Caves and Palaces

Curtis Pope · Series: **Having A Better Relationship With God**

INTRODUCTION

- I want to talk this hour about the importance of bad times, of even suffering in the efforts that we make to try to please God and to do his will.
- Sometimes we look upon suffering as being a completely bad thing, but yet there are benefits that can come from that I think are important for us to consider.

1 David, a Fugitive in a Cave

- In the 24th chapter of 1 Samuel, we see David on the run.
- Now the men of David said to him, Behold, this is the day of which the Lord has said to you, Behold, I'm about to give your enemy into your hand.
- Far be it from me, because of the Lord that I should do this thing, to my Lord, the Lord's anointed, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the Lord's anointed.
- He's not looking out for his own best political or military advantage here. He's looking at what God would want.
- And he talks his men out of killing Saul when Saul is at his most vulnerable.

2 David Living in the Palace

2 Samuel 11:1–4

- So uncharacteristic of David when the kings go out to war to stay in town and just send his generals out to engage in this battle.
- Now there's a difference in seeing something and looking at something. And that's David's problem right here.
- Godly men, when they see something that's going to serve as a temptation to them, take themselves out of the picture so it doesn't serve as a temptation to them.
- But you notice there's a lot of red lights that David runs in this particular story.
- Because of you, the enemies of the Lord have been given occasion to blaspheme.

3 Living in a Cave or a Palace

- In one, he's a fugitive in a cave. And we see him in all of his glory serving God and putting his trust and confidence in God.
- Everything is going his way, and he forgets about God.
- I think sometimes in our life we get things all turned around and reversed into thinking that good times that we want are always best for us. And that's not true.
- Sometimes bad times, sometimes difficulties, sometimes struggles can be those things that bring out greater faith in us and greater faithfulness.

- Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance.

4 Learn the Secret of Being at Want

Psalm 119:71

- We all want the palace. But let me tell you, the palace isn't best for us all the time.
- The secret of learning to be in want is to recognize exactly how important God is to us in our survival, in our happiness, in our security.
- Father, if possible, let this cup pass from me. Yet not my will, but thine be done.
- It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.
- Bad times are the ones that can bring us closer to the Lord and make us understand the importance that he needs to have in our lives.

5 When I Am Weak, Then I Am Strong

- My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness.
- I'm well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.
- David experienced the cave and the palace. But yet we see him being strongest in the Lord in the cave.
- Just because things don't always go our way doesn't mean that's a spiritual failure. In fact, that may be our time to spiritually shine.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **Who do you put your confidence in this morning? Do you put your confidence in yourself or in the Lord?**

MY NOTES