

1 Samuel 30
From Weeping to Winning
Life of David Series
(David: After God's Own Heart)

The Bible reveals to us the heart of God

A) Favorite stories – is the story of the Prodigal Son

B) Disrespects Dad – My inheritance now – wild living – Pig pen – Comes to his senses.

C) Father runs to meet him

In the section of 1 Samuel we have been in – the last couple of weeks – David is living his Prodigal son moment

A) Today – We are going to see him have his come to his senses moment

B) How will he respond ?

In 1 SAMUEL 26-29 we have seen David going through some DIFFICULT and DARK days

A) We saw in our last study that David was in a Backslidden state /

Aa) He has been living in the land of the Philistines for 16 months/ Ziklag

B) Things hit an all-time low when the Philistines decide to wage war against the People of Israel

1) David decides to fight w/ the Philistines against Israel the People of God

2) the very people he has been called to lead

C) But God doesn't let it happen – the Philistine Generals object to David's presence in their army –

1) Tell Achish their king to send DAVID home to Ziklag

D) This was Divine Intervention on the part of the Lord –

1) Sparing David from doing something he would ultimately REGRET

E) Fighting against the People of God

Now you would have thought that David would have realized this – but he is so out of touch w/ the Lord that he is only discouraged

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

B) Now God is going to get David's attention/ but at what Price ?

C) What will it take to bring David around?

1) Bring David to his SENSES

D) Know this- Because God loves David, He will do what it takes.

E) God loves you – pursues you and will do what it takes to bring you to your Senses. –

1) The Question is how will you respond? – BITTER – BETTER

Note: Three things in this Chapter – The Loss / The Turnaround / The Recovery

THE LOSS

CH.29:11 So David and his men rose early to depart in the morning, to return to the land of the Philistines. And the Philistines went up to Jezreel.

RD Ch.30 1

Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day,

Note the journey from where David and his men were with the Philistines back home to Ziklag where families are – a 3 day's journey

A) I am sure that in the minds David's men – excitement – Home to their families

B) As they are getting closer their pace is increasing – the excitement is building – coming up over a ridge –

1) this is what they see instead

C) They Discover -that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, ²and 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

LESSONS IN COMPROMISE

Compromise always leaves our Families unguarded.

A)David & his men leave their families unguarded & unprotected

B)in their compromise to join forces w/ the enemy to fight against the People of God –

C)Upon return they find a disaster – their city is burned down /

1)their homes are in ruins & their families are gone

D)Compromise with sin in the home is like leaving the door unlocked for the enemy to walk right in.

E)When David is leading his men into the Compromise –

1)the Amalekites walk right in and their families are taken captive

Compromise can leave a family in ruins and a house Divided

A)I Have seen too many families blown apart by the compromise and sin of one or both of the parents

B)Kids that turn their backs on God –become bitter

C)Compromise in the small things can lead to COLLAPSE in the big things

So David and his men come back to their town to find that all has been lost!

A)The 2nd Consequences of Compromise always leads to great grief

Then David and the people who *were* with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep.

B)Now picture this : these are commandos / warriors – some of the finest fighters in Israel’s History –

1)Sobbing uncontrollably- HEART BROKEN – Exhausted by grief

C)We are talking total emotional collapse!

These were warriors who were not prone to tears –

A)These men had faced enemies, danger, and wilderness living — yet nothing hurt like losing their families.

B)It’s a reminder that pain doesn’t discriminate based on strength.

C)Have you ever cried -like that? Wept until no more tears?

D)Dad and I were close - died a couple of weeks before COVID –

1)Covid was such a crazy time for the church - no time to grieve

When the dust finally settled in August and we had a better grasp of what we were doing –

A)IT HIT ME – DAD DIED!

B)I experienced this sort of emotional collapse one day – Cried until there were no more tears

So Compromise leaves the family unguarded
Compromise brings great Grief

A)Compromise can make enemies of the best of Friends

⁶Now 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.

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 –

B)*Let’s get David – Lets Stone him –*

C)Isn’t it interesting that in times of Crisis – the natural man is so prone to looking for someone to blame.

D)Instead of taking responsibility for our actions – we want to play the victim

1)and look for someone else to Blame

That behavior dates back to Adam the first man –

A)Adam Said to God – It was the woman – THAT YOU GAVE ME!

