

Cost of Following God's Anointed (1 Samuel 22:1-23 & John 15:18-27)

22-Sep-19

There are Bibles in front of you

And we're looking at 1 Samuel chapter 22

There's the usual outline for you to take notes - if you wish

Let me ask God for His help and understanding

Let's pray...

Intro

- (PowerPoint 1 with spear)
- We left **David** last week **afraid** and on the run from King Saul who is out to kill him
- **PowerPoint 2 - Map**
- David was **so afraid** he first went to a place called **Nob (#1)** and got help from the priest there - Ahimelek - who gave David some showbread to eat and Goliath's sword
- Then David went to **Gath (#2)**- **Philistine enemy territory** but was immediately recognized - so he had to **pretend to be insane** in front of the Philistine King - **King Achish** - and David made his escape
- Now remember **David is God's anointed King** - God has rejected King Saul as King - and anointed David as the next anointed King
- (PowerPoint 3-Cost)
- But as we'll see in this chapter - chapter 22 of 1 Samuel - **there is a cost in following God's anointed one**

1. Cost for David's Family (1 Samuel 22:1-5)

[PowerPoint 4-Cost for family]

First there is a *cost for David's family* - that's in verses 1 to 5

- (PowerPoint 5-Map)
- So, we pick up the story in v1 where David escaped to a cave in **Adullam (#3)**
- The word Adullam means *refuge* - so it's a good name for the cave where David hides
- David's **family** joined him - v2
- And so do all **those in distress** - and **those in debt** (literally owing money with interest) and **those discontented** (literally those carrying a heavy weight on their shoulders) - and David became their leader (literally their captain). This should remind us of our captain Jesus (more about that later)
- V2 - David has amassed 400 men
- But David realized that his family would be in danger because Saul is out to kill David
- One way that Saul could get to David - is by threatening or kidnapping or killing David's family
- So, David seeks a safe place for his family - in **Mizpah in Moab (#4)**
- Why Moab?
- [PowerPoint 6-family tree]
- Well Ruth was from Moab - and she married Boaz - Ruth and Boaz had a boy called Obed - and Obed is the father of Jesse - and Jesse is the

father of David. So, Ruth is David's great grandmother [and the family line goes down to Jesus]

- David's family will be safe in Moab
- Meanwhile, David remained in the stronghold of the cave until in v5 the prophet Gad told him to go to the forest of **Hereth (#5)**
- **(PowerPoint 7-Map)**
- David obeys God's prophet without questioning - the opposite to Saul, who always does his own thing

By supporting God's anointed, David's family are forced to live in Moab - although not hostile to Israel - they are technically Israel's enemy - and they are far from home - and far from David

[PowerPoint 8]

There is a cost in following God's anointed

2. Cost for the Priests of Nob (1 Samuel 22:6-19)

[PowerPoint 9-Cost for Priests]

Second there is a ***cost for the Priests of the city of Nob*** - that's in verses 6 to 19

- We continue the story in verse 6
- Saul has heard of the whereabouts of David and his men and he is seated under a Tamarisk tree with a spear in his hand
- Whenever Saul has a spear in his hand - it usually spells danger
- And Saul's feeling sorry for himself

- He says to his tribe of Benjamin - will David give you what I've given you - if he becomes King?
 - Will he give you land or vineyards or make you a high rank in the army - like I have?
 - Why are you conspiring against me?
 - He accuses them of not telling him about Jonathan and David's covenant of friendship and not telling him about David's plans
 - Saul is completely paranoid about David
 - Poor Saul - *"nobody loves me - everybody hates me - I think I'll go and eat worms!"*
- But there's one man who is prepared to tell Saul what's going on
 - The guy from last week [chapter 21] - **Doeg** - who was an eyewitness to the interaction between - David and the priest, Ahimelek at Nob - and Doeg saw how Ahimelek helped David
 - Doeg speaks up in vv9-10 - and says Ahimelek inquired of the Lord for David and gave David provisions and Goliath's sword
 - So Ahimelek is summoned by Saul
 - And it's a kangaroo court
 - You see, according to Deut 19:15 - **One witness is not enough to convict anyone accused of any crime or offense they may have committed. A matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses** (See also: Deut 17:6, Num 35:30, Matt 18:16, John 7:51)
 - But when has God's rules ever stopped Saul?

- Despite Ahimelek's evidence that there is no one as loyal as David (v14)- and that he didn't know anything about David being on the run (v15)
- Saul is determined to kill Ahimelek and his whole family (v16)
- But when Saul ordered his guards to do the killing - v17 - they refused to kill God's anointed priests - rightly so - because they feared God more than Saul
- But Doeg was willing to do the deed - in v18
- In fact, what took place was **total genocide** of the town of Nob - 85 priests plus all the men, women and children and babies - and all the animals - v18 and v19
- What a despicable act!
- Remember, back in 1 Samuel 15 - Saul had been instructed by God to wipe out all the Amalekites - the enemies of God's people - but he had spared some. This time - Saul wiped out God's priests and all the people and animals of Nob - without any instruction from God - and he spared no one
- Saul really has lost the plot!

