

Title: David's Restoration

Text: 1 Sam 22: 20-23: 6

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1 Samuel 22: 20: And one of the sons of Ahimelech the son of Ahitub, named Abiathar, escaped, and fled after David. 21: And Abiathar shewed David that Saul had slain the LORD'S priests. 22: And David said unto Abiathar, I knew *it* that day, when Doeg the Edomite *was* there, that he would surely tell Saul: I have occasioned *the death* of all the persons of thy father's house. 23: Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

Concerning Saul, David leaned to his own understanding. He tried to save himself. David sinned greatly. It resulted in 85 priests being slain by Saul through Doeg. David went down, down, down until the Lord brought David to the end of himself.

Then the Lord drew David to the Lord. The Lord began to renew David's heart. He sent a word into David's heart reminding David that the Lord had chosen him, anointed him and made him a king—"thou art the king of Israel." Christ Jesus by his precious blood has made his people kings and priests unto God. By our Lords' grace, by his power, by his word, Christ shall make his people reign even now while we are in this earth. That is what we see in the Lord's recovery of David. While in the cave Adullam David was brought to repentance and prayed to God:

Psalm 57: 1: «...when he fled from Saul in the cave.» Be merciful unto me, O God, be merciful unto me: for my soul trusteth in thee: yea, in the shadow of thy wings will I make my refuge, until *these* calamities be overpast. 2: I will cry unto God most high; unto God that performeth *all things* for me. 3: He shall send from heaven, and save me *from* the reproach of him that would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth his mercy and his truth. 4: My soul *is* among lions:...5: Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens; *let thy glory be* above all the earth. 6: They have prepared a net for my steps; my soul is bowed down:...7: My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed: I will sing and give praise [that is where the Lord brings his child—*my soul is bowed down and my heart is fixed on God*] 9: I will praise thee, O Lord, among the people: I will sing unto thee among the nations. 10: For thy mercy *is* great unto the heavens, and thy truth unto the clouds. 11: Be thou exalted, O God, above the heavens: *let thy glory be* above all the earth.

Ps 142 is another prayer of David while in the cave:

Psalm 142: 1: «Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave.» I cried unto the LORD with my voice; with my voice unto the LORD did I make my supplication. 2: I poured out my complaint before him; I shewed before him my trouble. 3: When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then thou knewest my path. In the way wherein I walked have they privily laid a snare for me. 4: I looked on *my* right hand, and beheld, but *there was* no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul. 5: I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou *art* my refuge *and* my portion in the land of the living. 6: Attend unto my cry; for I am brought very low: deliver me from my persecutors; for they are stronger than I. 7: Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

The Lord sent his prophet, Gad, to David. The Lord told David to leave the cave and go back to Judah. David obeyed. In the meantime Saul sent Doeg and killed the 85 priests. Abiathar, the son of Ahimelech, escaped and came to tell David. David told Abiathar, “I have occasioned the death of all the persons of thy father’s house.” Again David prayed to the Lord:

Psalm 52: 1: «A Psalm of David, when Doeg the Edomite came and told Saul, and said unto him, David is come to the house of Ahimelech.»...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.

At this point, the Lord had strengthened David’s heart to wait on the Lord—rather than running in his own strength. The Lord is teaching David obedience by experience. Of Christ our Head it is declared, “Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered” (Hebrews 5:8).” The Lord teaches his child to submit to the Lord through the school of experience. We can read about it and have it in theory but God makes us learn by experience. So David assures Abiathar, the priest—and this is what Christ our King speaks into our hearts:

1 Samuel 22: 23: Abide thou with me, fear not: for he that seeketh my life seeketh thy life: but with me thou *shalt be* in safeguard.

Christ said, John 15: 4: Abide in me and I in you...5....for without me ye can do nothing...7: If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

Ye shall ask what ye will—in every circumstance you shall ask the Lord what ye will—that is, ye shall ask what the Lord wills—that is what ye will do, because the Lord’s will shall be done.

And it shall be done unto you—the Lord shall make his will known then you will know what ye will do.

We see this in 1 Samuel 23. The Spirit of God had renewed David inwardly. He is restored to the Lord. Now he is waiting on the Lord in spirit rather than running in his flesh.

1 Samuel 23: 1: Then they told David, saying, Behold, the Philistines fight against Keilah, and they rob the threshingfloors.

As soon as the Lord restored David to trust in the Lord’s mercy and wait on the Lord the Lord gave David another trial. It was to prove what the Lord had worked in David’s heart. They tell David the Philistines have come into Judah and fight against the town Keilah and rob the threshingfloors. The enemy was stealing the food from David’s brethren.

The Lord God worked this. It typifies the enemies of the Lord robbing his people of life—the enemy would continually rob us of Christ our Bread. The only way we shall be saved is by our King David, Christ the King. Christ came and defeated all our enemies by his obedience unto the death of the cross—and Christ continues to defeat every enemy we face.

