

I Want My Stuff Back – Part 2 Sermon

Delivered at Supreme Love Church, 10/2013

1 Samuel 30:10 -23

¹⁰ But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor. ¹¹ And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water;

¹² And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights.

¹³ And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? And whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. ¹⁴ We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire.

¹⁵ And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. ¹⁶ And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking, and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. ¹⁷ And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled.

¹⁸ And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all. ²⁰ And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

²¹ And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them.

²² Then answered all the wicked men and men of Belial, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that we have recovered, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart.

²³ Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. ²⁴ For who will hearken unto you in this matter? But as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike. ²⁵ And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.

Background: David moved by fear and flesh has made a bad decision and when he comes back home, he finds that the enemy has come and destroyed his home and taken all his stuff. Bad decisions in life, decisions without prayer often lead to you losing stuff. When you are hanging out in the wrong places, you can often expect destruction and loss of your stuff.

- David couldn't get any relief from his men so he had to encourage himself in the Lord his God. When others fail to comfort you, you better know how to get to God!
- How do you think he encouraged himself? How can we do this and when is a good time to do it? All the time, but especially when no one else is able or willing to encourage you.
- There's a whole lot of ways you can encourage yourself, but do you know how to do it in the Lord? See Psalm 135.

The flesh move is just to go after them...but David has made this mistake before so he won't bust a move this time until he checks with God. Good advice.

- Shall I go after these guys?
- If I go after them, will I catch them?
- Answer from God – Go after them, you will certainly catch them, and will certainly recover what you lost.
- God doesn't want you chasing the enemy for nothing. If He tells you to go after it, then success must be the end result of your pursuit....just make sure you hear it correctly from God.
 - If no spiritual peace, then no pursuit.

Part 2 – Which One Are You?

There are several characters or players in this story. Which category are you?

- Leaders – David
- Rear guard – guard the stuff you left behind
- Forward element
- The lost
- The redeemed
- The wicked

Verse 10 – David pursues after the enemy to get back what was lost. The role and purpose of Christians today is to worship God, encourage yourself in the Lord, and get back what the devil stole.

- People don't usually come to church because they got it all together....most people come to church because they are missing something and they come here to pursue after it.
- What are you chasing after?
- David starts out with 600 men but 1/3 of them couldn't make it. 200 were too weak and couldn't make the journey. This group couldn't handle it so they stayed back.

- David though continues to pursue...he doesn't let the fact that he had lost 200 keep him from going after what God promised.
- Whether 600 or 400, the changing circumstances doesn't cancel out the promise. Stop focusing on the wrong thing....stand on the promises and then you won't be tripping when disappointment comes.
- You may be discouraged when people who start out with you can't support you all the way. But David knew how to encourage himself in the Lord and stand on the promises of God.
- Stop tripping, he lost 200 but must have still had enough left over to get the job done. You still got something left and what's left over is probably enough to get the job done. God can still do a lot with only a little or a few....just because I lost some stuff doesn't mean I'm not able to pursue after the promises of God.
- Some people are in the left behind group....Is this who you are? The ones that will start out with you a little ways but they ain't going over there. Rear Guard folks.
 - Anybody here want to go to Honduras or some other overseas location to do missionary work? Some do, but some are not able to.
 - That's okay, you will need some folks who can support you from behind the scenes.

Verse 11 – 13. They found an unbeliever in the field while pursuing after their loved ones. Along the way they come across someone about to die. Now in the natural, if I'm in a hurry to try and get my stuff back, I don't have time to waste stopping to see about somebody else's issues. Remember the parable of the good Samaritan....everybody was too busy to stop and help. But here we see that David's men stopped their pursuit to help someone in need.

- Notice they didn't have much to give. See you don't need to give them a steak dinner or bling bling. Nope, they didn't have that....but what they had was enough to revive him and save his life.
- Is this who you are? The Forward Element.
- Notice how they revive him....they take him to David. All you have to do is know how to bring them to the King you've been serving and following and you can save their life, change their direction, change their future, and have them rolling with the King. Get them to Jesus.
 - Introduce these cast down, broken folk to Jesus, the one you're following and they can be saved!
 - Establish a relationship....who are you, where do you work, where are you from....make conversation.

