

Study 5



Warm Up

1. Greeting / Refreshments / Get Acquainted
2. Prayer & Praise List / Group Fund
3. Testimony Sharing



Overview of Today's Study

Text: 1 Samuel 30

Lesson Title: *Compassion for the Weak*

Lesson Main Idea: As God prepared David for his imminent role as the next King of Israel, David had one final exam to pass. Amid unimaginable sorrow and fear, David would have to maintain his close connection with God, put aside his fear, and lead a group of warriors who would wind up very divided. As "soldiers of Christ" in the present day, there are lessons to be learned from this historic event in the life of David which will help us protect unity within our own church family.

🔑 Today's Key Question 🔑

What truth can Christians remember that will protect unity within our church family today?



Connecting the Study

Last time we studied how David exercised godliness over opportunism. David's close connection with God enabled him to know that the opportunity that seemed to be presenting itself was in no way the opportunity God wanted him to act on. David spared Saul's life, Saul once again came to his senses and stopped hunting David. But this didn't last long, and David knew from God that he was not going to kill Saul and therefore needed to go where Saul would not go. David moves into Ziklag a town in Philistia. David maintains the peace with Achish, King of Philistia, and even does some soldiering with his men for the King of the Philistines. But David is prevented from fighting with Israel when Achish and his armies line up against Israel in the north. So David and his company of men head back home to their wives and loved ones in Ziklag. Only there's no more Ziklag. We'll pick up the story in 1 Samuel chapter 30 verse 1.



Bible Study

1 Samuel 30

A. What do these verses tell us? (What happened? What was taught?)

30:1-3 And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. **The Amalekites invade the south part of Philistia while all of the Philistine armies are up north taking on Saul and Israel. Ziklag, where David and company have been staying is hit and everyone is taken captive, the place is robbed, and then burned to the ground.**

Studying the Life of David

David's life shows that close connection with God can carry us through the most painful times in our lives.

30:4-6 Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God. **Their loved ones, their valuables, and their very homes were gone. This was absolutely devastating to everyone involved and especially to David because as the leader of this clan, he got blamed for the disaster because "it happened on his watch."**

Connection in Action: When David had no more strength to mourn, David did what God had taught David to do: *he encouraged himself in the LORD his God.*

This is a sign of maturity in a believer's relationship with God. Amid the most painful of times, in the middle of the most fearful of circumstances, David had enough of a consistent, close connection with God that it was natural for him to respond to adversity by drawing strength directly from God. He was not dependent on another believer or on a close loved one but on God Himself to boost his faith.

30:7-8 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And David inquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. **This strengthening in the Lord then enables David to seek strategic direction from God.**

Notice David encourages himself in the Lord *before* seeking direction for the task at hand. Relationship came before task. This is a good lesson for all of us to learn. It is difficult to ask for God's help in a matter when our relationship with Him is not what it should be.

The bringing of the Ephod (a decorative vest worn by the high priest originally) was an official showing to the men that David was seeking direction from God. David was not reactionary and just start charging after the Amalekites, he sought God's direction before any action was taken. God answered very specifically: *Go after them, you'll recover everything.*

30:9-10 So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. **So of the original 600 that set out after the Amalekites, 200 were whooped and couldn't make the brook crossing and so 400 continued the pursuit.**

30:11-16 And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; 12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. 13 And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. 14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. 15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. **David and his men tracked down the bad guys and engaged them in battle.**

30:17-20 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. 18 And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19

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And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

Question Who kept His promise? God. Who *always* keeps His promises?

30:21-22 And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them. 22 Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart. **So David and the 400 men and all of the recovered family members return from the battle and there's a problem waiting for him.**

Some of the guys don't want to share the wealth. *"Men of Belial" means – worldly guys – those thinking with the devil's thoughts – this world's way of seeing things or having a worldly mentality.*

Not only did these guys not want to share the spoils of war with the 200 but they wanted them out of the army!

Question Were these guys justified in not wanting to share the booty? What about Paul's advice in the New Testament? **2 Thess 3:10** *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

Look at verse 21 – we need to make a distinction here. Physical circumstances dictated the 200's degree of involvement – they did not choose to avoid participating. Even as exhausted as this group was, they were made to stay at the river. They remained and stood guard over all 600 men's supplies and gear.

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These 200 participated as much as they were able. They didn't just call it quits or disappear into the wilderness. They didn't leave and wait to come back when circumstances were just perfect – they endured by faith. They shared the same faith that David had when he made the decision to go after the Amalekites based on God's promise of a sure victory. They chose to remain a part of the company of men and families under David's leadership and worked as much as they could.

30:23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. Notice David's ability to see the spiritual truth of the matter, God kept His **PROMISE**: *that which the LORD hath given us...* In reality the stuff isn't ours, it's God's. Who are we to dictate who gets to enjoy which portion of the blessings God's bestowing on our group at any one time or another?

30:24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. David clearly defines the **PRINCIPLE**: those that had a different role in the process due to physical disability share equally the blessings of the LORD.

30:25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day. Then, as the wise leader David had become, he ensures this principle will be in **PRACTICE**: from then onward.

30:26-31 And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD; 27 To them which were in Bethel, and to them which were in south Ramoth, and to them which were in Jattir, 28 And to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa, 29 And to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenites, 30 And to them which were in Hormah, and to them which were in Chor-ashan, and to them which were in Athach, 31 And

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to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt. **David passes his final exam in preparation for being Israel's King. A wise display of diplomacy is his last act as a "civilian king."**

B. What do these verses mean? (What was one or more principles/lessons the writer or God was trying to communicate?)

1. Maturity in Christ is seen when a believer's **first response** to a crisis is to look to **God** for **strength** (30:4-6).
2. Christians should make sure their **relationship** with God is right before asking Him **to do things** for them (30:7-8).
3. God **always** keeps His **word** (30:18).
4. What truth can Christians remember that will protect unity within our church family today? Christians don't have the right to **look down on** other Christians who may not be **performing** as they **think they should**. (30:23)

C. How should these verses impact my life? (marriage, family, work, ministry, social life, friendships)

- ✓ How do I respond when things go badly for me? Do I cast blame or have self pity?
- ✓ Is my relationship with God right now in good enough shape to be able to ask for His assistance?
- ✓ Do my choices in life demonstrate that I really believe God always keeps His word?
- ✓ How often do I take comfort in His Word and find the encouragement He is anxious to offer me?
- ✓ Do I criticize other Christians in my mind (or out loud) because they are not performing the way I think they should?

*T*Bible Baptist Church

Our Purpose is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. 2 Cor. 5:18



Group Discussion Questions

(Try to facilitate the group's discussion and not do most of the talking during this time.)

Group Questions

What are some ways Christians can make sure their relationship with God is staying in good standing so they can call on Him anytime? Daily devotional time – reviewing the previous day's events and our choices – “keeping the account short” – getting input from God's Word somehow throughout the day to counter balance the world's input – obeying the principles from the Bible as we learn about them

Rom 14:4 *Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand.* **How do you think this New Testament verse compares with what happened in 1 Sam. 30:23?**

What should Christians do with regard to those struggling? Offer compassion – show understanding – help them – pray for them – point them to God.

From 1 Sam. 30:26-31, why was this action that David performed for these different cities such a wise action on his part? Not only did it communicate peace but showed that David was not a selfish leader but one who had genuine interest in others.

What can Christians do to model David's example to others?