

## SEE IT

**1 Samuel 22:1** So David left Gath and escaped to the cave of Adullam. Soon his brothers and all his other relatives joined him there. <sup>2</sup>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.

## OBEY IT

How can we serve others, when our own private life is falling apart? Today's text shows us a future king, living in a cave with many problems in his hands. Here are three principles that have helped me, especially when having a cave experience:

**1. Learn from it. Never waste a cave experience.**

One of the most practical ways bad experiences have prepared me is when I see people struggling with some of the same issues I went through, and being able to tell them: It's going to be alright. Never waste a cave experience. Grow from it. Learn from it. Help others after you are done with it.

**2. Serve your way out. Never get comfortable in the cave.**

David "became the leader" of about 400 people in the cave. He understood that he must lead the ones you have, not the ones you want to have. Leaders are thermostats. They set the temperature in the room. They do not let circumstances determine effort. They give their best, do their best, where they are.

**3. Look for people God sends your way. Never go at it alone.**

Life is difficult. When you are in the midst of the chaos, God will always send someone to help you through it. Sometimes we are so focused on what's going on that we ignore mentors and try to go at it alone. Mentors will give you perspective, encouragement and accountability.

## SHARE IT

1. Mentor local youth.
2. Put \$10 on a random gas pump.
3. Buy flowers for the cashier at the grocery store.

**My Prayer Today:**

Father, help me understand that I can still be of service to you, even though my conditions are not perfect. Help me serve you in this "cave". Amen.

**My Thoughts** \_\_\_\_\_

## SEE IT

At creation our heavenly Father made every provision for our happiness, He included friends as a key ingredient. The Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone," Genesis 2:18. God gave man the animal creation for low level companionship. This relationship describes superior to inferior. Likewise, God gave man other humans for companionship thus this represents mutual social relationships.

## OBEY IT

The word "friend" appears in the Bible (King James) 53 times. Friendly appears 3 times. Friends appear 49 times. Friendship appears twice. As a quick reference word study, the Old Testament the word for friend is reya in Proverbs 18:24 which means brother, associate, companion, friend, or neighbor. In the New Testament, the Greek terms used most include philos or "friend". Let's consider three things about friends.

**1. Purpose of Friends**

Today's generation seem to possess the habit of being anti-social. They don't trust anybody, so they live guarded lives. Being alone is not negative, but being a lone-ranger without friends as support becomes alarming. We're here on this planet not only to make something of ourselves, but also leave our mark in the most memorable manner. It's our privilege to touch those around us with our friendship and support. Each of us can help change our friends lives, help them bounce back from the lowest of times, and help them learn about the love of God. "A friend loves at all times..." Proverbs 17:17.

**2. Practice of Friends**

Proverbs 27:17 says, "iron sharpens iron as a friend sharpens a friend." Someone said there are three types of friends. First, mentor friend teaches, counsels, or disciples. Second, mentee friend is taught, counseled, or disciplined. Third, mutual friends are not mentored, but closely aligned on same level balancing the natural flow of giving and receiving between genuine friends. As we meet new people and expand our social circles, we'll encounter individuals from all walks of life with stories to tell and personalities to share. People help us in more ways than we can imagine, but mostly they help us to broaden our outlook on life.

**3. Power of Friends**

One of my favorite story tells the story of a man journeying on a winter's day through deep drifts of snow became benumbed by the cold which was freezing his vital powers. "Nearly chilled to death, and about to give up the struggle for life heard the moans of a fellow traveler who was perishing in the cold. Sympathy aroused, determined to rescue the man, he raised the sufferer to his feet, bore him through the very drifts he thought he could never get through alone. Traveling to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he saved himself." Welfare Ministry p. 305. Friends possess a power to change lives as well as the world around them.

## SHARE IT

1. Clean up your area at work, and a common one as well.
2. Pick up trash.
3. Pay for the drink, meal, or toll of the person behind you.

**My Prayer Today:**

Father, help me be loving in my relationships, and help me serve even those I do not get along with. Amen.

**My Thoughts** \_\_\_\_\_