

1 Samuel 30:1-6
“Strengthened in God”
Mother’s Day 2014

I love mothers day – I have an amazing mother and I have a wife that is an amazing mother!

A)My mom is just one of those amazing caring women - **VERY OTHERS CENTERED**

B)Always kind and considerate – Such a servant

–
1)Always a real example of selfless life –
Did everything for her kids {**A Mom to Many!**}

C)Always toting me and my brother around –
lead foot

1)Big green station wagon

D) One day – **ON way to school – running late**

1)Dip and I swear to you – We caught air.

Such fun – But she had this mother bear side to her as well.

A)I remember one day – coming home from baseball practice – back then safer – 3rd or 4th grade

B)I rode my bike a couple of miles to the high school for practice – coming home –

1)Cutting thru this neighborhood - Two Jr High boys – jumped me – took my hat glove – spit on me

C)I came home – **Crying – what is wrong** – I told her

1)No consoling - Stern voice – **get in the car – Show me where – we pulled up into the drive way – my mom – bounded out of the car 5’2 looked 10’**

A)She put the fear of Sandy in those boys – I was sure they were going to wet themselves. {**Priest?**}

B)She got my glove and my hat – **I don’t think either us said a word driving home**

1)I was thinking – that was awesome and scary all at the same time.

C)Never forget that – Mother bear – I encountered that wrath myself one night

I was about 16 and I had a curfew – I think it was 11pm –

A)I came rolling in around midnight – not thinking a thing about it – sure my parents were asleep

B)My dad went to work about 3am – so I knew he was going to be asleep.

C)I quietly opened the front door – only to be met by my mother –

1)**Why are you home so late?** – I responded in a sort of sassy rude – tone – **relax why so uptight**

D)She pushed me against the door – gets in my face

1)Look I can’t go to sleep until you get home –

E)So if you are going to be late – there better be a good reason and I expect a phone call. {**never late after**}

You know I have used that same line on my own kids – Can’t sleep until you get home. – Phone call

A)That is the point of this message today – I want to talk about the influence a mom can make

B)Things we learn from mom – pass down to others

C)But this isn’t just a word to moms – Parents – friends –

1)God can use any of us to strengthen another brother or sister in the Lord.

D)Influence now – affect them in the future {Remember

I want us today to look at a scene from the life of David – lowest points - 1 Samuel 30

Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire,² and had taken captive the women and those who *were* there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried *them* away and went their way.³ So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive.⁴ Then David and the people who *were* with him lifted up their voices and wept,

until they had no more power to weep. ⁵ And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. ⁶ Now David was greatly distressed, for the people **spoke of stoning him**, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. **But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.**

Set the scene here – this is toward the end of David's 15 fugitive years – tired of waiting on God's timing

A) He is tired of waiting on the promise of God and he basically rebels

B) He goes and forms an alliance with the Philistines, the arch enemies of Israel

1) **King Achish of the Philistines** gives David and his men this city called Ziklag to live in.

C) David has been living there for 16 months –

1) During that time he is completely out of fellowship with God.

D) He doesn't write any Psalms during that time – No record of any prayers –

1) **He is spiritually at an all time low**

He spends his days living as a mercenary – He and his men going out raiding cities and villages of the enemies of Israel – Destroying everyone

A) He has to act in such a ruthless manor to cover his tracks – Actually raiding the allies of the Philistines

B) Because every time he sees Achish – Achish asks him what have you been up to.

1) **David lies and says** – been out raiding the Israelites when in reality he has been raiding and killing the allies of the Philistines

C) So David has become an cold bolded killer

1) the farthest thing from the king that God has called and anointed him to be.

Things hit an all time low when the Philistines are getting ready to go to battle against the Israelites

A) David and his men line up with the Philistines

B) David is getting ready to go to war against the very people he has been called to lead.

