

Sunday Night Message

February 16, 2020

1 Samuel 29 - 30

Topics – David; Achish; Ziklag; discouragement;

Series – *1 Samuel*

Text – 1 Samuel 29 - 30

Introduction

Have you ever been to the place where it seemed that your world was literally falling apart? Where nothing seemed to be going right? Where every situation and circumstance seemed to be working against you? I think that we have all been there at least once in our lives.

Illustrate – Tell the story of my dad when he was near bankruptcy.

Life can be very discouraging at times. Sometimes the problems we face are financial, sometimes they are physical, sometimes it's a family situation, sometimes it is a personal failure that is getting you down, and sometimes your problems are "all of the above", meaning that you have negative circumstances in a variety of areas; but we don't have to let the discouraging circumstances of life keep us down. Circumstances may knock us down, but we don't have to let them keep us down.

In the story that we have in front of us in 1 Samuel 30, David is very discouraged; his world was literally falling apart. But David did not allow discouragement to keep him down. Verse 6 tells us that he encouraged himself in the Lord his God. In other words, though there was nothing encouraging about David's situation, and there was no encouragement coming from David's friends – in fact there was only discouragement; David found encouragement in the Lord his God.

Pause – Can you say that the Lord is your God? Are you His child? Do you belong to Him? Have you been born into His family through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? If you do not belong to Him, then none of what we will say today can apply to you. In order to encourage yourself "in the Lord your God", you have to have a relationship with Him.

Before we examine the text in front of us, let's back up a little and study some things about David.

David was a faithful man:

He was faithful to his father.

He was faithful to his flock.

He was faithful to his friends. (Jonathon)

He was even faithful to his foes. (Saul)

David served King Saul and Israel. He killed Goliath. He fought and killed scores of God's enemies. Yet, because of jealousy, King Saul seeks David's life. In fact, Saul sent his whole army

out hunting for David, a man that had done nothing wrong and had served his nation faithfully. Saul personally attempts to kill David twice, but God spared David; and twice David had the opportunity to kill Saul, but twice David spared Saul's life.

David is eventually forced into exile and finds refuge in the land of the Philistines. While he is there, the Philistines go to war with Israel, and because David is an Israelite, the Philistines don't trust him, and he is forced to leave them as well (Read Chapter 29 – see Map). While it may be a stretch to believe that David would have raised his sword against his own people, we simply do not know exactly how discouraged David was because of the treatment he received from King Saul and Israel. It is likely that David would have sought an opportunity to come to Israel's aid. However, God intervened, and saw to it that David would not be put into this battle at all. God kept David from doing something that would have forever changed his destiny.

David then returns home to a city called Ziklag where his family and the families of David's mighty men had made a home. Upon arriving in Ziklag, he finds the city burned to the ground, and his family is gone.

Read again vs. 1 – 6

David's world was falling apart. He was a hero in Israel, yet he became public enemy number one. He was a friend to the Philistines, yet they kicked him out of their country too. His home was burned to the ground, and his possessions were taken. His family is gone, and David has no idea what has happened to them. And now his faithful friends are ready to stone him. And all of this was happening to a man that was anointed by the prophet Samuel, and was told that he would be the next King of Israel.

He had great expectations, but things were not exactly working out the way he expected them to. David's circumstances were all bad. Everything was bad. Nothing seemed to be going right.

What did he do? What would you do?

I. He Encouraged Himself In the Lord (v. 6)

Remember what God has done for you in the past.

Remember that God loves you and realize that He has promised to never leave you nor forsake you. You are the apple of His eye.

Remember that God wants you to be victorious in the Christian life.

"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 15:57)

Remember that as long as you are still breathing the game is not over. "It ain't over till the fat lady sings". Yogi Berra used to say, "it ain't over till it's over". If you are still breathing, your life is not over. There is still time to get things right, to find happiness again.

Remember you are not alone. God is with you.

*"Be not afraid of the king of Babylon, of whom ye are afraid; be not afraid of him, saith the LORD: for **I am with you** to save you, and to deliver you from his hand." (Jeremiah 42:11)*

*"Then spake Haggai the LORD'S messenger in the LORD'S message unto the people, saying, **I am with you**, saith the LORD." (Haggai 1:13)*

*"Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, **I am with you always**, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matthew 28:20)*

Remember that you are not the only one going through trials:

"There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Remember that there are some encouraging people out there.

Remember to be an encouragement to somebody else.

In the midst of discouraging circumstances, you can find encouragement. But you've got to want to be encouraged. You have to be willing to take the thumb out of your mouth and put your "bankie" down, and take some steps that will bring you back up. You have to want to get pulled out of the mire of your misery. You won't be encouraged until you are willing to do something about your discouragement.

II. He Inquired of the Lord (vs. 7 – 8)

Go to God's Word for strength.

Go to God in prayer for comfort.

Go to God's man for counsel.

Go to God's House and get around God's people for encouragement to do right and to keep on going for God.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." (Hebrews 10:25)

III. He Initiated Action (vs. 9 – 15)

Once you know what to do – do it.

