

1 Samuel Lesson 54 David Defeats the Amalekites

- 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:

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)

"David's exhausted men" : These men who were left behind were not worthless to David. They were acting as a rear guard. While they rested they guarded the baggage and would be available to provide reinforcements later if David retreated.

"fleeing on camels" : Camels are a very swift form of transportation in the desert. They were ideal for both raiding and a "quick getaway".

"dividing the spoils" :In the ancient world, soldiers who engaged in battle were not paid wages. Instead they were given a portion of the plunder taken in the capture.

"The towns" with which David shared a portion of the spoils were located in the hill country of Judah.

Read 1 Samuel 30:16-31

1. According to 1 Samuel 30:16. what were the Amalekites doing when David and his men came upon them and why? How could this have been an advantage for David and his men?

2. Describe the battle and aftermath in 30:17-20. How had God fulfilled His Word to David in 30:8? What attribute of God is revealed here? Has God ever fulfilled a promise from His Word in your life?

Application: How have you experienced victory in a trial as you walked in obedience to the Lord?

3. David and his men returned to the Brook Besor and the 200 men they had left behind with the baggage. According to 30:22 what did the wicked and worthless men who had gone to battle with David desire? What was David's rebuke to them in 30:23-24? Who does David say the plunder belongs to in 30:23 and how did that perspective affect David's decision about its distribution?

Application: How does your perspective on your material possessions affect how they are used?

4. In 1 Samuel 30:22-24 what is revealed about David's character, and leadership skills? How has David's relationship with the Lord changed from the time he was with the Philistines?

5. God is transitioning David from fugitive to king.. What evidence do you see of David's ability to rule wisely in 30:25-31? Why do you think David sent some of the spoils to the elders of Judah?

6. How can you relate the 4 Key Themes to all of Chapter 30?