

# Separated From the Herd

Sunday, September 29, 2019

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

1 Samuel 17:15 But David went and returned from Saul to feed his father's sheep at Beth-lehem.

1 Samuel 21:1 Then came David to Nob to Ahimelech the priest: and Ahimelech was afraid at the meeting of David, and said unto him, Why art thou alone, and no man with thee?

- I. One of the outstanding things about David was that he was alone a lot.
    - A. As we read about the events of his life it is obvious that he was most often alone.
      1. When he needed to hear from God in a special way, he went alone; no one accompanied him, and his communion with God did not depend on any help from anyone else.
      2. Even when he was leading an army, and sitting on the throne, the picture of a man alone is what we see with David.
      3. Just the opposite was true of Saul – he could not function or make decisions, or even be able to stand himself, unless he had people gathered around him to pay attention to him.
    - B. Solitude is where a person learns to walk with God.
    - C. No one like David is ever forged in the crowd and among the conversations of men.
    - D. David was obviously not included in the affairs and activities of the family.
      1. He was the youngest, and by the time he was coming of age, the rest of them were men, soldiers, involved outside the family in the affairs of the world.
  - 1 Samuel 17:14 And David was the youngest: and the three eldest followed Saul.
    2. David was left out and it was the greatest blessing of his life, because it was the making of the man he became.
  - E. David was often alone during his whole life.
    1. Even when he was in a crowd, he was alone.
    2. When God separates one of his from the world he stays separated, regardless of the circumstances around him.
    3. The company of others and the crowds do not change who he is.
    4. Loneliness becomes his frame of mind and he feels alone because he knows he is not a member of the herd.
    5. If he doubts it at times they are faithful to remind him that he is not one of them.
  - F. Even though this person who is separated and alone does not belong with the crowd, he does not view them as his enemy that must be destroyed.
    1. In his solitude he does not become bitter toward others, but learns compassion towards them.
- II. David's brothers, and everyone else there the day he killed the giant, were all a part of the crowd.
    - A. It is no wonder that none of them had the courage, or the resolve to stand against the giant or the army of the Philistines.
    - B. People talk when they are gathered together and they talk about what they see.
    - C. After they form themselves into factions they spend their time from then on just justifying and rationalizing everything they do as a group.
    - D. They do not encourage one another in the face of adversity – they panic, like chickens.

1. All they see is danger, and threats to their comfort and security.
  2. And that is what their conversation is about.
- E. The only way things become different is when a David shows up in the crowd, and wins a victory alone.
1. Then they rally themselves and follow their leader – for a while.

- III. What goes on in the heart and mind and life of someone who is separated from the herd of men and left alone with God?
- A. He stops hearing the foolishness, the ignorance, the fearfulness, the boasting, the lies, the worshipping and exalting of mere men.
1. Just removing that from our diet of thoughts does wonders for the soul and spirit.
- B. He begins to think on his own without his thoughts being manipulated, or challenged, or distorted by the bellowing of the herd.
1. And his thoughts are much deeper than the thoughts of those who live and spend their time in the company of a multitude.
  2. All they think about is what someone else is saying or thinking.
  3. They have no real thoughts of their own, they are just continually listening to others and trying to figure out which position or a system of thought they can agree with and identify themselves with, because have a herd mentality – not a loner mentality.
- C. He becomes dependent upon God instead of other people.
1. He goes to God for answers instead of examining the opinions of those around him.
  2. He loses his concern for what others think of him because it does not matter anymore.
  3. His sustenance comes from God and not from the hands of others.
  4. God is the center of his life and thoughts and he is only concerned about pleasing Him – not to maintain his acceptance in whatever tribe he wants to belong.
- D. He becomes stable in his spirit and soul and his mind is not shaken with anything that comes from the darkness of the world around him.
1. His vision clears up and he sees things clearly as they are instead of confusing and frightening like the world around him does.
  2. He sees the ignorance and deception of them that run with the multitudes.
  3. He sees the end where they are headed.
- E. Being alone and separated from the company of men is the way God has prepared every special servant He has had from the beginning.
1. It is the only way that He can make a godly king, or a true prophet, or a man that is mighty in spiritual strength.
  2. No one knows about this person God is preparing until the time comes when a man like him is needed in a most desperate way.
- F. Practice being alone and learn to enjoy it.
- G. Learn to live without the company, and the praise and acceptance of some crowd.
- H. Learn to walk with God and be satisfied with his company.
- I. Solitude is the place of blessing and where we find the source of strength, stability, true faith in God, and clear vision of the situation of the world and the people around us.