

1 Samuel 30

1-16-11

“Strength in Defeat & Generosity in Victory!”

I. INTRO:

- A. David, living 16 months in Philistine land, & almost sent to war against Israel, was now relieved that he & his men had been discharged from the war.
1. David returned to *Ziklag* only to find **tragedy**.
 2. There are times when **1 problem** follows right on the heels of another.
- B. **Outline:** *Strength In Defeat & Generosity In Victory!*
- C. As we review what the Lord did for David in that **dark** hour in his life, we can better understand how He helps His people when **problems & crises** come into our lives.

II. STRENGTH IN DEFEAT! (1-8)

- A. **WHEN LIFE GOES UP IN SMOKE!** (1-3)
- B. **Imagine** coming home to find your neighborhood *ash-gray, charred embers smoking & smoldering; & an eerie stillness, a bone chilling silence*.
1. Lets put ourselves in David’s *worn-out* sandals.
- C. **PRESSED INTO A TIGHT CORNER!** (4-6a)
- D. The *families* of David & all his men were **missing**.
- E. **David was greatly distressed** - “*pressed into a tight corner, the way a potter would press clay into a mold*”. (Wiersbe)
1. Different people react in different ways to the same circumstances.
 - a) **What life does to us depends on what life find in us!**
- F. And the grief of David’s men soon turned to rage against David.
1. They were so angry at him. **We trusted you, we lost everything**.
 2. They spoke of rising up in **mutiny** against their leader & killing him.
 - a) Sometimes we let our **hearts** run ahead of our **heads**.
 3. I wonder if some of you haven’t experienced these very feelings though?
 - a) A wife to her husband over their finances...*I trusted you, we lost everything!*
 - b) A business partner to his/her colleague...*I trusted you, we lost everything!*
- G. The Significance of proper values!
1. Talk about having your proper sense of values restored immediately!
 2. Look how many times they mention there **wives & kids**...but not once their things!

- a) No thought was given to the **material loss** they had sustained.
- b) **Instead** every man was overcome w/grief over the loss of *loving relationships*.
3. Life's true values lie in our *relationships* w/1 another, not in our *possessions*.
- a) Lk.12:15 **Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.**
- H. A **crisis** does not **make** a person; it **shows** what a person is made of! (Warren Weisrbe)
1. Like his men, David *wept & sorrowed*; **but unlike some of his men** he did not look for a *scapegoat*.
 2. In times of crisis, *express your feelings honestly*, **but do not** look for *somebody to blame*.
 3. Rather, **get your strength from the Lord(6b) & seek his will(7,8)**.
- I. **GET YOUR STRENGTH FROM THE LORD!** (6b)
- J. David had sunk to his lowest low. **Finally**, he was ready to reach out/up to heaven.
1. His heart suddenly sprang back into its old resting-place in the bosom of God.¹
- K. The principle we learn:
1. *Cloudy days & dark nights* call for **right thinking & a vertical focus**.
 2. Ps.30:1-5 **O Lord my God, I cried out to You, And You healed me.**
Lord, You brought my soul up from the grave; You have kept me alive,
that I should not go down to the pit. Sing praise to the Lord, you saints of His,
And give thanks at the remembrance of His holy name.
For His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for life;
Weeping may endure for a night, But joy comes in the morning.
- L. **SEEK HIS WILL!** (7,8)
- M. **Please bring the ephod here to me** - He was determined to *look to the Lord* for guidance on his very next decision.
1. He learned his lesson, no more stepping/running ahead of the Lord.
- N. It is important to have a clear understanding of *biblical principles...but* little will be accomplished if we do not also become personally involved in the *circumstances* of our lives.
1. Far too many people today take a **passive approach** to the Christian life.
 2. David & his men **would not have** recovered their wives & children **if** they had just **sat** *dejected* among the ashes & charred timbers.

¹ F.B.Meyer, *David*, pp.147-148.

3. As **tired** as they were, & **emotionally spent**, they needed a firm resolve & the determination to pursue their enemy.
4. Where **ch.29** showed the importance of **divine involvement**;
Ch.30 shows the importance of **human effort**.
 - a) **Q: Are you prepared to become involved in a task so that God can accomplish His purposes through you?**
 - b) **What do you sense God wants you to do presently?**
 - c) Ever notice, ***Buddha is always seated, Jesus is always moving!***
 - (1) Christianity has become very ***Buddhistic!***
5. **Positive action** is needed if we are to accomplish great things for God.