C) But the Generals of the Philistines – come to Achish and say we don't trust David

1) **Didn't they used to sing songs about David in Israel – Saul has slain – 1,000's David – 10,000's**

So they basically say we don't trust David - that he is not going to turn on us in the battle.

A) Send him home ! – So Achish says to David – **Sorry buddy you are going to have to sit this one out**

B) You would think David would be relieved but actually bummed out

He and his men are sent home – David is discouraged that he didn't get to go to the battle

A) He heads home to Ziklag bummed out & depressed feeling unwanted / unneeded –

B) That is where the Lord is really going to get his attention

C) He and his men head home – 75 miles on foot – from Gad to Ziklag – 25 miles a day.

1) They have been away from their families for a while now – excited to be reunited -

D) Marching – expecting Welcome home signs – picking up their pace – **last 5 miles –**

1) One more hill to cross –

E) That is when they see it – Smoke – smell of smoldering

They come over the hill and their hearts are filled with Horror and Despair and they see that Ziklag their city has been burned to the ground

A) And their wives and children are gone – taken captive or worse yet dead!

B) These mighty warriors **begin to weep & wail** – they weep to the point that they have no more strength to weep – **Exhausted by grieve**

Some of you know what that is like – you have cried to the point of not being able to cry any more.

A) **No more tears coming out of the tear ducts**

B) I am not a big crier - but I had a moment – a month or so ago –

1)Some of you might have heard my youngest daughter Amanda is engaged!

C)Well Several weeks ago her Bo – Scott Sanford asked me to lunch.

1) Met at this little taco place down the street - he asked my permission to propose to Amanda!

D) I like Scott – don't love him YET – I will, it is coming – but I like him – good guy loves Jesus

1)He and my daughter have liked each other for like 5 yrs – dating for three – Knew this was coming

E)Budget - How are you going to take care of her?

He produced it a day later – I gave him my blessing – Engaged – Married in September

A)September big month – 2nd Campus – Wedding

B)But a couple of weeks after Scott asked me – looking at picture of me and Amanda

1)Not Artistic – at all – Fictionary – ROSE

C)I was studying one Saturday morning – and thinking about Amanda – looking at collage

1)This one Hit me – I started bawling – I mean I couldn't stop crying –

D)But These guys were wailing – and crying until there were no more tears

1)I have never experienced that Yet

But Their Grief turns to Anger as someone says –DAVID'S FAULT

A) "If it wasn't for David insisting we fight w/ the Philistines we would have been here to protect our Families – Let's get David – Let's Stone him –

B) And it is at this Point that David finally comes to the end of himself - & turns once again to seek the Lord

v.6b David Strengthened himself in the Lord

C)Suddenly it happens – David quits acting like a mercenary and starts acting like a King again

His eyes are back on the Lord – He seems to remember who He is –

A)He turns the attention of his men back on the Lord

B)What follows is a heroic rescue mission – where every single wife son and daughter is rescued { Wed

C)David and his men come back with riches

D)It all happens after this statement – David strengthened himself in the Lord!

What happened? – This phrase is so interesting and I believe it is connected to another event in David's life

A)This is where we will see an application to moms – parents – roll we can play as friends –

1 Sam 23

Turn to 1 Samuel 23 – Scene 3 years before – David is a fugitive running from Saul

A)David has helped the people of Keilah – rescued them – taken up refuge there.

B)Saul hears that David is there and decides to come after him.

C)David prays Lord – what should I do – are the people of Keilah going to defend me or will they turn me over to Saul?

D)God tells him – they will betray you – so get out of there.

1)Discouraged – betrayed - nowhere to run – Back out into the wilderness –

¹⁴And David stayed in strongholds in the wilderness, and remained in the mountains in the Wilderness of Ziph. Saul sought him every day, but God did not deliver him into his hand.

¹⁵So David saw that Saul had come out to seek his life. And David was in the Wilderness of Ziph in a forest.

(David is hiding out again – things look bleak!)

