

David Rescues Captive Families

Responding to Adversity

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What We Will Learn

- David faced adversity
 - Base raided and plundered
 - Families and flock taken
 - Followers disappointed and angry
- Pursued raiders
- Rescued captives and took plunder
- Ruling on sharing plunder led to general principle on civil rights and responsibilities
- 1 Samuel 29 & 30

David Takes Refuge in Philistine Territory

- David settled in Philistine territory Ziklag
- With 600 men and their families
- To keep beyond reach from Saul
- While away to join Philistines in battle
- Amalekites raided his base
- Took families captive
- Plundered and burnt the base
- 1 Samuel 27:1–6, 29:9–11 & 30:1–6

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

1 But David thought to himself, “One of these days I will be destroyed by the hand of Saul. The best thing I can do is to escape to the land of the Philistines. Then Saul will give up searching for me anywhere in Israel, and I will slip out of his hand.”

2 So David and the six hundred men with him left and went over to Achish son of Maok king of Gath.

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

3 David and his men settled in Gath with Achish. Each man had his family with him, and David had his two wives: Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail of Carmel, the widow of Nabal.

4 When Saul was told that David had fled to Gath, he no longer searched for him.

1 Samuel 27 (NIV)

5 Then David said to Achish, “If I have found favor in your eyes, let a place be assigned to me in one of the country towns, that I may live there. Why should your servant live in the royal city with you?”

6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since.

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

- David and his 600 men left their base
- Offered to join Philistines in battle
- But were told to return to their base

9 Achish answered, “I know that you have been as pleasing in my eyes as an angel of God; nevertheless, the Philistine commanders have said, ‘He must not go up with us into battle.’”

1 Samuel 29 (NIV)

10 Now get up early, along with your master's servants who have come with you, and leave in the morning as soon as it is light.”

11 So David and his men got up early in the morning to go back to the land of the Philistines, and the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

- Their base had been raided and plundered

1 David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it,

2 and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

3 When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep.

5 David's two wives had been captured— Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God.

- David's response to the adversity founded on his strength in God
- He sought God's direction and guidance

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him,

8 and David inquired of the Lord, “Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?”

“Pursue them,” he answered. “You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue.”

Seeking and Receiving Direction from God

- David sought direction from God
- Received clear direction to pursue raiders
- God chooses how to communicate with each person
 - Message through another person
 - Angel in human form
 - Holy Spirit through voice, mind, other ways
 - Any way God chooses

David Pursues the Amalekites

- David and 400 men pursued the raiders
- 200 men stayed back to guard the base
- 1 Samuel 30:9–10

9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind.

10 Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit.

David Defeated the Raiders

- David caught the Amalekites celebrating
- He fought them for ~24 hours
- Defeated them
- Recovered everything including people
- Took flocks and herds as plunder
- 1 Samuel 30:16–20

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah.

17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives.

19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.

20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, “This is David’s plunder.”

Sharing Battle Proceeds

- 400 men went to battle
- 200 men stayed behind to guard base
- Disputed basis for sharing battle proceeds
- David's ruling
 - Everybody deserves equal share
 - Whether you went to battle
 - Or stayed to guard the base
- 1 Samuel 30:21–25

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Valley. They came out to meet David and the men with him. As David and his men approached, he asked them how they were.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."

23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the Lord has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us.

1 Samuel 30 (NIV)

24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.”

25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

Responsibilities and Equal Rights

- Every person owes responsibilities to society
- Society owes equal rights to every person
- Rights are independent of responsibilities

Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike.” [1 Samuel 30:24]

What We Learned

- God could allow adversity
- To motivate a person toward greater accomplishment
- Pursuit and conquer of Amalekites that raided his base
- Led David to establish a general rule on civil rights and responsibilities
- He sought direction from God
- To respond to the adversity