

WHEN A PERSON HITS BOTTOM

I Samuel 22:1-2

I. The Cause: How it Happened (22:1a)

Some time after David's victory over Goliath, following a series of painful events, he found himself at rock bottom dwelling in a cave. God used three situations to bring David to this place in his life.

A. No Crutches

The major supports in his life had been removed.

1. His position
2. His wife
3. His counselor
4. His close friend
5. His self respect

B. No Comfort

Every person he knew either became his enemy or was helpless to assist him. Humanly speaking he had:

1. No _____
2. No _____
3. No _____ to listen and comfort him
4. No _____ to which he could cling

C. No hope

Helpless, hopeless, and all alone

II. The Challenge: What it Involved (22:1b-2)

God was using the cave experience as a training ground for Israel's next king. The challenge in the cave was:

A. Being with others in the same predicament

1. His _____ (vs.1b)
Brothers who were once angry and possibly jealous were also seeking refuge (1 Sam. 17:28-30)

2. Other _____ people (vs.2)
They couldn't solve his problems, they only added to them.

B. Seeing their Needs

These dropouts were characterized in three ways.

1. *In distress*: Under great _____ and _____
2. *In debt*: Owing _____ to creditors; perhaps to the government in the form of severe taxes
3. *Discontented*: Bitterness of soul because of being _____, _____, and _____

C. Accepting the Responsibility & Leadership

David did not walk away. God was testing and preparing him to be a compassionate leader over a whole nation of similar people.

- II Corinthians 1:3-6

III. The Cure: Why it Occurred

David's prayer when he was in the cave (Psalm 142)

A. He was _____ enough to see his need (vs.4).

1. No one to _____
"there was no man that would know me"
2. No one to _____
"no man cared for my soul"
3. No place to _____
"refuge failed me"

B. He was _____ enough to cry out to God (vs.1-2).

1. *"I cried unto the LORD"*
2. *"unto the LORD did I make my supplication"*
3. *"I poured out my complaint before him"*

C. He was _____ enough to receive God's help.

"I cried unto thee, O LORD: I said, Thou art my refuge and my portion in the land of the living"

- I Peter 5:5b-6