But the Lord does it in such a way so that is impossible to us so that we must trust the Lord and wait on him. So the Lord worked this to test David, to prove that the Lord had restored

and strengthened David's heart in faith. so what does David do this time? Does he run to Keilah right away to fight?

1 Samuel 23: 2: Therefore David enquired of the LORD, saying, Shall I go and smite these Philistines?

Christ said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." This is the fruit the Lord produced. David could not produce this fruit. By the Lord's words abiding in David, he made David abide in the Lord and seek the Lord's will rather than his own.

Rather than run, David waited on the Lord. He asked the Lord's will—*ye shall ask what ye will*. David's will now was to only do what the Lord willed. *And it shall be done unto you*—so the Lord answered David and made his will known.

1 Samuel 23: 2: And the LORD said unto David, Go, and smite the Philistines, and save Keilah.

David has the word of the Lord. The Lord has made his will known to David *by his word*. By the grace of the Lord, David believed the word of the Lord.

Then the Lord gave David another test—this is partly to prove David but it is also to give us a contrast.

1 Samuel 23: 3: And David's men said unto him, Behold, we be afraid here in Judah: how much more then if we come to Keilah against the armies of the Philistines?

David's men were afraid. They knew Saul and his army was after David. These men knew the Philistines were the mightiest enemy in the land. Their land produced iron so they had the best weapons and the biggest army in the land. Keilah was a fenced city—one way in, one way out. They feared once they got in the city fighting the Philistine, Saul would come in behind them and they would be caught between two armies. Not to mention David's men were few and not trained soldiers—we saw the description of them.

But this was unbelief contrasted with the faith the Lord had given David. By God's grace, David was given the Lord's word therefore he believed God. He discerned by the Lord's word what God would do despite how it appeared by God's providence therefore he believed God.

In contrast, his men judged by providence. They discerned by the way things appeared to their natural sight rather than by the word of the Lord. That is a mistake. Therefore they were afraid in unbelief.

So what does David do? *By the word of the Lord* David knows that it is the Lord's will for him to lead these men into Keilah to fight the enemy. David knows the Lord's will shall be done. But he also knows that he cannot put faith in the heart of his men. He cannot expect his men to live on his faith. God must give them faith by his word. This was not an obstacle it was a test. So what does David do?

1 Samuel 23: 4: Then David enquired of the LORD yet again. And the LORD answered him and said, Arise, go down to Keilah; for I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand.

The Lord's word was the same but the Lord added something—*"I will deliver the Philistines into thine hand."* The Lord works in providence to make the way impossible to carnal sight—and it is impossible to us—that is by design of the Lord. It is to make it the more obvious the Lord alone gets the glory for giving us the victory.

It is by his word spoken effectually into our new man that the Lord makes his people believe and do as he wills. The Lord commanded, *"Arise, go down to Keilah. They will fight against the enemy. But the Lord gets the glory for making them willing by his word. And who gets the glory for the victory? The Lord promises, "I will deliver the Philistines into thy hand."*

1 Samuel 23: 5: So David and his men went to Keilah, and fought with the Philistines, and brought away their cattle, and smote them with a great slaughter. So David saved the inhabitants of Keilah.

God made his promise known in the hearts of David's men so David and his men moved forward and attacked the Philistines. Not only did they turn back the enemy, and save the inhabitants, they captured their cattle, which supplied food for David's men, which they greatly needed. Christ not only put away the sin of his people and made us righteous, but the Lord also gave us everlasting life, eternal redemption, so that we can never fall away again. We are kept by the power of Christ's blood. Our Lord *"is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us"* (Ephesians 3:20)!

1 Samuel 23: 6: And it came to pass, when Abiathar the son of Ahimelech fled to David to Keilah, that he came down with an ephod in his hand.

By God's grace, having been renewed and restored by the Lord, David obeyed the Lord's will and delivered his brethren from the enemy. Then Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, flees to David in Keilah. He came with the ephod in his hand—with Urim and Thummim—through which the Lord would make his way even more clear to David.

This is a picture of Christ our High Priest coming to those he restores in faith to make us know more clearly that he abides in us—he is Lights and Perfections. Little by little he renewed David, restored David. And David believed, waited on the Lord, obeyed the will of the Lord. He said, "Abide in me and I in you." The Lord Jesus said, "To him that hath, to him shall be given." So here a picture of Christ making himself known in one fully restored in faith.

Our Lord Jesus keeps his people. He never leaves us but he will bring us to the end of self. Then as he renews us by his word, he makes us seek him more and more. When God is sought sincerely, humbly, trustfully, with the desire to do that which is pleasing to Him—God will make his will known to his needy children. His Word declares, "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He *shall* direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:6). The Lord speaks his word into our hearts through the scriptures, through the gospel—this is how he makes his will known in our hearts. As we walk in Christ the Light, he makes his Light and Perfections all the brighter and clearer to light our path

Amen!

