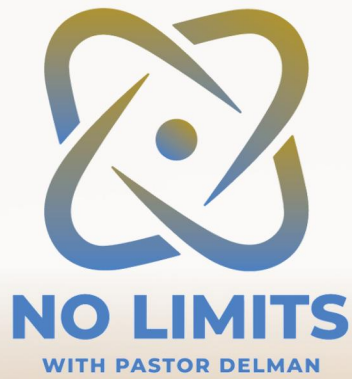




I WANT IT
— *all* —
BACK

S E R M O N G U I D E

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

I Want It All Back

1 Samuel 30:1-19

INTRODUCTION

In the Greenwood District of Tulsa, Oklahoma, Black men and women built a thriving community known as “Black Wall Street.” Against all odds, they created their own banks, hotels, theaters, and schools. It was a testament to Black brilliance and resilience. But in 1921, a white mob burned it to the ground, destroying homes, businesses, and lives. This story of progress being met with violent opposition is not just American history; it is a spiritual reality. Every time God’s people are on the verge of a breakthrough, an opposing force comes to steal, kill, and destroy.

This same spirit of destruction appears in our text. When David and his men return home to Ziklag, they find it in ashes. Their homes are destroyed, and their families are gone. The devastation is so profound that they weep until they have no strength left. The enemy had not just stolen their possessions; he had stolen their future. Yet, this story, like the story of Greenwood, is not just about destruction. It is about the possibility of recovery and the promise that what was lost can be reclaimed.

KEY POINTS

1. Identify What The Enemy Has Stolen

Before recovery is possible, we must have the courage to face our reality. The text says David and his men “saw the ruins and realized what had happened to their families.” They took inventory of the loss. You cannot recover what you refuse to face. The Bible does not rush us past the pain to get to the praise. It gives space for grief. Too often, we are trained to minimize our trauma, saying “it wasn’t that bad” when it almost broke us. Spiritual maturity requires an honest evaluation of the damage, not to live in denial, but to prepare a strategy for rebuilding.

2. Handle Familiar Opposition

At his lowest moment, David faced a second enemy: his own men. The very people who marched with him began murmuring against him, speaking of stoning him. Grief, when not guided properly, can become violent and attack what is nearest. David became the convenient target for their outrage. This is a critical lesson for leaders and anyone on a divine assignment. Not every stone thrown at you deserves your attention. Arguing with broken people will drain you of the strength you need for the real fight. David shows us that you do not have time to dodge stones while your future is in the enemy’s hands.

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3. Encourage Yourself In The Lord

The turning point of the entire story is a single word: “But.” David was in danger, his men were bitter, and his heart was broken, but he found strength in the Lord his God. This is not shallow positivity; it is a holy boldness that reaches beyond present circumstances to remember God’s covenant. Before David could get his stuff back, he had to get himself back. This was the recovery before the recovery. He then seeks divine direction, asking God, “Should I chase?” Reaction is driven by pain, but direction is guided by purpose. Prayer is where panic gives way to perspective and where our problems meet the Provider.

The journey from the ashes of Ziklag to full recovery teaches us that God’s restoration is total, but it requires our participation. This story is a powerful call for social justice. Like the residents of Greenwood, we are called to rebuild what systemic forces have torn down. Our faith demands that we confront injustice and work to restore what has been stolen from marginalized communities, whether it is wealth, hope, or a belief in a better future.

On a personal level, getting it all back means we must first get ourselves back. This requires reclaiming our sanity before our stuff, our peace before our possessions. We do this by encouraging ourselves in the Lord, remembering His past faithfulness so we can trust His future promises. It also means we must do our part. For David, that meant pursuing the enemy and showing kindness to an abandoned Egyptian slave, the very person who would guide him to victory. Be careful how you treat people. God can use those whom others have rejected to help you recover everything you have lost. God’s promise is not just for partial restoration. It is for full recovery. You will get your joy back, your peace back, your family back, and your testimony back.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. What "ruins" in your personal life or community have you been hesitant to honestly face? What would it look like to take a full inventory of what was lost, not to dwell on pain, but to prepare for a God-led recovery?
2. Reflect on a time when you faced criticism or opposition from an unexpected source. How can David's example of not getting distracted by "dodging stones" help you remain focused on your ultimate assignment from God?
3. David had to "get himself back" before he could get his stuff back. What practical steps can you take this week to "encourage yourself in the Lord" and seek His direction before reacting to a challenging situation?
