

I Want My Stuff Back - Sermon

Delivered at Supreme Love Church, 10/2013

1 Samuel 30:1-8

And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; ²And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.

³So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. ⁴Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. ⁵And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.

⁶And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.

⁷And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. ⁸And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? Shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.

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. I have lost some things in my life due to bad decisions made in the flesh and decisions made without prayer.

Verses 1 – 3 - 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. Has anybody done ever lost some stuff because of bad decisions or being in the wrong place at the wrong time? Lost some money, some relationships, jobs, peace, opportunities, stuff. Anyone ever realize too late when you were in the wrong place with the wrong people, and you thought you were so smart...that while it seemed to work for a while...you find later that it blows up on you?

- Now let me point out that all the time David was on the run in Judah, his enemies got close, but no one ever touched his stuff. Look what happens now when David is camped in the wrong place. Early success there doesn't mean you're in the right place or that you won't have a price to pay for lack of faith.

Verse 4 – Mourn until they had no more tears. Anyone ever think you got over and then only later find out that things are bad and you can't do anything but be sad over the consequences of your mistake? But crying about it didn't get them any closer to getting their stuff back.

- After a while you gonna need to stop crying about what you lost.....not going to get it back like that.

Verse 6 – Even more distress coming on David. People so sad and mad that they talking about killing David. Now they want to blame David for their troubles.

- It was not a spiritual response because it came from their soul and driven by their emotions.
- Tough when the people you expect to encourage you ain't there. Instead of encouragement you get discouragement.....anybody ever get dissed by folk you expected to encourage you.
- But if it happened to David then you better be ready when it happens to you. Stop relying on other folks to make you smile. What happens when the person you're with doesn't make you smile anymore?
- 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!
- When others fail to comfort you, you better know how to strengthen yourself in the Lord!
 - But if it happened to David then you better be ready when it happens to you. Stop relying on other folks to make you smile. What happens when the person you're with don't make you smile anymore.
- Some people do different things to encourage themselves when they lose stuff.
 - Lose a man, eat ice cream or chocolate.
 - Lose your peace and happiness, get high.
 - Somebody hurt you, you want to hurt somebody too....feel better but still no closer to getting your stuff back.
 - Lose your girl, pity party time. I Wish It Would Rain, Let the Side Show Begin, Break up to make up, Have you seen her, The Love I Lost, Life is a three ring circus, Never can say goodbye, Love TKO, She used to be my girl...what ya'll singing today...Toni Braxton Un-break my heart.

Verse 8 – David too cautious now to just move in the flesh. We have spiritual tools available to us all the time but we sometimes never pull them out until it gets real bad. Maybe if we use them more often...things wouldn't get so bad.

Flesh move is just to go after them...but David has done that 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. The answer he receives is above what he asked (MH).
- When he comes humble before God....God answers.
- He doesn't want him chasing the enemy for nothing. If God tells you to go after it, then success must be the end result of your pursuit....if He told you.



- Even after the mistake, God hears, God answers, God allows him to recover.....my point, God will help you recover from your loss if you trust Him and seek Him and get a word from Him...that's good news.

When you can encourage yourself in the Lord, then your recovery season is not far away. Here are some verses to help you encourage yourself in the Lord

- The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear, the lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid." Psalm 27:1
- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1
- In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me." Psalm 56:8-11
- God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." Psalm 46:1
- I will bless the Lord at all times, his praise shall continually be in my mouth." Psalm 34:1

I'm old school; but I can do it New Testament style:

- I can do all things through Christ who Strengthens me" Philippians 4:13
- And we know that all things work together for good, for them that love God and are called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28
- Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Romans 8:37
- Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you." Hebrews 13:5