

# THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

FEBRUARY 17TH-18TH, 2024 // 1 SAMUEL

## CORRECTING COURSE (1 SAMUEL 30:1-8) ANOTHER ENEMY STRIKES

After God miraculously saved David from having to fight against his own people, he and his men returned home to find the Amalekites had destroyed Ziklag and kidnapped everyone.

- God had graciously helped David out of a predicament, but David still **needed to face more adversity to develop his character.**

## CONSEQUENCES

David ventured into a place he shouldn't have been, others followed, and tragedy struck.

Because of this, his men not only questioned his leadership but also talked about stoning him.

- Again, **there are always consequences for sin. Following God not only helps us but may also keep others from tragedy.**

## "...AN EXTREMELY DIFFICULT POSITION"

David finds himself in yet another tense and painful spot, but fortunately, this time, he goes to God to "[find] strength."

- **Faith is synergistic.** This means **though God enables faith, we must choose to activate it.** In other words, **it is our choice to strengthen ourselves in the Lord.**

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

David gets the priest and ephod and inquires of the Lord, "Should I pursue...Will I overtake them?" God gives an affirmative response.

- **It takes time to learn how to "hear" God's voice.** If we are to learn, we must walk with Him through prayer, repentance, and the gifts of wisdom and discernment.

## RECOVERED (1 SAMUEL 30:9-20)

### GETTING IT ALL BACK

David and his men immediately pursued the raiders. When they reached a ravine, 200 of the men stayed back because of exhaustion.

- They encountered an Egyptian slave who was with the Amalekites. He agreed to help David if he wouldn't be killed or returned to his master.

## LETTING THEIR GUARD DOWN

When David found the Amalekites, they were "eating, drinking, and celebrating because of the...plunder." Because of their carelessness, David launched a victorious 24-hour battle.

- **We get into trouble when we are not "sober-minded" (1 Peter 5:8) and don't pay attention to our lives (1 Timothy 4:16).**

## "DAVID'S PLUNDER"

There is a great theological implication in vs. 18-19. Because David **prayed, listened to God, and obeyed His command**, everything that had been taken from him was recovered.

- Satan is a thief, but **when we build a relationship with Jesus, He restores and shapes us into what we're supposed to be.**

## EQUALITY (1 SAMUEL 30:21-31)

### THE POLICY OF EQUALITY

Some of the 400 men who went with David into battle acted "worthless" and didn't want to share with the 200 who had stayed back from exhaustion and watched the supplies.

- Because God "doesn't show favoritism" (Acts 10:34), **we too must see all people as valuable and made in the image of God.**

### THE POLICY OF GENEROSITY

David's policy of equality also created a culture of sacrifice and generosity toward other people.

- As Christians, we should be **generous because God has been generous to us. When we lack generosity, we are, in essence, taking God's blessings for granted.**

### THE POLICY OF HONOR

David's generosity extended to his friends, the elders in Judah (southern Israel), and to cities that had housed him when he was running from Saul.

- David sought to **honor God first. When we do this, we also create a culture of honoring those around us.**

### FOR THE RIGHT REASONS

We start to see some messianic foreshadowing from David's life. David punished the guilty and restored the innocent not because of selfish gain but because God told him to.

- In a similar manner, **Christ came to save and restore the lost and to eventually hold all evil into account.**

## THE OTHER ROAD (1 SAMUEL 31)

### "TOMORROW YOU AND YOUR SONS WILL BE WITH ME"

In ch. 28, fear led Saul to consult with a medium, and in that, he received a chilling prophecy from the deceased Samuel. Ch. 31 records the fruition of that prophecy and the sad completion of Saul's miserable life.

- After his sons were killed and he was wounded, Saul told his armor-bearer to kill him.

### "FALLING ON YOUR SWORD"

This phrase likely originated with this story. Because Saul's guard was "terrified" to kill him, Saul killed himself by falling onto his own sword. His armor-bearer then followed suit.

- Saul's devastating military loss led to mass fear in Israel and to the Philistines occupying the entire territory.

## DISRESPECT, DESECRATION, AND VIOLENCE

The Philistines "strip[ped] the slain," put Saul's armor in Ashtoreth's temple, and beheaded Saul and hung his body on a city wall and his head in the temple of Dagon (1 Chronicles 10).

- **Sin always degrades and desecrates. When we live in sin, it slowly erodes our humanity and takes us to dark places.**

## HONOR AMIDST DARK TIMES

The people of Jabesh heard about Saul. Their "brave men set out...and retrieved the bod[ies]" of Saul and his sons so they could properly lay them to rest and mourn for them.

- Saul had strayed, but there was a time he'd saved these people from the Ammonites. So, they showed respect and repaid his kindness.

## THE PATH OF SAUL

- Saul's path began with a step of pride (ch. 13) and **the assumption he knew better than God** on how to live his life and resolve problems.
- The path of self manifests in pride, greed, lust, envy, addiction, fear, revenge, and **inevitable destruction** because we are incapable of fixing/saving ourselves.

## THE PATH OF DAVID

- **David was far from perfect, but overall, he pursued God.** At times, David let fear and doubt creep in, and he sinned, but he repented. Because he humbled himself, he was forgiven, empowered, and restored.
- We're also imperfect, but **if we walk in humility, God will save, change, and lead us!**

## AN INVITATION ONTO A DIFFERENT PATH

- David foreshadowed Jesus in many ways, including his policy of **equality, generosity, and honor.**
- **In His love, Jesus invites all of us** to trust Him, to benefit from the fruit and gifts of His Spirit, and to **experience His generosity** as we anticipate **the honor of being with Him forever.**
- The question is if we are willing to **lay down the dependency and idolization of self and trust in God's will and ways.**
- Are the ways of mankind working? Will we lean on our abilities? How has that worked in the past? Do we honestly think our path can save us?
- **Proverbs 3:1-7 (CSB)**