O. God promised David & his men success if they would **pursue** the Amalekites.

P. **Wait a minute!** - after 16 months of standing on his self-will; living on deception & duplicity...and God just answers him? **Pursue!**

1. **Not**, "David, I **can't trust** you anymore!"
Not, "David, you're on **probation** for **at least** 6 months!"
Not, "David, go directly to jail, do not pass go, do not collect \$200.
Not, "David, you're going back into **training** for a long time, before I could ever trust you in My army!" **Just**, "**Pursue!!!**"
2. **That's my God!** - when David touched **rock bottom**, he turned back to God.
And at that 1st upturn of his tear stained face; the very 1st moment God looked down & saw his **brokenhearted child weeping**, until he could weep no more, **then** heaven answered with an immediate word of **power & victory**, & sent him to **conquer**.
 - a) That moment became for David the **gateway** into victory.
3. **When I was a child** I would swim directly above the drain in the deep end. Then I'd stop swimming, & descend, blowing out all my air. It was a very slow descent, then my feet would touch the drain. Then with just the flex of my toes, it would propel me back to the surface. - **David just pushed off the drain!**
 - a) David is about to begin the accomplishment of God's purpose for his life.
4. **This morning...Turn** your eyes to Jesus; **lift** your tear stained face; **repent** of your self-life; **acknowledge** the futility of fighting against God.
 - a) At that moment he will **lift you** up; **bring you** victory; & **send you** to pursue your enemy.

III. **GENEROSITY IN VICTORY! (9-31)**

A. **DIVINE DIRECTIONS!** (9-16)

B. Many seem to think the bible has to be **explained**; **no**, it needs to be **believed & obeyed!**

1. We often fail to see the *tremendous difference* between **knowing the Word of God, & knowing the God of the Word!**
 2. Conferences, rallies, missionary conventions, church service's, & home bible studies come & go, & often we remain *unchanged*.
 3. We are often just a group of what Alan Redpath called, **unbelieving believers**, "*perhaps never so well equipped, but never so poorly endued.*"
- C. David & his 600 men **set out** after them, **but** $\frac{1}{3}$ **drop out** as they were too exhausted to keep the pace & were allowed to **drop out** of the pursuit.
- D. God uses the **weak** things in the world, **even** *a sick boy* who was left to die.
1. When we do the **possible** (i.e. David pursuing after the Amalekites); God does the **impossible** (God provides an **informant**)!
- E. **DAVID'S SPOIL!** (17-20)
- F. They furiously fought them for 2 days & destroyed all but 400 of them.
1. Remember Moses prophesied, that he Lord would one day wipe out the *Amalekites* (Ex.17:14-16)
 2. So complete was David's destruction of the *Amalekites* that they are **never again mentioned** in **either** the books of Samuel or Kings.
- G. **They recovered all** - in addition, they seized the Amalekites flocks & herds.
1. They recovered wives, children, & possessions...**but above & beyond that**, David recovered his relationship back with the Lord; David recovered purpose; David recovered direction; David recovered vision; David recovered passion; David recovered gladness of heart; David recovered all forgiveness!
 - a) David recovered in one day what he had lost over a period of 16 months.
 - b) **David recovered all!**
- H. **This is David's spoil** - he wasn't claiming it for himself in a selfish way, but only stating that he would *see to its distribution*.
1. His **generosity** bothered some of the bad men. (but it always will)
 2. Just like it did w/**Judas** a she said to the woman w/costly perfume, **why this waste? For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much & given to the poor.**
- I. **SHARE & SHARE ALIKE!** (21-25)
- J. **David's** rule regarding the *equal distribution of booty/spoil* finds its **parallel** in **Paul's** teaching about *Christian Service!*

1. 1 Cor.3:6-9 I **planted**, Apollos **watered**, but God gave the **growth**.
So neither he who **plants** nor he who **waters** is anything, but only God who gives the **growth**. He who **plants** and he who **waters** are one, and each will receive his wages according to his labor. For we are God's fellow workers.
- K. It was **the Lord** that gave them the **victory**, so nobody had the right to claim the spoils for himself, as if the Lord owed it to him.
1. **God was gracious & generous** to deliver the enemy into their hands, & **they** should be **gracious & generous** to share the wealth w/others.
- L. **ENOUGH FOR EVERYONE!** (26-31)
- M. The *tragedy* became **victory**, with profit for everybody!
- N. **The elders of Judah** - They were in part compensation to those people in the villages & hamlets of the Negev who had helped him during his outlaw years.
- O. These gifts would also make it easier for David & his men to **return** to Israel, following their now imminent departure from Philistine Territory.
1. Prov.18:2 **A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great.**
- P. Remember, this was **David's spoil!** (20)
1. David gladly acknowledged the help he had received from his friends.
 2. **Gratitude** shouldn't only be the dominant note in **Christian piety** but equally the dominant motive in **Christian action** in the world.
 3. Such **gratitude** is for the **grace** that has been shown us by God.
 4. **A true Christian is a man who never for a moment forgets what God has done for him** in Christ.
- Q. So, we saw how God helps His people when *problems & crises* come into their lives.
1. **1st** the Lord **encouraged** David so that he didn't despair.
 - a) When crises come our way we need **courage** to face it.
 - b) We must not **blame others**, & we must not **pretend** that nothing is wrong.
 2. **2nd** the Lord gave David **wisdom** to know what to do.
 3. **3rd** the Lord provided David with **the facts** he needed so he could find his enemy. [when we step out in faith & trust Him, He will **guide us** when we need it]
 4. **4th** the Lord gave David & his men the **strength** they needed to defeat their enemy.
 5. Ps.37:5 **Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, & He shall bring it to pass.**
- R. Maybe this morning is your *turn around day* like David's...*Push off the drain!*