

7-28-21 WEDNESDAY NIGHT MESSAGE - Pastor John Clark
Strengthening Yourself in the Lord - 1 Samuel 30:1-8

QUICK BACKGROUND CONTEXT:

1. Saul was still king of the nation of Israel, but not for long (He is killed in chapter 31).
2. David had already been anointed by Samuel as the next king of Israel (1 Samuel 16) – Roughly 1025BC.
3. David, along with his family and army of 600 men had been on the run from Saul for years. He had fled Saul around 1007 BC at the warning of Jonathan and Michal (1 Samuel 19) and he remained on the run for 7+ years.
4. During this time, David had multiple chances to kill Saul, but he would not kill him.
5. Eventually, David decided to go to the land of the Philistines in hopes that Saul would no longer pursue him, and as a result his plan worked and he and his 600 men and their families ended up in a Philistine town called Ziklag, where they stayed for 1 year and 4 months (1 Samuel 27:1-7).
6. The deception was SO great, that Achish asks David to go to battle with him (the Philistines) against Israel and David agrees! (1 Samuel 28:1-2). This would be the battle that would take the life of King Saul (1 Samuel 31:1ff), and thankfully David was “voted out” by the other Philistine kings.
7. This sets the stage for our story, because while David and his men were with Achish in Aphek something happened at home...

I. *The Setting (30:1-3)*

- A. “The Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,” - **WHO** are the Amalekites? They have quite a history and heritage.
 1. The Amalekites were _____ of Esau (Jacob’s brother), and the first we hear of them is in Esau’s genealogy in Genesis 36.
 2. The next time we hear about them is in Exodus 17, and we find out they were longstanding _____ of Israel (Exodus 17:8-16).
 3. Notice, God’s _____ of the Amalekites:
 - a. In Exodus 17:14-16 God declares that He will utterly _____ the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven.
 - b. In Deuteronomy 25:17-19, God _____ Joshua that He wants the Amalekites “blotted out” once they get rest from their enemies all around.
 - c. Next, God tried to accomplish the blotting out of the Amalekites through _____ in 1 Samuel 15 - but Saul did not obey and he lost the kingdom as a result.
 - c. God had a holy _____ for the people of Amalek, and now as a result of years of disobedience or lack of execution, these people were still around and causing much grief for David!
- B. **WHY** was David and his family and army in Ziklag?

1. David and his men were on the run from Saul; David figured if he went to the land of the Philistines that Saul would stop _____ him (1 Samuel 27:1-7). This plan worked!
2. Achish, king of the Philistines, gave David and his family _____ and they lived there for a year and four months (1 Samuel 27:7).
3. In 1 Samuel 27:8-9, we see that David would raid the Amalekites and kill every _____ thing.
4. Finally, 1 Samuel 28:1-2 tells us why David and his men were away from home - they were going to go to war with the Philistines against the nation of _____.
5. Thus, while David and his men were in Aphek with the Philistines, the Amalekites came in behind them, destroyed their city, and took their families _____.

II. ***David and His Men's Initial Response and Reaction (30:4)***

- A. "David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept," – Notice that David and ALL of these rugged, "tough guy," _____ wept like babies.
1. Put yourself in their _____ – At this point, they did not know if their wives or children were alive. They did not know if they were kidnapped. They did not know if they would ever find them or not.
 2. The word translated "wept" means to wail, cry, sob, mourn, i.e., to well-up tears in the eyes and have mild convulsions or spasms of the diaphragm, and often make vocal sounds of soft _____ or loud wailing, as a sign of sorrow and mourning.
- B. "And wept, until they had no more power to weep." – This was _____ grieving and based upon what they could see with their eyes (i.e., the destruction of their city), and based upon what they had done to other Amalekite towns (i.e., destroyed every living thing), naturally they assumed their _____ were gone!

III. ***David and His Men's Secondary Response and Reaction (30:5-6)***

- A. "And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nahal the Carmelite, had been taken captive," – David himself was _____ by the Amalekite raid, and was one of the ones crying and grieving.

- B. “Now David was greatly distressed,” - “Distressed” literally meant to be wrapped up, bound up, or confined. It came to describe a state of _____ trouble, and with the adverb “greatly” attached to it, it described VERY intense trouble!
1. So, not only was David grieving the loss of his own family, but he was also facing another incredibly _____ situation as a leader – MUTINY!
- C. “For the people spoke of stoning him,” - This is WHY David was in VERY intense trouble - the people were not only crying and grieving but then they began to get _____!
1. To be “grieved” meant to be _____, or to have a feeling or attitude of great suffering and anguish as an extension of the recoiling of tasting bitter food or drink.
 2. The loss of their families was so heart-wrenching, that they were prepared to take out their grief and bitter anger on _____.
 - a. This is amazing because these are the very same people who joined his side against Saul. These men recognized David as the “_____ one” of God as the next king of Israel.
- D. “But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.”
1. “But” meaning on the other hand or even “as a result” (of David being greatly distressed) – David did something. What did he do?
 - a. David did not GIVE UP! He did not THROW IN THE TOWEL! He did not RUN! He did not devise a POLITICAL PLAN to talk his way out of this or win people to his side!
 - b. David DID _____ himself in the Lord! What is that, and HOW do you do it?
 - c. “Strengthen” means to strengthen oneself and it reflects a high degree of _____. There is some intentionality described here.
 - 1) David was _____ and intentionally strengthening himself IN THE LORD! Let’s consider HOW David did this.
 - 2) Psalm 9:9-10; Psalm 16:11; Psalm 18:28-32, 46-50; Psalm 34:8-10, 17; Psalm 36:5-9; **Psalm 38:9-15**; Psalm 59:9, 16, 17; Psalm 62:5-8; Psalm 63:6-8
 1. Consider HOW David ultimately did _____ things to strengthen himself in the Lord:
 - a. **1st**: David looked _____ at what God had already done.
 - b. **2nd**: David looked _____ at what God was going to do in the future based upon His character and based upon His Word.

c. **3rd**: David **DID NOT** look at what God was apparently doing or not doing in his life _____.

1) We often times do the exact opposite – We want to LOOK at what God is apparently doing or NOT doing right now in our _____ circumstances, and we NEVER want to LOOK at how God has acted in the _____ OR LOOK at God’s character and God’s Word for confidence about the _____.

2) David practiced a healthy lack of _____ on his circumstances, because HOW God works is **NOT** always clear by attempting to _____ circumstances.

E. WHY did David strengthen himself in the Lord? It is because David had been growing in His knowledge of the Lord, both objectively and _____.

1. The battle does not start when the heat is turned up in our lives – it starts _____ that! Think of the things in your everyday life that you utilize BEFORE and DURING crisis!

2. Do you wait until trials and circumstances to go wrong before you _____ upon the Lord? Do you desire to be in _____ with Him moment by moment each day – clocking time in the Spirit prepares you for “Ziklag” moments.

IV. ***David’s Further Dependence Upon the Lord (30:7-8)***

A. What is the EPHOD?

1. It was the high priest’s apron like garment which contained the Urim and Thummim, the sacred stones used to discern the _____ of God.

2. By asking for the ephod, David was depending upon the Lord to _____ him in his response to this situation.

B. “Shall I pursue this troop...” – In other words, shall I pursue the Amalekites to get our families back?

1. He was in such a state of dependence upon the Lord, that in this instance he stopped trusting his _____ instinct as his guide in life.

2. Notice also, that David does not boldly proclaim what God is going to do for him. In David’s mind the answer could have been “_____” or “_____.”

C. God tells David to pursue the troop and that he would recover _____, and we see the fulfillment of this promise in verses 17-19.