

After God's Heart

Lesson 8

1 Samuel 30:1-31

February 24, 2019

Too Tired to Fight

Introduction

David considered the 200 hundred who were too tired to have contributed just as much as the 400 who continued. Those 200 guarded the baggage, allowing those who went to fight to do so unencumbered. However, the 400 who had continued into battle didn't see it that way and didn't feel like those who guarded the luggage deserved an equal share in the spoils. The victory over the Amalekites was God's.

This perceived unfairness also becomes a problem in the church of Corinth. Some spiritual gifts were highly valued, while others were viewed as lesser. But Paul points out that every gift plays an important role, and all are needed. The gifts that we have are really gifts from God. And who would dare stand before God and tell Him that one of His gifts was not important? Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 12:4, "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them."

Memory verse: "David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and delivered into our hands the raiding party that came against us. Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."—1 Samuel 30:23-24

Pray and read 1 Samuel 30:1-31. What questions or observations do you have about the passage?

What does the passage say?

1. Who raided the Negev and Ziklag? What did they do to Ziklag? (1 Samuel 30:1-3)
2. What did David and his men do in response? (1 Samuel 30:4, 7-8)
3. How many men went to Besor Valley? How many stayed behind? Why did they stay back? (1 Samuel 30:9-10)
4. Who did David's men find in the field? What information did they get from him? (1 Samuel 30:11-14)
5. What David and his men find when they followed the Egyptian? What did David and his men do when they saw the raiding party? (1 Samuel 30:16-17)
6. What was recovered? What was lost? (1 Samuel 30:18-20)
7. When David returned to the 200 who had been too exhausted to follow him, what did those who had followed him say? (1 Samuel 30:22)

8. What was David's response? (1 Samuel 30:23-26)

What does the passage mean?

1. David sought strength in the Lord (1 Samuel 30:6). How can we have confidence that God will give us strength in difficult situations? (Joshua 1:9; 2 Corinthians 12:9-10; 1 Peter 5:7)
2. Matthew Henry, in his commentary on 1 Samuel 30:7, states, "If we thus, in all our ways, acknowledge God, we may expect that he will direct our steps, as he did David's here..." How can we be assured that God will direct our steps as he did David's? (Psalm 32:8; Proverbs 16:9; John 8:12; Romans 8:28)
3. Just as David saw the 200 hundred who stayed behind as essential contributors, we are all seen as important contributors in the body of Christ. How are we to view the contributions each of us makes? (Romans 12:4-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, 18-19, 21-22; Ephesians 4:11-16)

4. David's decision to share the plunder was not popular with the 400 who had gone on to battle. This continued to be unpopular in the New Testament. However, with Christ's death, we were all given access to an equal share of the Kingdom of God. How can we be assured of this share? (Matthew 20:1-16; Romans 3:22-24; Galatians 3:28)

Applying the Passage

1. David "strengthened himself in the LORD" (1 Samuel 30:6) In what ways do you strengthen yourself in the Lord? What makes it hard to do those things during a crisis? What are some strategic steps you can take now to make a habit of strengthening yourself in the Lord through good and bad?