Yet it's a heavy price - the ultimate price - for the priests and the people of Nob to pay

[PowerPoint 10]

There is a cost in following God's anointed

3. Protection for God's Anointed (1 Samuel 22:20-23)

Yet there is hope in this passage

[PowerPoint 11-protection]

Third, there is **protection for God's anointed** - that's in verses 20 to 23

- In God's providence - the priest, Ahimelek's son Abiathar escaped and joined David - v20
- He told David what Saul and Doeg had done
- David realized that he was responsible for this tragedy - because David knew the day he spoke to Ahimelek at Nob - that Doeg witnessed what was going on - and David knew that Doeg would tell Saul
- But David also realized that he, himself, is God's Anointed and that God is with him and will protect him - so he will become the next King
- So, David, confident of God's protection, was able to promise Abiathar he will be safe with him

To sum up then, in 1 Samuel 22 - there is a cost in Following God's anointed, David.

In the same way there is a cost for us in following God's anointed - not for following David - but for following God's anointed one - Jesus. In fact, the title used for Jesus in the Bible - the word Messiah (from Hebrew) and the word Christ (from Greek) - both mean God's anointed one

[PowerPoint 12-Cost for us]

4. Cost for us following God's Anointed (John 15:18-27)

That's where our NT passage comes in - if you'd like to turn there now - turn to John 15 - from verse 18-27

In this passage Jesus warns His disciples about this cost of following Him

In summary Jesus says:

- If you're hated for being a Christian - don't be surprised - many hated Jesus - so many are going to hate us - as Christians
- Jesus says - once we are Christians - we're not like everyone else "in the world - the ones who don't follow Jesus" - we're different - so people won't always like us
- And as we're Jesus' servants - we shouldn't expect any better treatment than our master, Jesus got
- He suffered terribly - so we can expect to suffer for following Jesus
- Jesus says - expect persecution from those who don't believe in Him
- In another passage - Luke 14:25-35 - Jesus says we need to count the cost before following Him
- To truly follow Jesus, we must consider the cost and put him above everyone and everything else

Illustration:

Salvation [being saved for Heaven] is given to us by Jesus – This salvation from Jesus is absolutely free and yet it costs our very life. We receive it at no expenses but once we receive it, we have just committed everything we are and have to Jesus. Now, you may say that's a contradiction – how can something be free and then cost you everything?

Let me explain:

Suppose I want to climb Mount Everest (I don't to - it lacks common sense to me). But suppose I do.

It will cost about \$70K to do it. I don't have that sort of money. Suppose a wealthy businessman offered to pay for me for the entire expedition.

He would pay travel, clothing and climbing gear, guides, and training. I have just committed myself to months of rigorous training. It could even cost my very life – there's no guarantee the climb will be successful. There could be an avalanche or I get frost bite or breathing difficulties. Plenty of good climbers die climbing Everest. So, the climb is free but yet costly to me.

Or, suppose a friend offers me a free ride in his airplane. He invites me to come along at his expense. In accepting his free offer, I just committed my life to him. If he flies safely, I am safe. If he crashes, I die. The minute I says yes to his free offer, I am totally committed to him. I have entrusted my very life into his hands. There is a cost to me to commit to flying in his plane.

In the same way, Jesus freely offers spiritual water of life to everyone who thirsts – water that springs into eternal life. But we need to understand that when we receive his free offer, we are no longer our own, we have been bought at a price – we are to be Jesus' servants (1 Corinthians 7:17-24)

Applications

[PowerPoint 13-Apps]

To tie all this together - some take home applications today:

[PowerPoint 13a-App 1]

1. First, look at 1 Sam 22 - verse 2 - David is like a **shepherd** to those who are broken and burdened and lost - and this should remind us of Jesus our **Good Shepherd** - who came to find lost sheep - those people like us - who were lost from God - until Jesus, the Shepherd, found us.

The question is, have we told people how the Shepherd found us?

Are you lost from God right now? Jesus invites you to come follow Him?

[PowerPoint 13b-App2]

2. Second, there was a cost in following David - God's anointed - a cost for his family and a cost for the priests and the people of Nob. In the same way - Jesus - God's anointed - says there is a cost in following Him too? And Jesus was not a false recruiter. He warned people to count the cost before following Him.

Yet Jesus had many follow Him - perhaps because they were excited by the times and the miracles and perhaps, they'd see a miracle for someone they knew. But are they superficially following Him, what will they do when they hit trouble in their lives? Give up? There will be persecution and trials and problems for us. They will come. ***Have we truly counted the cost?*** It may cost us a lot to follow Jesus:

- a. Cost us our Family - they disown us - or there's a family tug of war
- b. Cost us our Friends - they drop us
- c. Or the ungodly persecute us
- d. Even some people within churches can persecute us?
- e. Following Jesus costs us our wealth - We can't make money and possessions as or more important than Jesus - we must be prepared to give it all up Jesus says - and at the very least share what we have - Jesus says - we can't serve two masters
- f. Then there's the devil? He can wreak havoc in our lives
- g. So, we need to remember when trouble and persecution does come - we have God's armour to protect us (Ephesians 6)

- h. Following Jesus may even cost us our life - 11 of the 12 apostles died as martyrs for Jesus - all except John - who was exiled on the island Patmos instead - are we prepared to die for Jesus?
- i. German Pastor - Dietrich Bonhoeffer WWII [stood up to the Nazis] said this: - **When Christ calls a person, He bids them come and die**

(pause)

- j. We must also consider the cost of NOT following Jesus - permanently separated from God forever - in a place called Hell

[PowerPoint 13-App3]

- 3. Third, ultimately there is **safety in God's anointed** - look at 1 Sam 22:23 - David says to Abiathar - **You will be safe with me.** In the same way we are **safe for eternity - whatever happens in this life** - Jesus says in John 10:28-29 - **²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹ My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.**

As Christians, we're safe in **two pairs of hands** - God's Anointed, Jesus', hands - and God, the Father's, hands!

Let's pray...