.

Psalms 147:3 He healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds.

But our sinful flesh is only pride! How are we made humble and kept humble to trust in Christ alone? By the mighty hand of God. By God continually reminding us of our inability through much affliction and continually quickening us to behold Christ’s full sufficiency! Moses said to the children of Israel

Deuteronomy 8:3 And [God] humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD doth man live.

When was Manasseh humbled from his idols to worship the LORD?

2 Chronicles 33: 11: Wherefore the LORD brought upon them the captains of the host of the king of Assyria, which took Manasseh among the thorns, and bound him with fetters, and carried him to Babylon. 12: And when he was in affliction, he besought the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, 13 And prayed unto him: and he was intreated of him, and heard his supplication, and brought

him again to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD he *was* God.

Look who went down to David—*"every one that was in distress and every one that was in debt, and every one that was discontented, gathered themselves unto him."*

God did it. God brings his child *into distress*, anguish, straitened over our sin, straitened in providential circumstances, the oppression of men, and so on. And God never stops working this in this life. It is necessary to keep us coming down to Christ, trusting him for all. When we come down in distress we find Christ is all our peace. He said, "My peace I give unto you."

The Lord makes us behold we are in debt. In debt to God's justice. In debt to produce a righteousness and holiness that we cannot produce. He brings us into poverty in material things. But when he brings us down in debt to Christ's feet we find in Christ unsearchable riches. We find the never-ending supply of God all-sufficient grace and righteousness. Through Christ's poverty he made his people rich.

If need be he uses manifold temptations to make us discontented—to give us bitterness, heaviness. We are made discontented at ourselves and our ways and our works and our wisdom. We must be continually made to remember that we are NOTHING. But when he brings us down to nothing that is when the Spirit reveals Christ is All. He is our comfort. Christ is our consolation. Christ is our contentment in all things.

Denying self is not merely self-denial in things. That is the Pharisee's doctrine. Denying self is owning ourselves to be NOTHING! That is the only way we will own Christ to be All and in all! God works this in us and keeps working it and keeps working it—TO MAKE CHRIST EVERYTHING TO US.

Looking at David as a man that is what God was doing to David with all this affliction? He is preparing him to be king. David knew God anointed him—he slew bears and lions and the giant Goliath—God protected him from Saul multiple times. But God took his hand off and in his flesh David became fearful of Saul—he ran from Saul when Saul was not even pursuing him.

David left Samuel the prophet who had the word of God and tried to take matters into his own hands to save himself from Saul. He sinned over and over. His scheming at Nob resulted in Saul sending Doeg to kill 85 of the Lord's priests. David was brought to say, I occasioned their deaths.

This one who had killed the giant with a sling and a stone took the sword of Goliath and fled to Goliath's people the Philistines to save him from Saul. But the Lord used the enemy to speak into David's heart, reminding David who he was by God's grace

1 Samuel 21: 11...*Is not this David the king of the land? did they not sing one to another of him in dances, saying, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands? 12: And David laid up these words in his heart,...*

That is where God began to subdue David's flesh again and strengthen his inward man. God did it all to humble David and strengthen his faith in the Lord. The first 7 verses of Ps 52—he speaks of Doeg working deceit—but it describes the things David did himself. But then

David declares God did it. God was overruling all David's rebellion to bring him to the end of himself to wait on the Lord.

Psalm 52: 8 But I *am* like a green olive tree in the house of God: I trust in the mercy of God for ever and ever. 9 I will praise thee for ever, because thou hast done *it*: and I will wait on thy name; for *it is* good before thy saints.

God keeps us being humbled to nothing that we might trust his mercy and wait on his name. It was in Christ alone that David was a man after God's own heart. God kept him humbled to rest in Christ. We see it in this remnant of 400 people. How did these 400 nothings hear and know where David was while Saul and the enemy did not? What is pictured in David being revealed to them?

Luke 10:21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in spirit, and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes: even so, Father; for so it seemed good in thy sight.

WHAT IS CHRIST TO THOSE WHO COME TO HIM?

1 Samuel 22: 2...and he became a captain over them

Captain means Prince, Chief, Ruler, Governor, Keeper. Coming to Christ and continuing in him, being not a forgetful hearer but a doer, is being a continual believer in the Captain of our warfare—our mighty Conqueror—our Righteousness, our All.

Isaiah 40: 1: Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. 2: Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins.

Later when David takes the throne his servants declare what we say of Christ after every trial and what we shall say in the end.

2 Samuel 5: 1: Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, Behold, we *are* thy bone and thy flesh. [Christ and his church are one] 2: Also in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. 3 So all the elders of Israel came to the king...

So it shall be in the end when Christ brings all his people into his kingdom in glory

Revelation 5: 9 [in that great day will sing the] new song, saying, Thou art worthy...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10: And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth...12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. 13 And [all will honor him, singing]...Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, *be* unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever.

Amen!