

I. Introduction.

II. David, in the midst of a great trial, turns to the LORD. v. 1-10

A. David faces what may be his greatest trial to date. v. 1-6a Amos 5:19

1. While he and the men were away, the Amalekites raided Ziklag, burning the city and taking people and livestock captive. v. 1-3 15:1ff Ex. 17:8ff 16 Dt. 25:17-19
2. Why didn't the Amalekites kill the women and children? v. 2b 27:9
3. David and his men are overwhelmed with sorrow. v. 4-5 John 11:35 Ecc. 3:4
4. David's men are ready to mutiny. v. 6a
5. David is greatly distressed (and all alone). v. 6a
6. Is this the consequence of David's unwise decision to go to the Philistines? 27:1,4

B. David strengthens himself in the LORD. v. 6b 23:16-17

1. It appears that David's relationship with the LORD is restored. 27:1 Pr. 28:13
2. David's response to this trial shows why he is the ideal king for Israel, and is in stark contrast to how Saul acted when distressed. 28:5-7

C. David seeks and follows direction from the LORD. v. 7-10 Pr. 3:5-6

1. David inquires of the LORD through Abiathar. v. 7-8a 22:10-23 23:9 Ex. 28:30
2. The LORD answers that David will rescue the captives. v. 8b
3. The rescue operation requires effort on the part of David and his men. v. 9-10

D. Application.

1. Your sin may result in unpleasant consequences. 27:1 30:1ff Gal. 6:7 Num. 32:23
2. The LORD may use your trials, including the consequences of sin, to drive you to Himself. Ps. 119:67,71
3. God offers restoration, reconciliation and grace to backsliders. Ps. 32 51
4. Strengthen yourself in the LORD. Ps. 25:1-7,16-22
5. Seek guidance from the LORD. II Tim. 3:16-17 Heb. 4:14ff
6. God's work through us requires our effort. Phil. 2:12-13 Acts 18:9ff II Th. 3:10

III. The LORD gives David a great victory. v. 11-20

A. The LORD providentially provides directions through a left-behind slave. v. 11-15

B. David catches the Amalekites unprepared and wipes them out. v. 16-17 Ps. 92:9

C. Everyone and everything is recovered, plus much extra spoil. v. 18-20

IV. David wisely and generously shares the spoils of victory. v. 21-31

A. David shares the spoils equally among his men. v. 21-25

1. Some of those who had fought don't want to share with those left behind. v. 21-22
2. What is wrong with these *worthless men*? 2:12 10:27 25:25
3. David wisely gives God the glory and sets a precedent. v. 23-25 Dt. 8:17f Ps. 68:12

B. David wisely shares the spoils with the people of Judah. v. 26-31 II Sam. 2:1-5

C. Application.

1. Are you, like David's men, tempted to be proud of what YOU have accomplished? I Co. 4:7 10:12 John 15:5
2. What is your attitude towards the weak? v. 9-10,22 I Th. 5:14
3. We all need each other. I Cor. 12:14-27
4. Are you generous and gracious? II Co. 8-9 Mt. 10:8 I Tim. 6:18 Num. 31:25ff

V. Conclusion.

A. David is a worthy leader. 13:14 26:23

1. He is calm in a crisis. v. 6
2. He cares more about what God thinks than what men think. v. 6-7,20b Pr.29:25
3. He is magnanimous in victory. v. 21ff
4. He is a king who gives, in contrast to Saul, the king who takes. 8:11-17
5. Soon he will reign. II Sam. 2:1ff

B. David presents a magnificent picture of Christ.

1. Jesus, like David, is a wise leader who bravely leads His people.
2. Those who should have followed Him sought to kill Him. v. 6 John 11:53
3. Jesus fought our enemies, while we stayed back and did nothing. Ro. 4:5-8
4. Jesus has defeated the enemy (strong man) and gained the spoil (us). Mt. 12
5. Of all Jesus came to save, He loses none. v. 18-19 Jo. 6:39 10:29 Eph. 5:25 Is. 53:11
6. Jesus has gained back more than we lost. v. 20 II Co. 8:9 Phil. 3:9 Ps. 8
7. Jesus shares the spoils of victory with His people, giving us gifts. v. 20 Eph. 4:7ff
8. Jesus bestows His rewards as He sees fit. Mt. 20:1-16
9. God alone receives the glory for Jesus' victory. v. 23
10. Jesus calls us brothers and friends. v. 23a Heb. 2:11,17 Luke 8:21 Deut. 17:15,20 Ro. 8:29 John 15:13-15 .

C. With whom do you identify in this text? Lu. 17:26ff II Pe. 3:3ff I Th. 5:3

Discussion questions

1. What is the big picture of what the LORD is doing in this passage?
2. How does David's response to trouble in this text compare to what he did in chapter 27?
3. How does David set an example of what we should do when in distress?
4. How could you use this text to encourage a backslidden Christian who thinks it is too late for him (or her) to return to God?
5. What is the relationship between our responsibility to act and God's sovereignty in accomplishing His purposes through us?
6. How do we sometimes think or act like David's men who didn't want to share the spoil?
7. Who are the weak among us? How should we treat them?
8. How does David exemplify the qualities of a good leader in this passage?
9. How does David serve as a type of Christ in this passage?