

WEDNESDAY BIBLE FELLOWSHIP

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No: 42

DAVID'S CRUTCHES ARE REMOVED

1 Samuel 19-21, Psalm 59

Introduction

Not everyone has a broken leg that would necessitate the use of crutches, yet we all have hurting places in our emotional bones. And we all need support when life's icy blasts threaten to blow us down. It's only natural, for example, to lean on a career, rest on a bank account, rely on a loving spouse or relations, or sympathetic parents. God has graciously provided these tangible supports.

However, problems arise when we trust in them more than Him. When that happens, our crutches don't speed up the healing process, they retard it. So, for our own good, God sometimes moves in and takes away all our substitutes. The process is painful, but it results in stronger emotional bones and a healing that pleases him.

As we prepare to look at how every support in David's life fell away, let's keep in mind three truths about crutches:

- They could become substitutes for the Lord
- They could keep our focus horizontal
- They could offer only temporary relief

Read 1 Samuel 19

- Crutches are tangible sources of earthly support that give us a sense of safety. What crutches could we have on our life that sometimes take the place of God?
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- Can you imagine losing everything you depend on? What do you think David was feeling as he fled from one refuge to the next only to have them all taken away? How did the experience change him?

- Identify the crutches that David dispensed with (Vv. 1, 11, 18; 20: 32-33; 25:1?)

- How do you think the loss of his sources of human security would help prepare David to rule his future kingdom?

- How is God preparing believers to reign with Christ in God's coming Kingdom (see 2 Timothy 2: 12a)?

- What do you learn about God's power and ways in vv 19-24?

Psalm 59 is said to have been written when Saul sent people to David's house to kill him.

- What was David's state of mind as he wrote this Psalm and what does it reveal about him?

David relies on his own means (1 Samuel 21, Psalm 34)

It is good for us to have trials and troubles at times, for they often remind us that we are pilgrims and ought not to rest secure on any worldly thing. It is good for us sometimes to suffer contradiction, to be misjudged by men even though we do well and mean well. These things help us to be humble and shield us from vainglory. When to all outward appearances men give us no credit, when they do not think well of us, then we are more inclined to seek God who sees our hearts. Therefore, a man ought to root himself so firmly in God that he will not need the consolations of men.

Read 1 Samuel 21

David is not immune to the temptations that all of us face. He is overwhelmed with trouble, and he does what most of us do: he tries to handle it himself. In this way we are shown the folly of doing so. Discuss the following in the light of 1 Samuel 21.

- He takes the sword of Goliath - and this is symbolic of what he is doing. He is using the weapons of the world.
 - He lies to the priest. He no doubt justified it in his mind that it was lie or die - but the Lord would show him better than that. This would prove to be a very costly lie, for the priests. Was this lie justified? Could he have foreseen the consequences? Perhaps this is one reason we should tell the truth and trust God.
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- He runs to the enemy of his enemy - again, the world's way of doing things. Was he surprised to find fear there to greet him? Perhaps. But note that running to the obvious source of help didn't work. God had other plans.

