

Finding Strength in Crisis

1 Samuel 30:1-6

May 3, 2020

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30 *David and his men arrived in Ziklag on the third day. The Amalekites had raided the Negev and attacked and burned down Ziklag. ² They also had kidnapped the women and everyone in it from the youngest to the oldest. They had killed no one but had carried them off as they went on their way.*

³ *When David and his men arrived at the town, they found it burned down. Their wives, sons, and daughters had been kidnapped. ⁴ David and the troops with him wept loudly until they had no strength left to weep. ⁵ David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelite and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had also been kidnapped. ⁶ David was in a difficult position because the troops talked about stoning him, for they were all very bitter over the loss of their sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God.*

When we rely on our own strength...

1. It can lead us into discouragement. [Chapter 27]

- **Discouragement often prompts us to ignore the promises of God. [27:1]**
- **Discouragement often leads to impulsive decisions. [27:1]**
- **Discouragement often comes after a hard fought victory. [Chapter 26]**

2. It can lead us to a life of compromise. [Chapter 27]

- **Compromise will often make it appear in the moment that you've made the right decision. (27:4)**
- **Compromise often hurts innocent people. [27:2]**

3. It can lead us into spiritual decay.

Five penetrating questions...

- Was there ever a time when you were nearer to God than you are now?
- Was there ever a time when you read the Bible more, or enjoyed it more than now?
- Was there ever a time when you prayed more, when you had your prayers answered more frequently?

- Was there ever a time when you had a stronger witness for the Lord and won more people to Jesus?
- Was there ever a time when you were more completely absorbed in the Lord's business?

Lessons we learn from David's Story:

- **Rearrange—A crisis will rearrange our priorities.**
- **Remind—A crisis should remind us of God's greater purpose.**
- **Return—A crisis is intended to drive us back to the source of our greatest strength.**

But David found strength in the Lord his God. (30:6)

My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. (2 Cor. 12:9)