

A person wearing a grey hooded robe is kneeling in a grassy field, holding a long wooden staff. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of a setting or rising sun, with trees in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

A Heart Like
God's

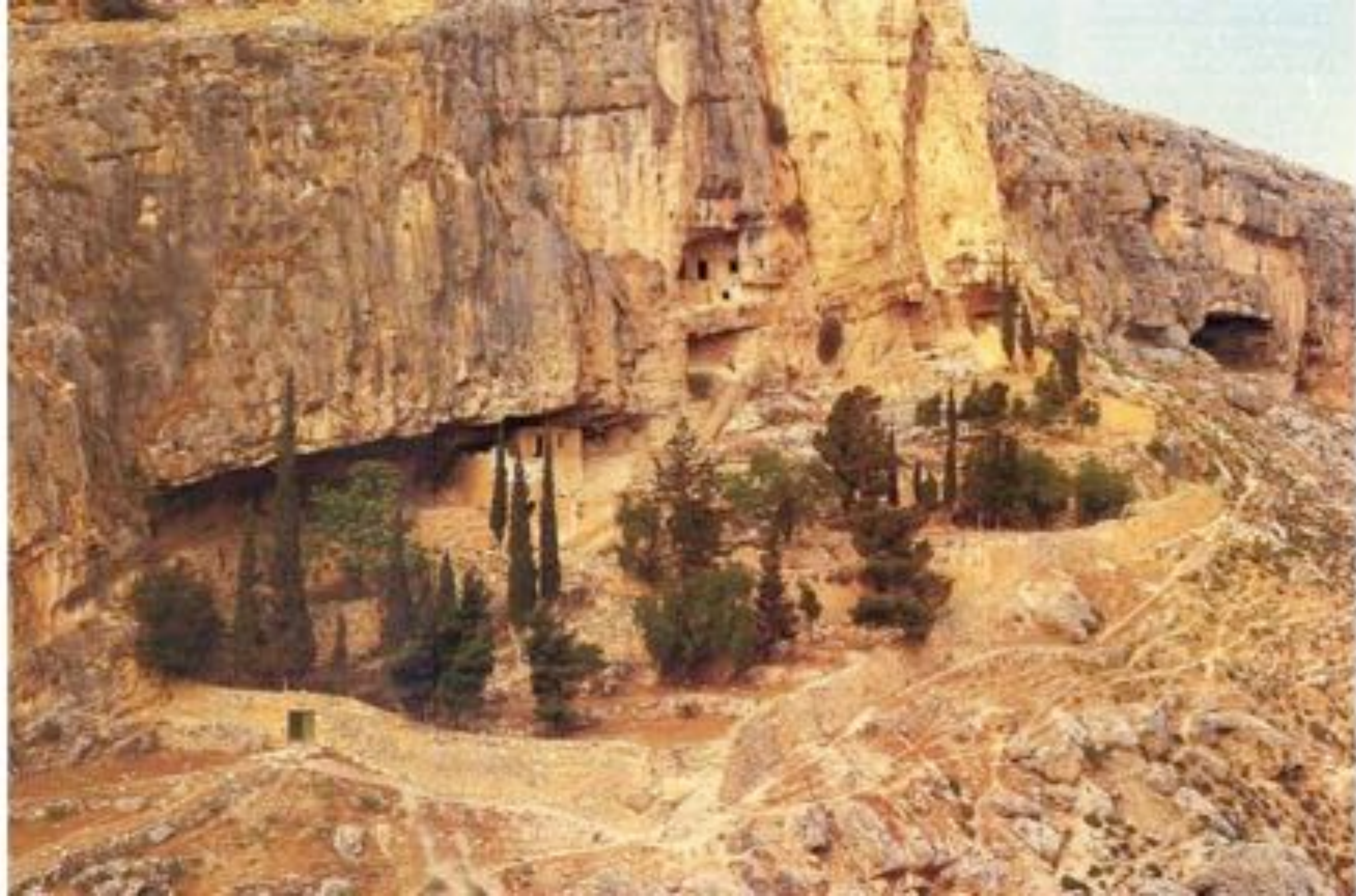
Part 14: Surrounded by Mercy











A Psalm of David, when he was in
the wilderness of Judah.

Psalm 63

NASB95

1 O God, You are my God; I shall
seek You earnestly; *My soul thirsts
for You, my flesh yearns for You,* In
a dry and weary land where there is
no water.

2 *Thus I have seen You in the
sanctuary,* To see Your power and
Your glory.

