

Sermon Text Discussion 11/18/2018

1 Samuel 23 - 24: The Christ in the Wilderness (Drew Hunter)

Overview

There are many parallels between the lives of David and Jesus. From the many references to David by the writers of the New Testament, we see that understanding the life of David helps us understand the life of Christ. Not only did David receive the promise of an eternal kingdom that would come from his line, but his life of suffering, exile, and rejection became a pattern for the life of Christ.

In our text today, we read about David at one of the lowest points of his life as he is on the run from Saul. In spite of being a step away from death, we see his character being forged by trial. During this desperate period in his life, we will see he receives guidance, encouragement, protection, and vindication.

Quotations

"Looking up in unceasing prayer to our dear Lord Jesus, I left all in His hands, and felt immortal till my work was done." John Paton

"Many that live deserve death. And some that die deserve life. Can you give it to them? Then do not be too eager to deal out death in judgment." J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Understanding & Application

- 1) Look up at least two references to David in the New Testament. Why do the writers refer to David? What do we learn about the life of Jesus from these references?
- 2) What evidence do you see in chapter 23 of David seeking God's guidance? Does he receive it and does he obey it? What about Saul? Who is he relying on? Do you have a tendency to be more like David or Saul?
- 3) We are reintroduced to Saul's son, Jonathan, in chapter 23. Read about the deep friendship between David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 20. Jonathan is risking his own life by coming to visit David. Describe this discussion. What do you think the encouragement meant to David?
- 4) Explain what Drew means by true friendship consisting of these four elements: magnetic in suffering, costly, intentionally strengthening to one another, and God-centered. Which of these elements have you experienced in a deep friendship? Share with the group.
- 5) Saul is seemingly miraculously delivered into David's hand in the story we read in chapter 24. Instead of killing Saul, David shows amazing restraint and provides an insight to his character. Why was he able to demonstrate restraint? What can we learn from his example?
- 6) Describe two similarities between the lives of David and Jesus. Two differences.