B)Cowardly men have been using that line ever since.

So David’s men are looking outward – looking for someone to blame – they want to blame DAVID.

A)This is David’s come to his senses moment – what is he going to do?

B)While everyone else is turning outward – looking for a person to blame – DAVID TURNS UPWARD.

**C)Here we see point #2 The Turn around
V.6 But David strengthened himself in the LORD
his God.-**

Now if you were with us a few weeks ago – we saw in 1 Sam 23 – at another really low point in David’s life

A)His Friend Jonathan sought him out – and strengthened David’s hands in the Lord

B)We noted that was a very interesting description:

C)And we noted that Jonathan strengthened David in the Lord by reminding him of 3 things

D)Jonathan reminded David of:

- God’s presence with him – God hasn’t abandoned you
- God’s promise to him – You shall be King
- God’s Power in his life – One with God is a majority

E)Those simple reminders got David out of his funk and back on track

Now this is purely speculation on my part – Right in heaven –

A)It is no coincidence that the Holy Spirit uses the same phraseology here

B)In Chapter 23 at a very low point in David’s life – Jonathan comes along and strengthened David’s hands in the Lord

C)Here in Chapter 30 at probably the lowest point in David’s life –

1)it is almost the same Phraseology – David strengthened himself in the Lord

I think there is a connection in the two –

A)What Jonathan did for David in that dark moment helped David do for himself in this moment

B)I think David came to his senses and reminded himself – of God’s Presence with him – Not alone –

1)God’s Promise to him – I am going to be King

2)God’s Power in his life – With God on my side I will be victorious

The Apostle Peter wrote these words: Brethren – I am seeking to stir up your pure minds by way of reminder.

A)The Lord knows that we need reminders – hearts stirred sometimes of the most basic truths

B)I have experienced this many times in my almost 30 yrs of being the Pastor of this church –

C)Certain weeks in my preparation – that I think – the Lord has given me a fresh insight –

1)something I haven’t noticed before.
Or a fresh way to share an old truth

I come to church so excited to share it – this is going to be awesome

A)After church – the response I get from people is minimal

B)Not that I am always looking for response –

1)but sometimes it is a way of gauging if what I am sharing is connecting

C)So sometimes – Response is minimal

But there have been other times – when I am preparing and what the Lord has laid on my heart to me seems so basic

A)I am like fighting with the Lord – “ that is what you want me to focus on ? –

B)Really everyone knows that Lord.”

C)Yep that is what I want you to focus on.

D)And on those Sunday’s I sometime show up to church embarrassed

1)Like – I am not telling you anything that you don’t already know

But it is amazing to me how so often on those Sunday’s

A)I will have like 50 people come up to me – “thank you pastor Rob....hear.”

B)And not just NEW People – I am talking seasoned people who I know are students of the Bible –

1)know the Word – who have been here over 20 yrs –

C)It is always a reminder to me of How we all need to be Reminded of the Basic truths in God’s Word

So David comes to his senses – David strengthens himself in the Lord

A)Leads to point #2 The Turn around

B)David turned to the Lord broken hearted in full surrender –

C)And God was more than READY to supply David w/ the Strength courage

1)And Assurance that He Needed to carry out the mission.

God resists the proud but he gives grace to the humble

A)In our weakness we discover the sufficiency of His Grace - His power is made perfect in weakness

B)David and his men are going to experience this first hand

#3 The Recovery - Rd v.7-20

⁷Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech’s son, “Please bring the ephod here to me.” And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. ⁸So David inquired of the LORD, saying, “Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?”

And He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all*.”

⁹So David went, he and the six hundred men who *were* with him, and came to the Brook Besor, where those stayed who were left behind. ¹⁰But David pursued, he and four hundred men; for two hundred stayed *behind*, who were so weary that they could not cross the Brook Besor.

Note this – as they start going after the enemy – 200 of the men or 1/3 grow weary and they can’t keep up – falling behind

A)They are too weak to press into battle

B)These were men who loved David / Loyal to David
1)follow David anywhere – but at this time they just can’t go on

C)Their hands were hanging down their knees were feeble /

1)they are just Burned out – Covered 75 miles in 3 days - Hectic pace

D)They are burned out – bummed out – still grieving over the loss of their families

E)So David says – hey you guys stay here at the Brook Besor – and guard the supplies – (come back to this group in a minute)

¹¹Then they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David; and they gave him bread and he ate, and they let him drink water. ¹²And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs and two clusters of raisins. So when he had eaten, his strength came back to him; for he had eaten no bread nor drunk water for three days and three nights. ¹³Then David said to him, “To whom do you *belong*, and where *are* you from?”

