

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*

Worship Guide for August 13, 2023

Sermon Notes

A Tale of Two Contrasting Kings

1 Samuel 22

David seems to have bottomed out. He is on the run and hiding. The king he serves wants to kill him. He is not safe in his own home. He has had to flee and leave behind his wife, his friends (Jonathan), and his spiritual mentor (Samuel). He is not safe among his own people (Nob) nor in the land of his enemies (Gath) where he fled in desperation (1 Samuel 21).

Having nowhere else to go, in today's passage we see David flee into the wilderness and hide in a cave. In the darkness of that cave and the despair of his own soul, David sang this sad song:

With my voice I cry out to the LORD; with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.

I pour out my complaint before him; I tell my trouble before him.

...there is none who takes notice of me; no refuge remains to me; no one cares for my soul.

Attend to my cry, for I am brought very low!

Deliver me from my persecutors, for they are too strong for me!

Bring me out of prison, that I may give thanks to your name! (from Psalm 142)

While David is in the darkness of the cave, Saul is in the darkness of his own sin. And nowhere is that darkness and depravity more evident than in this chapter where we see Saul carry out through his henchman Doeg the slaughter of the innocent priests of Nob and their families.

In 1 Samuel 22, we see the stark contrast between two kings. One king is anointed by God, the other has is rejected by God. One king is on the run, the other is in ruin. One king trusts the Lord and cries out to him, the other trusts no one and kills the priests of the Lord. While one king receives and follows the word from the Lord, the other fulfills the word of the Lord as he unwittingly proves the sovereignty of God even over the evil designs of His enemies.

As in other chapters of 1 Samuel, we find ourselves wanting to identify with characters in the story. We might ask, "am I more like David or more like Saul?" Or we might think, "what can I do to be more like David and less like Saul?"

While those are valid considerations, let's instead make this our primary question today: "what is it like to be led by men like this?"; "Who would I want as my king?" In this tale of two contrasting kings, we get a picture of David, a king who Christ-like – who points us to Christ – and Saul, a king who is an antichrist. One ruler rages and kills. The other welcomes, provides, and offers us safety. His invitation is "*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*"

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor
Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor
Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship
Deborah Rudd: Children's Ministry
Coordinator
Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

Contact Us

(336)599-1982
westwoodroxboro@gmail.com
www.westwoodfamily.org
Church Office Hours:
Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:00pm
Mailing Address:
970 Leasburg Road
Roxboro, NC 27573-5470

AUGUST

14 Roxboro Christian Academy First Day of School
17 Roxboro Community School First Day of School
18 Person vs. Ben L. Smith (Home) @ 7pm
21 Bethel Hill Charter School First Day of School
25 AHG Talent Showcase @ 6pm
25 MEMBERSHIP CLASS @ 6PM
25 Person @ Halifax Co. (VA) @ 7pm
27 Communion
28 Person County Schools First Day of School
28 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse @ 6:30pm
28 AHG/TLU Open Houses @ 6:30pm