

“THE MINISTRY OF RECOVERY”

1 Samuel 30:1-8

This is a story of David making mistakes/suffering consequences – but responding correctly in order to recover. Need to see the ministry of recovery.

1 Samuel 30:1–8 ¹Now 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, 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. ³So 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. ⁴Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. ⁵And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. 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. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God. 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.”

I. THE MISTAKES OF FEAR

A. The Bible is an honest book – it is filled with stories of people's mistakes

1. Here: David let fear get on him – he disobeyed God and ran away from Israel

a. **1 Samuel 27:1** ¹And David said in his heart, “Now I shall perish someday by the hand of Saul. There is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape to the land of the Philistines; and Saul will despair of me, to seek me anymore in any part of Israel. So I shall escape out of his hand.”

2. Fear causes us to make bad decisions

a. Fear of ministry b. Fear of failure c. Fear of rejection d. Fear of the future

3. All fear is rooted in not trusting God: *God said he would be King....but what happens if Saul gets me?*

4. When we make decisions based on fear – we cause damage & make people vulnerable

a. **V1-2** 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.

II. RECOVERING FROM MISTAKES

A. Mistakes have consequences

1. Embarrassment 2. Sadness/depression: **V4-5** Then David and the people who were with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 3. Other people being upset with you: **V6** the people spoke of stoning him

B. So many men make the mistake of failing to recover

1. They run away/try and move on without being healed – or obeying

2. Hide themselves in work/making money – trying to succeed in other areas: *To make up for disobedience*

C. You have to recover from mistakes/bad decisions! God wants you to People need you to You need to

1. He owns his mistake: *He doesn't fight with the people upset at him*

a. People resent those who are upset – or wind up blaming others

2. He focuses on God: *Sometimes the hardest thing to do after sin/disobedience is to rebuild relationship w/God*

a. **V6** But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

3. Recovery begins with trusting God

a. **V8** So 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.”

1. God says you can recover 2. God says you can do His will 3. God says He will take care of you

III. THE MIRACLE HELP OF GOD

A. When we decide to recover – God is willing to help us

1. He can guide us: *They meet a man who shows them where/how to attack*

2. He adds a supernatural dimension to our efforts

a. **1 Samuel 30:17–19** Then 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.

3. Recovery unlocks destiny: The Bible is not a book full of perfect people who never failed

a. This victory – and sending a gift to people in Judah later caused them to receive him as king

b. There are lessons we learn/character formation that occurs from working through mistakes

1. They prepare us for the future – they help us in the future!