

“Playing Hurt”

1. CAVE-DWELLER UNDER PROTEST

God uses places, the “caves” of life, to bring about His will and character in our lives.

- ▶ God uses “broken” people ... those who are pliable, crushed, in submission, surrendered, humble, meek. He can’t use a person greatly that He hasn’t hurt deeply.
- ▶ God’s instruments to make David a broken man were Saul and Absalom.

In his youth, David was not an “Absalom”, and in his old age would not become a “Saul”. David spent much time in caves, and there grew a faith nurtured in solitude, strengthened in conflict, and matured in hopelessness. God’s timetable is not our timetable.

“The Lord is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” (Psalm 34:18)

2. TWO LESSONS FROM A CAVE-DWELLER

“After Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, ‘David is in the Desert of En Gedi.’ So Saul took three thousand chosen men from all Israel and set out to look for David and his men. He came to a cave, and Saul went in to relieve himself. David and his men were far back in that cave. The men said, ‘This is the day the Lord spoke of when He said to you, ‘I will give your enemy into your hands for you to deal with as you wish.’ Then David crept up unnoticed and cut off a corner of Saul’s robe.”

(I Samuel 24:1-4)

- ▶ Surrender to God
- ▶ Submit to authority instituted by God

This stuff of “cave-dwelling” produces an attitude which carries with it the qualities of brokenness, humility, surrender, and submission. It is a heart and will that has been crushed and shaped, and now is ready for use by the Master Potter.

“Lord Jesus, deliver me from the desire of being loved, from the desire of being extolled, from the desire of being honored, from the desire of being praised, from the desire of being preferred to others, from the desire of being consulted, from the desire of being approved, from the fear of being humiliated, from the fear of being despised, from the fear of suffering rebuke, from the fear of being forgotten, from the fear of being wronged, from the fear of being suspected.

Oh, Lord Jesus, grant me the grace to desire that others might be loved more than I, that others may be esteemed more than I, that in the opinion of the world others may increase and I may decrease, that others may be chosen and I set aside, that others may be praised, and I unnoticed, that others may be preferred to me in everything. That others may become holier than I, provided that I become as holy as I should.”