And he said, “I *am* a young man from Egypt, servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind, because three days ago I fell sick. ¹⁴We made an invasion of the southern *area* of the Cherethites, in the *territory* which *belongs* to Judah, and of the southern *area* of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.”

¹⁵And David said to him, “Can you take me down to this troop?”

So he said, “Swear to me by God that you will neither kill me nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will take you down to this troop.”

¹⁶And when he had brought him down, there they were, spread out over all the land, eating and drinking and dancing, because of all the great spoil which they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah. ¹⁷Then David attacked them from twilight until the evening of the next day. Not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. ¹⁸So David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away, and David rescued his two wives. ¹⁹And nothing of theirs was lacking, either small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything which they had taken from them; David recovered all. ²⁰Then David took all the flocks and herds they had driven before those *other* livestock, and said, “This *is* David’s spoil.”

So God’s promise was proven true.

A)When David inquired of the LORD, God promised *You shall surely overtake them and without fail recover all* (1 Samuel 30:8).

B)One moment of Divine direction can reverse months of Despair

C)But note this: David had to act on the promise of God –

1)He and his men had to pursue the enemy – take back ground that was stolen

D)It wasn't going to just happen for them –

1)they had a active role to play in experiencing the fulfillment of the promise of God

God's promise didn't *exclude* David's cooperation, the promise *invited* his cooperation.

A)The same thing is true in our lives – We are called to be promise believers –

B)Our belief in the promises of God – need to cause us to walk in the promises of God.

C)Stand on the Promises of God!

This brings us to consider our third point today

A)The Recovery

²¹ Now David came to the two hundred men who had been so weary that they could not follow David, whom they also had made to stay at the Brook Besor. So they went out to meet David and to meet the people who *were* with him. And when David came near the people, he greeted them. ²² Then all the wicked and worthless men of those who went with David answered and said, "Because they did not go with us, we will not give them *any* of the spoil that we have recovered, except for every man's wife and children, that they may lead *them* away and depart."

What we find here is that there is tension in David's Army

A)As David and the 400 are coming back – the 200 who stayed at the Brook came out to meet David and the others –

B)I imagine this was Quite a Scene

C)A host of men in the front are driving vast herds of cattle and flocks of sheep, and singing as they march, "*This is David's spoil!*"

D)Then you see all the wives and kids that have been rescued

E)Then you see armed men, arms filled w/ Stuff and you hear them singing yet another song; "*David recovered all! David recovered all!*"

Then, those worn-out ones that stayed at the brook Besor, hear the singing,

A)Seeing their wives and kids – they join in "*This is David's spoil! David recovered all!*"

B)Quite a moment of celebration – beautiful scene

But the rejoicing is momentarily interrupted by the Words of some of the 400 Soldiers who left went with David: *Give them their wives & kids & tell them to Get lost – we don't need them anyway !!!*

A)It is interesting to me that the HS chooses to refer to them as Worthless men /

B)KJV calls them sons of Belial or the Devil – Why?

C)Strife division and condemnation are all tools of the Devil -

This could have been a turning point in the lives of David and his men –

A)A moment for Division – and Disgrace

B)Let's consider this scene & David's response and make some application to our lives

²³ But David said, "My brethren, you shall not do so with what the LORD has given us, who has preserved us and delivered into our hand the troop that came against us. ²⁴ For who will heed you in this matter? But as his part *is* who goes down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike." ²⁵ So it was, from that day forward; he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day.

David reminds them of three things –

A)#1 He reminds them of their Unity – He says look what the Lord has given US – ALL OF US.

B)The Lord has preserved us – he has delivered us – We are in this together

C)The wicked and worthless men looked at the spoil and said, "*We fought for this spoil and it is ours.*"

1)David looked at the spoil and said, "Look at what the LORD has given us."

D)Note The Difference: One is to say – I did this it is mine –

1) The other says The Lord did this – let's share!

