

1 SAMUEL 30 -- DAVID'S TRAGEDY AT ZIKLAG!

7/14/18 Sat Morn Prayer – P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY – William Longstaff – Dallas Christian Adult Choral Group

1. Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word. Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

2. Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone Abiding in Jesus, like Him thou shalt be; Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

3. Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, Each thought and each motive beneath His control. Thus, led by His Spirit to fountains of love, Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

Chapter 30– David's Wives and Children Are Captured

Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

1Sa 30:1 Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,

- It certainly **happened**, but it didn't happen by accident. God had a purpose for all of this in David's life. "On the third day" indicates that David and his men covered about twenty-five miles a day on the march south from Aphek to Ziklag, where they would have arrived tired, hungry and expecting all the comforts for a welcome home.

1Sa 30:2 and had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried them away and went their way.

- While David and his men were to the north trying to join the Philistine army, their own city of Ziklag was unguarded. The opportunistic Amalekites took advantage of the defenseless city, **attacked** it, and **burned it to the ground**. Worse than that, they **had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great**. Not only was the city burned, but all their women and children were taken away.

1Sa 30:3 So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive.

- Even off in the distance they could see something was wrong. When they came to the city and saw it was a pile of burned rubble, with no voice of the survivors, it seemed that everything was lost.
- They were distraught! To come back and find your family's gone, your city burned, and they were just devastated by it.

1Sa 30:4 Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

- David did not weep only because everything and everyone was lost, but also he knew that he was responsible for it. No wonder **David was greatly distressed**. He is about as low in his backslidden state as a man can be; David is like the prodigal son who now sits in the pigpen.

1Sa 30:5-6 And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. [6] Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved (bitter), every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

- **Stoning him** - As the author of their miseries, by coming to Ziklag at first, by provoking the Amalekites to this cruelty, and by his forwardness in marching away with Achish, and leaving their wives and children unguarded. – David blundered!
- **Encouraged himself in the LORD his God** - David knew that the LORD's strength was there for those who wait upon Him. God's strength was there for David all the time, but now he takes it for himself and will strengthen himself in the LORD his God.
- This was the key to David being a man after God's heart
- Why would God strengthen him? Because God is rich in mercy and grace, and because David was now completely broken, ready to be filled.

1Sa 30:7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, "Please bring the ephod here to me." And Abiathar brought the ephod to David.

1Sa 30:8 So David inquired of the LORD, saying, "Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?" And He answered him, "Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all."

- David wins back what was lost - and more. First, David uses that strength when he **inquired of the LORD** - this is the first time we read of him seeking God in any way, since joining the Philistines.
- In David's day it was commanded of the LORD. The key to the effectiveness of the Urim and Thummim was that *God's Word* gave them. In seeking God through the Urim and Thummim, David was really going back to God's Word for guidance, because



it was the word of God that commanded their place and allowed their use. Today, if we have the same focus on God's Word, He will guide us also.

- David asked, *Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?* At one time, David would not have bothered to even ask these questions. But in returning from his backsliding, David brings *everything* to the LORD. Nothing is done just because it was done before. He asks God about everything.
- What did God answer David? *Pursue, for you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all.* God first gave David something to do (pursue). Then, God gave David a *promise* in the doing (*you shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all*). When God gives us something to *do*, He also gives us a *promise* in the doing.

1Sa 30:9-10 *So David went, he and the six hundred men who were with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. [10] But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed behind, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor.*

- **So David went:** God told David to go and pursue them, and David did exactly that. Obedience to the LORD is often that simple.
- What is the use of calling Jesus "Lord" ("Lord" – 111X in Acts) if we will not *do* what He tells us to *do*? Is there a single thing you have *done*, or a single thing you have *not done*, for the simple reason that Jesus told you to *do it* or not *do it*?
- When they got to the river Besor, a third of David's army was too weak to continue, four hundred continued.
- Note David was not delivered without further trial . . . Many leaders would have given up the chase with one out of three of his troop disabled, but David pursued with his reduced force. When God means to bless us, He often takes away a part of the little strength we thought we had. Two hundred men must be taken away from David's side before God could give him victory!

1Sa 30:11-19 *Then they found an Egyptian in the field and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water. [12] And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So, when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights. [13] Then David said to him, "To whom do you belong, and where are you from?" And he said, "I am a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick. [14] We made an invasion of the southern area of the Cherethites, in the territory which belongs to Judah, and of the southern area of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire." [15] And David said to him, "Can you take me down to this troop?" So, he said, "Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop." [16] And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. [17] Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. [18] So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives. [19] And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all.*

- None of the children were killed or injured. All the wives, the families were there, plus all of the goods, plus all of the extra goods that they had ripped off from all of these other people where they had invaded. So, David came out ahead!

1Sa 30:20 *Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those other livestock, and said, "This is David's spoil."*

- **This is David's spoil:** God gave David *even more* than what was promised. He received **spoil** from the battle, beyond what had been taken from Ziklag. This was blessing straight from the grace of God.

1Sa 30:21 *Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So, they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them.*

- The spoils are distributed equally among those who fought and those who supported.

1Sa 30:22-24 *Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them any of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead them away and depart." [23] But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. [24] For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part is who goes down to the battle, so shall his part be who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike."*

1Sa 30:25 *So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.*

SUMMARY:

- When tragedies occur, how quickly can we see God's purpose?
- What is our response?
- How do we handle criticism and rebuke from others?
- We notice how this tragedy turned David back to the LORD and to His Word!
- David is a remarkable picture of Jesus in this chapter: • We are like David's men, David is like Jesus. • We are like the weary ones left behind, David is like Jesus. • We are like the Egyptian slave, David is like Jesus. • We are like the spoil David recovered, David is like Jesus. We are like the elders of Judah, David is like Jesus

Pray Today For: Our Church, Nationally/locally; Our Nation: Our leaders; Police officers/military. Supreme Court.

Please Note: You may see/download past notes/audio of the Bible Prayer Devotionals by going to: www.ptwente.com