

1 Samuel Lesson 53 David Seeks the Lord When Faced With a Crisis

- The connection between our obedience and our relationship to God
- God opposes the proud and exalts the humble
- Despite human evil, God is working out His purposes in history
- Kingship in Israel and God's plan to one day raise up an anointed divine king

Background:

Distance from Aphek to Ziklag: The distance between these two points is approximately 50 miles. It would not be unusual for a group of armed men to take three days to travel this distance.

Amalekites: David had raided their villages during his stay in Ziklag. Because of David's raids, the Amalekites may have attacked Ziklag as an act of revenge. They carried off the inhabitants without killing them probably for the purpose of enslaving them. Saul had been ordered to annihilate them, but Saul disobeyed and the Amalekites were not completely destroyed until the eighth century BC (1 Chronicles 4:43)

Key Words:

"strengthened" Strong's H2388 "chazaq" from a primitive root that means "to fasten upon"; hence to seize, be strong and courageous.

"inquire": Strong's H7592 "shaal" ask, beg, consult. It is often used in the context of consulting a deity.

Read 1 Samuel 30:1-15

1. Describe what David and his men saw upon arriving in Ziklag according to 30:3 What was their reaction in 30:4? Where was David and his men when this attack occurred? How might this attack have been a consequence of David's sin of deception and entanglement with Achish?

2. According to 30:6 what further crisis did David experience and how did David respond? Contrast David's response here with his response to a previous crisis in 27:1-2? Why do you think David's response was different in 30:6?

Application: When faced with a crisis in your life, how do you respond? What are some ways we can personally strengthen ourselves in the Lord?

3. After David strengthened himself in the Lord, what did he do? See 30:7-9. What lesson had David learned from his time as a vassal of Achish?

Application: When faced with a decision how do you respond/? When do you tend to "inquire of the Lord" and when do you tend to rely on your own strength and abilities?

4. What character trait of David's is revealed in both 30:9-10 and 30:11-12. Compare the way David and his men treated the Egyptian slave with the way the Amalekites treated him..

5. David inquired of the Lord and obeyed his counsel. According to 30:13-15 how did the Lord provide for David? Have you ever experienced the Lord's provision as you obeyed Him? When was it and how did the Lord provide?