

## David: Lost, Confused and Weary

In our study today, we will see David possibly at the most difficult time of his young life. However this situation will be different from the others because the cause of his distress and anxiety was from within his own “house” and his own companions. It is here in Ziklag in the desert of Negev that David was faced with a threat of death from his own, but it is also the place where he will find refuge in God.

### 1 Samuel 30:1-8

*“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, <sup>2</sup> 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.*

*<sup>3</sup> When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. <sup>4</sup> So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. <sup>5</sup> David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. <sup>6</sup> 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.*

*<sup>7</sup> Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, “Bring me the ephod.” Abiathar brought it to him, <sup>8</sup> 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.”*

### 1 Samuel 30:16-20

*“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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. <sup>19</sup> Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. <sup>20</sup> He took all*

two wives.<sup>19</sup> *Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back.*<sup>20</sup> *He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder."*

## **Finding strength in God is a first response; not a last resort**

David has returned to Ziklag and found that he had lost everything including his wives that had been carried away by the Amalekites. But it wasn't just his loss but all of the people that were the closest to him including his men lost everything.

Verse 6 says of David in the middle of a terrible situation; *"But David found strength in the LORD his God"*. His first response was to find refuge in God, where he found strength.

David is a good picture of Jesus in the garden, saying; "my soul is overwhelmed..." who sought refuge in God. The important point is that this was a *lifestyle*, a pattern for Jesus, now facing the cross and all it brought with it; he sought his Father who gave him strength.

## **Saul sought God for answers and information, but David sought God for refuge and strength**

Whereas David sought God's refuge, Saul sought information, answers. There is nothing wrong with information, but there isn't enough information in the world to satisfy us. Only seeking God in his refuge will give you the strength you will need.

David knew that the victory that he and his men experienced was not because of strategy or military skill.

*"Strength in our weakness and strength in our strength"*

## **Seeking only information sapped Saul of his strength and peace, but seeking refuge in God gave David both.**

This is a strong contrast to Saul in 1 Samuel 28, when he found himself in dire straits. Samuel was dead; God was not answering him so he consults a witch, a medium. He was seeking information, answers and information as opposed to David seeking God and refuge.

As Saul sought only answers and information, he found that his strength had been sapped. On the contrary, David sought God's refuge and received strength and got everything he needed.

## **Refuge & strength is found by trusting God's character & heart**

## heart

In our lives when the heat gets turned up, do we just seek answers, asking; "...what should I do"? Or do we seek God because we may not understand the circumstances but we trust God's character and heart. Yes God sought out David because of his heart, he even had to tell Samuel what to look for:

1 Samuel 16:7 NIV

*"But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."*

Ironically we trust God because we know his heart toward us despite what is going on in our lives.

The picture we get from the scripture is that God's strength arose for David and it went ahead of him and protected him.

God says; "trust my heart and my character", we say; "I don't know about this situation but I know you"!!

In closing David wrote the below Psalm in a situation very similar to this one.

Psalm 18:1-4

*I love you, LORD, my strength.*

*<sup>2</sup> The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;  
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,  
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.*

*<sup>3</sup> I called to the LORD, who is worthy of praise,  
and I have been saved from my enemies.*

## Discussion Questions

For our discussion questions we will use Jeff's four major points and discuss each of them.

- 1) Refer back to page 2 of your notes and discuss: *"finding strength in God is a first response; not a last resort"*
- 2) Again refer back to pages 2 and 3 of your notes and discuss this point: *"Saul sought God for answers and information, but David sought God for refuge and strength"*
- 3) Page 3, *"Seeking only information sapped Saul of his strength and peace, but seeking refuge in God gave David both"*
- 4) Lastly please discuss: *"Refuge & strength is found by trusting God's"*

4) Lastly please discuss: *“Refuge & strength is found by trusting God's character & heart”*

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