

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

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

DAVID STRENGTHENS HIMSELF (1 SAMUEL 30:1-8) COMPROMISE

David is in a dark time of his life where he is no longer seeking God. He's living in the land of his enemies, serving his own purposes, and hiding from Saul.

- He knows God has selected him as the next king, but he has lost faith in God's ability to deliver.

CONSEQUENCES

The Philistines go to Jezreel to meet Israel. David and his men go back to Ziklag. When they get there, the city is burned, and their families are gone.

- David is not only responsible for his own mess but also needs to deal with the effect of Saul's disobedience.

ROCK BOTTOM

He and his men are deeply saddened, and they talk about stoning him.

- David is faced with the biggest crisis and deepest sorrow of his life. His future is 'unknown,' his family is gone, and his men are turning on him; there is only one place to run.

REFUGE AND STRENGTH

"But David found strength in the LORD his God" (vs. 6).

- He remembered God's faithfulness. Despite how he got here, he took responsibility for his actions and the effect they had on others and humbled himself to seek God's will.

GOD'S WAY

David calls on the priest to bring the ephod so they can seek God's guidance.

- Instead of taking matters into his own hands, lashing out in anger, or overstepping his authority, David submits himself to God's design.

GOD ANSWERS!

When we agree with God about the sinfulness of our actions, humble ourselves before Him, and submit our wills and ways to His, He will respond.

- God is not interested in giving in to our impure motives, but when our desires align with His, He moves.

GOD STRENGTHENS DAVID (1 SAMUEL 30:9-31) PURSUIT AND PERSPECTIVE

David's focus and zeal for God's promise caused them to relentlessly pursue the Amalekites.

- This caused some of them extreme exhaustion, but David and the rest pushed forward. He was not going to let this discourage him.

GOD'S PROVISION

David's men find an Egyptian slave of one of the Amalekites, and they show him hospitality.

- David could have enacted vengeance on this man, but he had self-control. He showed wisdom and prudence in how he handled himself.

ALL IS RECOVERED

David found the camp, slaughtered them, and recovered everything that had been taken, both family and possessions.

- A few escaped, but the people celebrated and praised David for his rescue and victory. It was his plunder.

SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

When they returned to the Wadi Besor, some of the "worthless men" refused to share David's plunder with those who did not fight.

- David tells them it was God who blessed, protected, and delivered them! All share in the blessing.

FRIENDS OF DAVID

He shares the spoils with those who have protected and aided his men over the past several years.

- This is a foreshadowing of God's grace and mercy, but also a wise gesture toward those who may later support his kingship.

GOD STRENGTHENS DAVID

This passage is not about David conquering, taking back everything, and buttering up his political stock.

- It's an example of how David strengthened himself in God, submitted to His will, and gave glory to Him. God can work through us.

THE KING IS DEAD (1 SAMUEL 31:1-13)

CONTRAST

While David is fighting the Amalekites, the Philistines are attacking Israel. Saul is facing the consequences of his consistent disobedience.

- David has seen the error of his ways and corrected himself. Saul has not repented and faces the effect of sin.

THE KING HAS FALLEN

After his sons are killed and he is wounded, in an attempt to keep his dignity, Saul begs his armor-bearer to kill him. When he refuses, Saul takes his own life, and so does the armor-bearer.

- Saul tragically meets his demise, but this is not the end of his consequences.

PROPHECY FULFILLED

Saul's pride, selfishness, disobedience, and self-reliance ended in the death of his sons, his men, and his kingdom.

- The cities saw the fall of the king they had put their hope in, and they fled because they placed their faith in man, rather than in God.

DISGRACED AND DESECRATED

Continuing Saul's judgment, his body was mutilated; his armor was on display before their gods, and his body hung in mockery on a wall that faced Israel.

- The horror and shame of Israel has been claimed by Philistia as "good news." They thought they won.

GRATITUDE AND RESPECT

Out of honor and gratitude, the men of Jabesh-gilead took the bodies of Saul and his sons down off the wall, burned them, buried their bones under a tamarisk tree, and fasted.

- He was not the promised king they had hoped for, but a king nonetheless.

FIND STRENGTH IN GOD

- Compromises lead to consequences.
- **We must take responsibility.**
- **Humility and right motives lead to wisdom and answers.**

GOD RESTORES & PROVIDES

- Trust in God's Word.
- **If He restores/provides for you, give Him glory & praise!**
- **God works through us. Share.**

CHRIST IS LORD, NOT MAN.

- Men may try to honor and live according to God's Word.
- **Without accountability and humility, man falls astray.**
- **Keep your eyes on Christ.**

GOD'S PLAN WILL ENDURE

- **Disobedience and self-reliance are opposed to God.**
- **He has invited us to be a part of His will and reign.**
- **With or without you, He is.**