Don't dwell on what has happened. In order to move forward, you must let go of the past. Learn from the past, but move forward into the future.

Notice verse 10 – 200 out of 600 were so weak that they could not be part of the rescue effort for their own wives and children. They had traveled three days from Aphek to Ziklag; they had probably eaten very little on the journey. Now, they lack the strength to fight for their families. A practical thought from this is that we need to be strong physically if we are going to be able to fight the Lord's battles.

IV. He Enjoyed a Great Victory (vs. 16 – 20)

God may not change every situation and circumstance that you are facing, but he will change you, and ultimately, you will have the victory. Just don't quit.

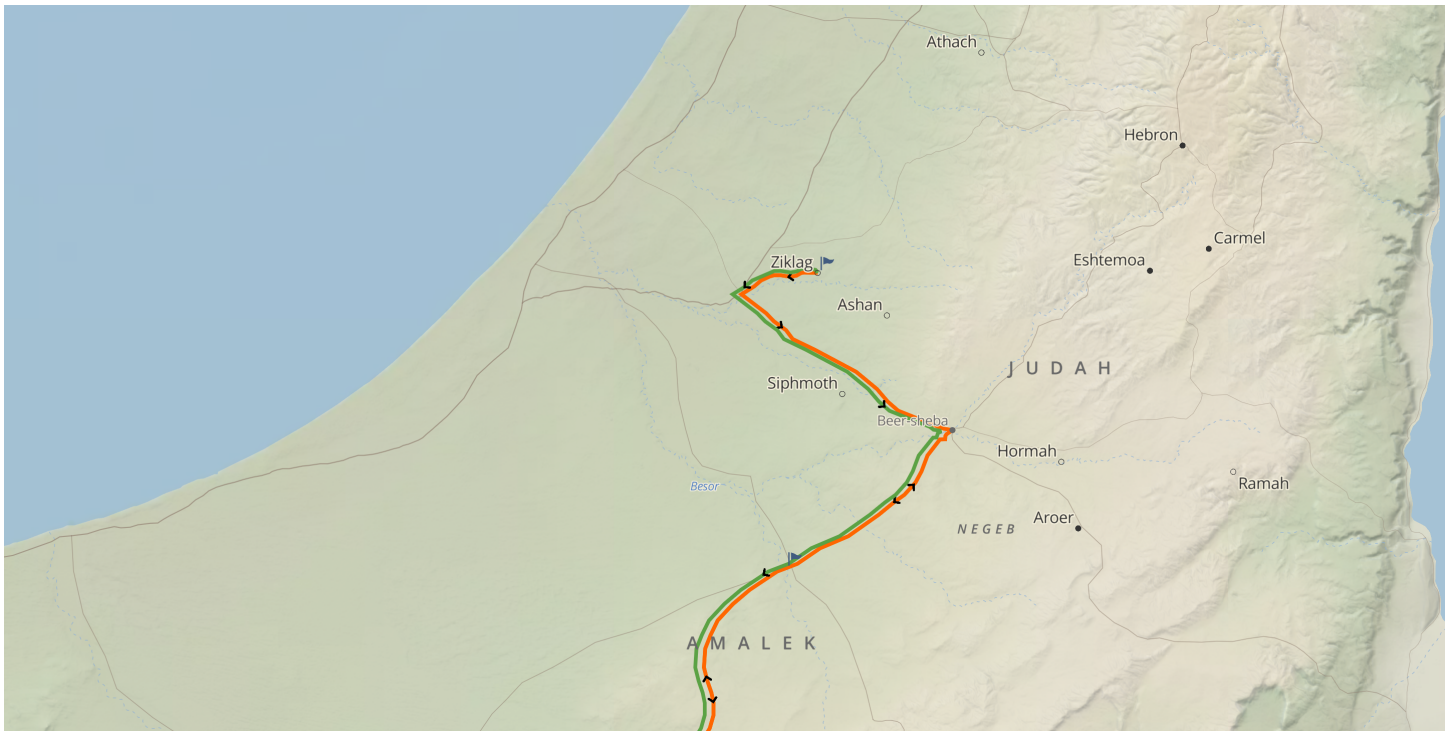
V. He Insisted on Sharing the Spoil (vs. 21 – 31)

A. With His Tired Men (vs. 21 – 25)

B. With the Cities of Judah (vs. 26 – 31)

David's kindness to the cities of Judah would be remembered as they will be the first to anoint David as king, and he will reign over Judah from Hebron.

David's Rescue Campaign



WARS OF KING SAUL

- ★ Capital city
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ← Advance of the Ammonites against Jabesh-gilead (*I Sam. 11:1ff*)
- Saul's interior exploits against the Ammonites (*I Sam. 11:8ff*)
- ↖ Saul's external exploits (*I Sam. 14:47-48*)
- ← Advance of the Philistines against Shunem (*I Sam. 28:4ff*)
- Saul's interior exploits against the Philistines (*I Sam. 31:1-7*)
- ★ Battle scene