David was the leader of those who were fainthearted and he was also their Advocate:

A)He reminds every one of their Unity –

B)He also Reminds every one of their USEFULNESS

C)Some go down to the Battle – and some stay with the Supplies – Both have a purpose

Paul gave a similar analogy in 1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12

A)One body – made up of many members – but we all have a function

B)The hand can't say to the foot – I don't need you – ear to the mouth – I have no need of you.

C)Everyone has a purpose and a Function

Listen this is radically applicable to us as a church right now.

A)Generational church – Love it – all the Generations here – Older and younger – we all have a place

B)To those of you who are older- Let's admit it we are slowing down – less energy

C)Pastor Cohorts – Young guys: Young families – “Right now you have tons of vision and tons of energy – not enough time”

D)The day will come – you have tons of vision – plenty of time- but a lot less energy.

Some of you are in that place right now.

A)You are Slowing down – I have watched it happen

B)For yrs some of you were like the engine that moved the church

C)3 hours on a booth at a harvest festival was no problem – happy to do it –

1)now 30 minutes you are wiped out – I get it

D)I want to just say this: That is ok – Normal – understandable

Now There can be this mentality in those of us who are older –

A)I did my time it is time for the younger Generation to step up –

B)And there is some truth to that – And I am loving watching the younger Generation step up –

C)Put a fresh twist on things – fresh perspective – takes things to another level

1)Some of you in the younger Gen still need to find your place – purpose – Help

D)That kind of switch is important in the life of a Church

But let me says this: Those of you who are older are still needed – you still have a place –

A)Your role might look different – it might be more of a support role or a behind the scenes role –

B)But you have a role to play - Young and Old we are in this together – advancing the Kingdom together

C)I am thankful for the large number of volunteers who serve here

D)But I would love to see every one of you who calls CV your home church – your family –

1)serving in some capacity here

In the coming months we are going to be revamping some of what we do here

A)to create more opportunities for everyone Young and old to use their gifts /

B)To find their purpose- In the season of life that they find themselves in

C)See That is how we function as the body of Christ that Jesus intends for us to be.

D)So David reminds them of their Unity – He reminds them of their Usefulness –

D)He reminds them of their REWARD But as his part *is* who goes down to the battle, so *shall* his part *be* who stays by the supplies; they shall share alike.”

E)In the Lord's eyes it is all the same – Share in the reward !

One of the things that is sad about the church is this;

A)we tend to over focus on the members that are seen – platform.

B)People say to me – I go to your church – well not my church – it is Jesus Church – First and foremost

C)It is also our church – belongs to all of us – All have a purpose – role – not to sit in a chair

Just like in the human body some parts are visible – other parts are unseen.

A)But those serving behind the scenes – who are unseen -Are just as important as those who are seen

B)Think of the heart – can't see it – but it is Vital – heart stops – You die

The heartbeat of the Church is: Those of you who pray

A)I love those of you who are prayer warriors –

B)tell me you pray for me and the other pastors – ministries

B)It is the heartbeat of this place – CHS
To me it is a boundless solace that I live in the prayers of thousands. I will not say which does the better service; the man that preaches, or the man that prays; but I know this, that we can do better without the voice that preaches than without the heart that prays. The petitions of our bed-ridden sisters are the wealth of the church. Charles Spurgeon

C)I would add this “ The kind of service (ie prayer) that seems to be most commonplace among men, is often the most precious to God.”-

When we get to heaven – I think you prayer warriors – are going to get the biggest rewards –

A)Rob you got your reward – You went on the Cruise –

B)Prayer warriors – HUGE CROWNS

C)So David reminds them of their reward
1)and creates an ordinance in Israel – from this day forward – Everyone gets to share in the reward

Then David illustrates this Kind of Generosity – Core Value here at CV

A)We have been blessed to be a blessing.

B)Read the rest of the Chapter – the Spoil is so great that David says -lets share this with everyone –

C)Go from city to city sharing the spoil

D)Our Commission to share the gospel

Communion:

Reminded of what Jesus did for us

Unity – United around Him

Usefulness – Called to serve together Kingdom

Our Reward – Life – inheritance – because we belong to Him

Not Partake in an Unworthy Manner

Prodigal – Come home

Partake together