¹⁶Then Jonathan, Saul's son, arose and went to David in the woods and strengthened his hand in God.

There it is again: **He strengthened his hands in God!**

Jonathan is an amazing friend - He seeks out his friend during this difficult time in his life!

A) Consider this phrase – He strengthened David’s hands in God.

B) Strengthening hands = to fasten upon / to seize / to make strong / to repair / to fortify / to make Valiant

1) That is what Jonathan did for David –

C) **He Helped his friend in this low time** – become stronger / more Valiant / Help fortify Him in the Lord

1) Helped David – continue on the path to his destiny.

I believe 2-3 yrs later when David is at his lowest point when he is so discouraged – everything is gone

A) He remembers back to this moment – when his friend Jonathan comes to him

B) And David **does for himself** – 3yrs later what Jonathan did for him here

1) No COINCIDENCE – Holy Spirit uses the same Language

IN 1 SAMUEL 30 –

C) DAVID STRENGTHENED HIMSELF IN THE LORD - same phrase.

See that is what I believe a mom can do for her kids

A) She can strengthen their hands in the Lord – the way she trains them, prays for them.

B) Years later – even if they have wandered from the Lord – out of fellowship with the Lord

1) There comes a moment in time that they look back and remember what you **instilled in them.**

C) This is what the Lord wants us to do as Parents to our Children.

D) This is what the Lord wants us to do as friends for those who are our brothers and sisters in the body

1) Learn how to strengthen their hands in the Lord.

E) Learn how to be encouragers to those who are around us in our sphere of influence.

In the remainder of our time this morning I want us to see what we can learn from the way – Jonathan strengthened David’s hands in the Lord.

And he said to him, “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. You shall be king over Israel, and I shall be next to you. Even my father Saul knows that.”¹⁸ So the two of them made a covenant before the LORD. And David stayed in the woods, and Jonathan went to his own house.

Three things we can learn here concerning the way Jonathan strengthened David’s hands in the Lord

#1 Jonathan reminded David, who he belonged to! “Do not fear, for the hand of Saul my father shall not find you. {You belong to God!}

A) Alan Redpath – **“Fear is the greatest enemy of our faith.”**

B) Fear can cripple us and cause us to do stupid things. {Fear because we lose perspective -

C) One of the greatest things we can do for our kids is as parents –

1) Do for our brothers & sisters in the Lord as friends is to remind them of God’s presence with them!

D) Remind them of who they belong to!

Hebrews 13:5 Jesus says to us: I will never leave you or forsake you. So we may boldly say: “The Lord is my helper; I WILL NOT FEAR. What can man do to me?”

A) Jonathan was reminding David that **ONE WITH GOD IS A MAJORITY!**

B) One of the greatest things we can do to strengthen a brother/sisters/ in a difficult time is to remind them of the Lord’s Presence w/ them.

C)Peace is not the absence of trouble, but the presence of God. J. Oswald Sanders.

1)Just like God was with Disciples in the Storm,
Mary Martha in death – Daniel lions den,
Shad....in the fire – David with the Giant – **HE IS WITH YOU**

We need to remind our kids – we need to remind each other – Spiritual Identity!

A)The Bible makes it very clear that there are only two positions we hold.

B)We are either **IN ADAM – or we are IN Christ!**

1)Before we are saved – our identity – IN Adam sinners – all have sinned

C)All infected - In Adam -

But when we give our hearts to Jesus – We are placed in Christ!

A)God the father sees us in His Son – covered in the righteousness of Christ.

