

C. Be Teachable

Taste and see that the LORD is good.

Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!

Fear the LORD, you his godly people,

for those who fear him will have all they need.

Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry,

but those who trust in the LORD will lack no good thing.

The righteous person faces many troubles,

But the LORD comes to the rescue each time.

The LORD will redeem those who serve him.

No one who takes refuge in him will be condemned.

Psalm 34:8-10, 19, 22 (NLT)



sermon notes

“Hide and Seek”

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Pastor John Speight

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I. Aftermath of Giant-Killing

A. David’s Instant Popularity

Whatever Saul asked David to do, David did it successfully. So Saul made him a commander over the men of war, an appointment that was welcomed by the people and Saul’s officers alike.

1 Samuel 18:5 (NLT)

When the victorious Israelite army was returning home after David had killed the Philistine, women from all the towns of Israel came out to meet King Saul. They sang and danced for joy with tambourines and cymbals. This was their song:

“Saul has killed his thousands, and David his ten thousands!”

This made Saul very angry.

1 Samuel 18:6-8 (NLT)

B. King Saul Increasingly Angry

The very next day a tormenting spirit... overwhelmed Saul, and he began to rave in his house like a madman. David was playing the harp, as he did each day. But Saul had a spear in his hand, and he suddenly hurled it at David, intending to pin him to the wall. But David escaped him twice.

1 Samuel 18:10-11 (NLT)

Saul now urged his servants and his son Jonathan to assassinate David.

1 Samuel 19:1 (NLT)

But one day when Saul was sitting at home, with spear in hand, the tormenting spirit ... suddenly came upon him again. As David played his harp, Saul hurled his spear at David. But David dodged out of the way, and leaving the spear stuck in the wall, he fled and escaped into the night.

1 Samuel 19:9-10 (NLT)

II. Hide & Seek

A. The Hiding Place – The Cave

*I cry out to the LORD; I plead for the LORD's mercy.
I pour out my complaints before him and tell him all my troubles.
When I am overwhelmed, you alone know the way I should turn...*

*Then I pray to you, O LORD. I say, "You are my place of refuge.
You are all I really want in life. Hear my cry, for I am very low.
Rescue me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me.
Bring me out of prison so I can thank you.
The godly will crowd around me, for you are good to me."*

Psalm 142:1-3a, 5-7 (NLT)

A Caveman After God's Own Heart?

Being a person "after God's own heart" does not mean that you will escape mistreatment, injustice, a concentration camp, or even the darkness of a cave. It does mean knowing, owning and trusting that the battle belongs to the Lord and eventually, and ultimately God will win the war.

III. The Challenge

A. Separated, But Not Alone

So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.

1 Samuel 22:1-2 (NLT)

B. Assessing the Needs

So David and his men—about 600 of them now...

1 Samuel 23:13 (NLT)

C. Stepping Up to Lead

David, recognizing their needs, knew they needed a leader. He recognized that God had shaped him spiritually for such a task and stepped in to be their leader. He taught them, trained them, coached them to be mighty warriors, the very strength of Israel.

Think About This

During one of the darkest and scary moments of David's life, God gave him a ministry – helping six hundred men and women, who had been weakened by despair, mistreatment, and cruelty. In our lives, too, God often uses our "cave" experiences to give us purpose and direction. Next time you find yourself in the "cave," be aware of how God may be wanting to use you. Prepare yourself to be brought out of the cave and into a new ministry.

III. The Change: Despair to Deliverance

A. Admit Your Need

B. Ask God for Help

*Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy!
I look to you for protection.
I will hide beneath the shadow of your wings
until the danger passes by.
I cry out to God Most High,
to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.
He will send help from heaven to rescue me,
disgracing those who hound me.
My God will send forth his unfailing love and faithfulness.*

*I am surrounded by fierce lions
who greedily devour human prey—
whose teeth pierce like spears and arrows,
and whose tongues cut like swords.
Be exalted, O God, above the highest heavens!
May your glory shine over all the earth.*

Psalm 57:1-5 (NLT)