Verse 13 – 15. We learn about the young man. David asks who he belongs to and where did he come from.

- He served an Amalekite who was the enemy that David was pursuing.
- The enemy who was his master left him behind because 3 days ago he was sick.

- When the enemy used him up and he was sick, the enemy left him to die. Interesting...the enemy has no problem leaving your butt behind after he has used you.
- The enemy doesn't care about your future.
- Young man confesses he was part of the group that was against David. He was there...serving the wrong side and helping the enemy.
- David asks can he help him catch up to the enemy.
- The young man's response is asking for mercy:
 - The young man is going to help David find the enemy and rescue his folks and get his stuff back.
- Is this you? The redeemed or the lost?
 - Have you been used up and deceived by the enemy and just left out there?
 - Instead of serving the Lord, have you been serving the enemy or the world?
 - All of us are guilty and been in the same situation as the young man, but if we confess, repent (change our minds about serving the enemy and the world), we can live and not die. We get our future back.

Along the journey you will encounter divine appointments.

- Either God will put someone in your path for you to assist and revive or God will put someone in your path to help revive you. Which one are you?
- The role and mission of our church in pursuit of what we are after....we gonna meet some lost people along the way. What will you do?
- Don't miss the opportunity to save someone because we're too busy chasing after stuff. There will be opportunities for us to rescue people along the way.

Christians should pursue after the rights things. The Bible helps show you things to pursue after:

- Do good, seek peace and pursue them – Psl 34:14
- If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land - 2 Chr 7:14
- One *thing* have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to enquire in his temple - Psl 27:4
- Seek good and not evil that ye may live - Amos 5:14
- Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness - Matt 6:33
- If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God - Col 3:1
- But without faith *it is* impossible to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him - Heb 11:6

There is a reward and benefit to helping to save the lost.

- Because they stopped and helped this guy....it made it easier and they are going to save time reaching their goal. When you take the time to help someone else you generally are helping yourself reach your goal that much easier. Doesn't make sense in the natural...but what you do for others is part of the process for reaching your goal.
- The objective of saving the young man was to give him new life, set him free from his old bondage, and in turn they get assistance on their journey. I'm helping you because I need help for my journey and mission. When I help you, I get a reward.
- Their stopping to help would seem like a waste of time and hindrance to their objective. Instead by stopping to help, they saved time, got great intelligence. Helping someone else, helped them to bring down their enemy and restore what they lost.
- Is that you?

Verse 16 – David's enemies were spread out having a big party. Thought they had gotten away with it. It was a party held by the enemy. The folks that were serving the enemy and rolling with him were at the party. This sounds like some of the parties and clubs I used to hang out at when I was serving the enemy.

- Is this you?

Verse 17 – David spanked that butt from evening until the next evening. That was a long day for somebody.

Verse 18 – What was lost because of his previous mistake was restored when he returned to trusting in and seeking God. He got it back. Had to go through some stuff, there was a battle involved, but he got it back. He rescued his family from the mistake and the enemy. It must be the intent of God that He allow us to rescue our family when our previous actions place them in danger and the enemy separates them from us.

Verse 19 – David got it all back. Nothing was missing. Everyone with him got their stuff back too.

Verse 20 – And he got extra cattle and spoils for his trouble.

Verse 21 – The 200 left behind go out to greet David and he salutes them.

Verse 22 – Our final category are the wicked. They don't want to share the recovery with the people who stayed behind to watch the stuff. Don't be surprised when you actually have followers of the King not extend mercy. Don't find yourself in this group.

Verse 23 – David calls them his brothers and tells them not to do this. Don't be greedy with what God has given you. It wasn't them, but God who delivered the enemy into their hands so they need to be careful not to take credit or not extend mercy when God had just given them so much favor that they didn't deserve. God had been so kind to them, now they should be kind to others.