*3 Because Your lovingkindness is
better than life, My lips will praise
You.*

4 So *I will bless You as long as I live;*
I will lift up my hands in Your
name.

5 *My soul is satisfied* as with marrow
and fatness, And my mouth offers
praises with joyful lips.

6 When I remember You on my
bed, *I meditate on You in the night*
watches,

7 For You have been my help, And
in the shadow of Your wings I sing for
joy.

8 *My soul clings to You;* Your right
hand upholds me.

9 But those who seek my life to
destroy it, Will go into the depths
of the earth.

10 They will be delivered over to
the power of the sword; They will
be a prey for foxes.

11 But the king will rejoice in God;
Everyone who swears by Him will
glory, For the mouths of those who
speak lies will be stopped.

What we meditate on
(think about over and
over again) is the best
way of knowing what
our future will become.

1 Now when Saul returned from pursuing the Philistines, he was told, saying, "Behold, David is in the wilderness of Engedi."

1 Samuel 24

NASB95

2 Then Saul took *three thousand chosen men from all Israel* and went *to seek David* and his men in front of the Rocks of the Wild Goats.

3 He came to the sheepfolds on the way, where there *was* a cave; and Saul went in to relieve himself. Now David and his men were sitting in the inner recesses of the cave.

4 The men of David said to him, “Behold, *this is the day of which the LORD said to you, ‘Behold; I am about to give your enemy into your hand, and you shall do to him as it seems good to you.’*” Then David arose and cut off the edge of Saul’s robe secretly.

5 It came about afterward that **David's conscience bothered him** because he had cut off the edge of Saul's *robe*.

6 So he said to his men, “Far be it from me *because of the LORD* that I should do this thing to *my lord, the LORD’S anointed*, to stretch out my hand against him, since he is the LORD’S anointed.”

7 David persuaded his men with *these* words and did not allow them to rise up against Saul. And Saul arose, left the cave, and went on *his* way.

Carrying the heart of
God means loving what
He loves, honoring whom
He honors, and behaving
accordingly.

When we have
opportunity to seek
revenge on those who
have wronged us, consider
it a test of mercy.

God's favorite response
way to respond to our
treachery against Him is
to show **MERCY**

The more we live in
awareness of His
Presence, the more
effortless mercy
becomes.

8 Now afterward David arose and went out of the cave and called after Saul, saying, “**My lord the king!**” And when Saul looked behind him, David bowed with his face to the ground and prostrated himself.

1 Samuel 24

NASB95

9 David said to Saul, “Why do you listen to the words of men, saying, ‘Behold, David seeks to harm you’?”

10 “Behold, this day your eyes have seen that the LORD had given you today into my hand in the cave, and some said to kill you, *but my eye had pity on you*; and I said, ‘I will not stretch out my hand against my lord, for he is the LORD’S anointed.’

11 “Now, *my father*, see! Indeed, see the edge of your robe in my hand! For in that I cut off the edge of your robe and did not kill you, know and perceive that there is no evil or rebellion in my hands, and I have not sinned against you, though you are lying in wait for my life to take it.

12 *“May the LORD judge between you and me,
and may the LORD avenge me on you; but my
hand shall not be against you.*”

13 “As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes forth wickedness’; but my hand shall not be against you.

14 “After whom has the king of Israel come out?
Whom are you pursuing? A dead dog, a single
flea?

15 “The LORD therefore be judge and decide
between you and me; and may He see and plead
my cause and deliver me from your hand.”

16 When David had finished speaking these words to Saul, Saul said, “Is this your voice, *my son* David?” Then Saul lifted up his voice and wept.

17 He said to David, "You are more righteous than I; for you have dealt well with me, while I have dealt wickedly with you.

18 “You have declared today that you have done good to me, that the LORD delivered me into your hand and yet you did not kill me.

19 “For if a man finds his enemy, will he let him go away safely? *May the LORD therefore reward you with good in return for what you have done to me this day.*

20 “Now, behold, *I know that you will surely be king, and that the kingdom of Israel will be established in your hand.*

21 “So now swear to me by the LORD that you will not cut off my descendants after me and that you will not destroy my name from my father’s household.”

22 David swore to Saul. And Saul went to his home, but David and his men went up to the stronghold.

Sowing mercy invites
mercy into our lives
sometimes even from
our "enemies"

19 For the report of your obedience
has reached to all; therefore I am
rejoicing over you,

Romans 16:19

NASB95

but I want you to *be wise in what is good* and *innocent in what is evil.*