

Introduction:

- Myron Flynn prophetic word. Oct 2014. *“It is my desire to raise up people who will do what I’ve called them to do. There have been Christians who have gone in their own direction instead of My direction-families as well. I want My sheep to hear My voice in this hour, especially when the thief’s voice sounds so attracting. I want people who will follow Me no matter what the cost. I want people who will GLADLY give me their lives for My master plan. I want people who will love ME, not only what I give. Selfless people who live with the mindset of “what’s in it for God?”. Steadfast people who focus on Me when the world around them is spiritually collapsing. Diligent people who remain in the Word and not drift off course. I want soldiers. TOO MANY of My people are sitting on the sidelines watching. I want soldiers. Soldiers that love people while fighting against the enemy. Those who have had it with darkness and want to fight UNDER MY COMMAND, no matter what the cost. I want soldiers.”*
- *“How much more do I need to say? It would take too long to recount the stories of the faith of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, David, Samuel, and all the prophets. By faith these people overthrew kingdoms, ruled with justice, and received what God had promised them. They shut the mouths of lions, quenched the flames of fire, and escaped death by the edge of the sword. Their weakness was turned to strength. They became strong in battle and put whole armies to flight.”* (Hebrews 11:32–34, NLT)
- *“So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. Then others began coming—men who were in trouble or in debt or who were just discontented—until David was the captain of about 400 men.”* (1 Samuel 22:1–2, NLT) 1 Samuel 22:1 is the story of the beginning of the community of King David. Lets look at this community of the King.

I. A Community of “Losers”

- A. David looks like a ‘looser’ when he arrives at Adullam. He killed Goliath and everything ‘went south’ from there. He kills Goliath, kills 100 philistines and collect 100 foreskins for Saul, threatened with death from Saul, take bread from the priests, and they are all killed because he talks to them, and now he is in a cave.
 1. So when David arrives at the cave he has:
 - a) Lost his wife
 - b) Lost his friends, especially his best friend Jonathan
 - c) Lost his job
 - d) Lost the prestige and self worth that went with that job
 - e) Lost his income
 - f) Lost his dreams
 - g) Lost his confidence (playing a nut). David was at an all time low and had a self worth of about zero. He was probably the farthest he ever could have imagined himself from what God had said would happen in his life. He would be king - yeah, right.
- B. Community - a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society. You can have a sewing community, shooting community, a Christian community, prison community, etc. Community happens when people come together around a common interest. We are forming community little by little here at FCC. With over 16 small groups underway, people are slowly connecting one to another. Kingdom is about sharing life together.
- C. David is surrounded by what appears to be losers. They were the in trouble, in debt, discontented of Israel. This was his start up community! Communities often begin in caves. Misfortune will most often cause you to find misfits.
 1. Caves are where people find themselves when all of their life supports, all of the things they relied on, all of their dreams, are stripped away! Caves are where people find themselves when they had thought to do great things, to have a wonderful family, to go "boldly where no man or,

woman has gone before," only to realize or discover that things simply were not going to work out as planned! Caves appear to be the place of choice for those of us who would engage in having major "pity parties"! Perhaps, you are finding yourself in a cave - right now!

2. Friends and bonds made in sorrow are the most reliable and most trustworthy you will ever have. Something amazing starts to happen. People start joining themselves to him. At the cave he began to have a gathering of eagles. (Although at the time they looked liked vultures)!
- D. Take note of the atmosphere of the cave! Initially it is not good. David is a warrior and his **anointing was to bring the atmosphere of heaven to Israel**. His anointing was to bring the atmosphere of Heaven to this band of "losers!" That is what a warrior of heaven does!