B)We are IN JESUS – Jesus is called in Scripture the last Adam - Only two men came into the world Perfect – Adam and Jesus

C)Adam and Jesus

1st Adam was in a garden and turned from the father

Last Adam was in a garden and turned to the father

1st Adam was naked and ashamed

Last Adam was naked and bore our shame

1st Adam's sin brought us thorns

Last Adam bore a crown of thorns for us

1st Adam substituted himself for God

Last Adam was God substituting Himself for sinners

1st Adam sinned at a tree

Last Adam bore our sins on a tree

1st Adam died as a sinner

Last Adam died for sinners

IN ADAM AND IN CHRIST

In Adam there is defeat

In the last Adam there is Victory

In Adam there is condemnation'
In the last Adam there is salvation

In Adam we receive a sin nature
In the last Adam we receive a new nature

In Adam we are cursed
In the last Adam we are blessed

In Adam there is wrath and death
In the last Adam there is life and love

Listen parents we need to teach our kids who they are in Jesus – Spiritual identity is huge.

A)Listen church – we need to remind each other of who we are in Christ.

B)Sometimes our biggest problems are caused by us forgetting who we are!

1)**Who we belong to –**

2)**Who is with us!**

C)**Jonathan Reminded David of who He belonged to!**

#2 Jonathan reminded David of His Destiny!

“YOU SHALL BE KING OVER ISRAEL!”

A)We need to remind our kids and our friends of their destiny!

B)Big picture: His Workmanship – Instruments

C)We exist **for something bigger than ourselves!**

D)God has a plan and purpose for our lives

1)Life is not about making money – having stuff – being successful

E)Bigger than that - You exist for God !

We need to help our kids See their potential - Train up a child in the way he should go.... Not depart

A)Yes in Jesus

B)Also according to their bent – their giftings

1)Courson and Aaron.

C)What are their gifts ? Talents – encourage them in those things

1)ONE OF MY FAVORITE BIBLE CHARACTERS **IS BARNABAS**

Barnabas – Son of encouragement

A) At this stage of my life – one guy I want to be like it is Barnabas – ENCOURAGER

B) Everyone else didn't know what to do with Paul but Barnabas – saw potential –

1) Went and found him and said – I can use you and God can use you.

C) John Mark – bombed out – Barnabas gave him a second Chance!

D) Moms are great encouragers - ATHLETES – **HI MOM** -

1) Dad pushed them – Mom was the one who encouraged them

E) My mom – instilled this confidence: When someone doesn't like you – their problem

HEBREWS 10:24 “Let us stir up one another to love and good works”

A) The word stir up = to Stimulate –

B) Paddles used to stimulate the heart to get it going again / Electrical currents – limbs going

C) We need Friendships that stimulate our walk with the Lord!

1.) Build up rather than tear down!

D) See Jesus in you and encourage you in that way

SO Jonathan Strengthened David's hands in the Lord by

#1 He reminded David of who He belong to.

#2 He reminded David of his destiny.

#3 He reminded David of his allegiance.

David you will be the King and I will be with you!

We can strengthen our kids as a Mom, as parents, Strengthen each other – We are there!

A) No matter what – We are there -

B) Always come home – Not condone sin – but always welcome –

1) I will be there for you!

Proverbs 17:17 “A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for a time of adversity.”

A) You really discover who your friends are when you are going through difficulty.

B) Are they there – or do they bail?

C) Jonathan wanted David to know – He was with him through thick and thin.

D) Jonathan walked this incredible line – of loyalty and love to David – but honor for his Dad

1) Allow God to deal with his Dad – Jonathan would do what he could for David.

Great friend – great encourager – Who strengthened David's hand in the Lord

Good news: We have in Jesus a friend who sticks closer than a Brother.

A) Who is so faithful – Went to the Cross

B) To establish for us OUR ULTIMATE DESTINY

Heaven - “We are partakers of a heavenly Calling!” Hebrews 3:1

C) This world is not our home – Pilgrims and sojourners –

D) Life is about so much more than the here and now

IT IS ABOUT THE THERE AND THEN.

Prodigal – They will remember – Pray they turn and come to their senses – I don't belong here

This is not me! – Prodigal here - TODAY

JESUS WILL RECEIVE YOU!