II. A Community of People

- A. Two things brought these people together in the desert with David. Pain and Hope. Pain because of the conditions of their lives. Hope because God had anointed this one called David to be king over Israel. God's warriors, like David, are anointed to bring the atmosphere of heaven to people. Warriors of God bless everyone around them for they carry the overcoming, overwhelming goodness that flows from the heart of God. That brings people together!
- B. Communion with God: The church exists to serve God's redemptive purposes by helping people connect with God. This happens best in the context of small groups/community. In community, you find out just how much we are all alike. Rich or poor, in community you find out that (if cut) everyone still bleeds red. Ie. Boot camps in the military take misfits from all walks of life and brings them brings them to the same common level and connects them. Connects them so well they function together in difficult circumstances. God is looking for warriors and I am telling you that warriors are made in the context of community.
- C. They came to the cave...It was where pain and hope married!
 1. Because they knew they would find sympathy not criticism. They would be accepted not turned away. David was the last person in the world who would find fault with them. He was just as broken, but anointed. Broken men don't throw stones at other broken men.
 2. These men did not come to David when he was riding as the prince of Israel. He couldn't relate to them then, and they couldn't relate to him. You don't have to lose your job, your wife, your dog, etc. to be an inspiration to others, you just have to have a reputation for being sympathetic and a person who knows how to pray. Love God and Love People!
 3. They came because they saw in him a man who cared for them, not simply for what they could bring to the table. Ie: A cartoon in a magazine, two pigs being fed by a farmer. The farmer is really loading up hog trough with good stuff, one pig turns to the other and says, "You ever wonder why he takes such good care of us?" ... BACON!!!
 4. They come because David is a man after God own heart. 1 Sam 13:14.
 5. These men were drawn to David because they saw a guy who didn't lose his faith when he had every reason in the world to do so. They saw a faith that came alive in trouble, not one that disappeared in hardship. His convictions did not fluctuate with the weather.
- D. David the warrior was anointed to raise up warriors!
 1. David was anointed to lead men into and with the Presence of God. They recognized God in David and were willing to follow him. Are people recognizing God in you?
 2. David recognized his calling and took the congregation that came to him at Adullam and made them into warriors that would make a way for the nation. He did that in three ways:
 - a) David accepted them as they were.
 - b) David established a safe place for them.
 - c) David began the transformation process of these misfits.
 - d) This is what you small groups leaders are empowered by God to do!

III. A Community of Warriors

- A. David, being a man after God's own heart showed his followers what it was like to be after God's heart. In doing so, he change the spiritual atmosphere over Israel. He brought rest. He left plans. He established 24/7 prayer and worship in the land of Israel
 1. Warriors first change the atmosphere and then create an environment that produces people of quality. Our job as warriors is to change the atmosphere where we live, work, and worship.
 2. Warriors inflame passion by the way they live their own lives.
 3. Warriors give permission for misfits to "Dream again!" They let 'losers' dream of winning again. This is the way of God.
 4. David, as a warrior of God, was able to see beyond the natural realm and into the realm of the Spirit.
 - a) "To see from Heavens perspective opens you up to all the claims and desires of Heaven in the circumstances of your life." Graham Cooke.
 - b) Promises are realized when your awareness of God is greater than your natural vision!
- B. They fought to establish and stabilize Israel. But first they fought to establish and stabilize each other.
 1. David's identity as a warrior in God was rooted his intimacy and worship of God.
 2. A Kingdom army has not power with out the Presence of the Living God.
 - a) Ps 51 *Take not your Holy Spirit from me.*
 - b) Ex 33:15 *If your Presence does not go with us, do not bring us up from here.*
 - c) The Presence is the Warriors power!
- C. Warriors fight so that all people may be blessed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We want to change the spiritual atmosphere over people's lives so that they get to experience the gracious heart of our living God.
- D. David changed the atmosphere over the 'losers'; the losers became winning warriors; and, the Warriors established the nation of Israel once again.

Conclusion:

- My future is not determined by the troubles of my past, but by God's promises of my future.
- I live with the knowledge that God is not done writing my story!
- The misfits came for—acceptance, inspiration, and genuine leadership. They became his mighty men of valor all because they found a guy who loved God, even in the worst time of his life.