

“The Leader’s Emotions”

Text: I Samuel 30:1-6

Subject: Processing The Ups And Downs Of Life And Ministry

Introduction

1. In chapter 29, David and his men were preparing for battle.
2. David and 600 men were fighting with and supporting King Achish.
3. The Philistine commanders became nervous that the Hebrews (David and his army) were fighting along side of them.
4. And in verse 4, the Philistine leader said “Send David back in case he turns against us”.
5. In verse 7, Achish summons David and says “You’ve been rejected and need to leave”.
6. In Verse 8, David responds with “What have I done to deserve this treatment?”
7. And in chapter 29:11, David leaves without an attitude and heads home to Ziklag (because God closed the door in Gath.)

(Now in chapter 30)

1. David and his 600 men travel from Aphek to Ziklag (75 miles)
2. After three days (25 miles traveled per day) David arrives home tired and hungry.

Question: What does David discover when he gets home to Ziklag?

Answer: He sees smoke in the distance, runs into town and discovers three things:

1. The Amalekites (whom Saul had failed to exterminate) had left Ziklag in smoking ruins.
2. All the property and cattle had been stolen.
3. But most of all, the wives and children of David and his 600 men were kidnapped and nowhere to be found.

And in the midst of David’s discovery

- ◆ The Lord gives us revelations from Ziklag! (Truth for your heart and mine).
- ◆ The Lord shows us that He knows where you live! (And has a word “in season”).

Question: What are the revelations from Ziklag that protect us from the lies of the enemy?

I. Closed Doors Can Be A Favor From God

“David cannot go into battle with us...so David headed back to Ziklag while the army went on to Jezreel.” (I Samuel 29:4, 11)

Question: What happens to David just before he heads home to Ziklag?

Answer: He is rejected in battle, told to get out of town and feels mistreated.

Question: Why was this a blessing in disguise?

Answer: Because David had no idea that (back home in Ziklag) he was desperately needed.

In Other Words

- ◆ When God closes a door for you; your disappointment in reality might be God’s opportunity.
- ◆ When you encounter an unfulfilled expectation, remember that God sees the whole picture.
- ◆ When you are tempted to cry over something outside of your control, take heart in the truth:

“As for God, His way is perfect.” (Psalm 18:30)

“God causes everything to work together for good for those who love Him.” (Romans 8:28)

“The steps of the righteous are ordered of the Lord.” (Psalms 37:23)

“He makes all things beautiful in His time.” (Ecc. 3:11)

II. Disappointments Are Part Of Life And Ministry

“Three days later when David arrived home and saw the devastation (and his family missing) he wept until he could weep no more.” (v. 30:1, 5)

Fact: Tears are a natural response of the human heart to pain and loss.

Fact: The Bible is full of leaders who wept many times.

Question: Why are tears not so bad?

- ◆ Tears are good because leaky heads don't swell.
- ◆ Pouring our heart out to God allows God to mend our broken spirit.
- ◆ It is a broken leader who becomes a “wounded healer”

In Other Words

- ◆ Our response to our disappointments will determine our future tenderness and effectiveness.
- ◆ Our response to our pain will help us or hurt us.
- ◆ Our response to our “dark nights of the soul” will give meaning and purpose to our tomorrows.
- ◆ The anointing upon your leadership is no passport to an easy life, so be careful not to interpret obstacles as a sign of God's opposition (but rather opportunities to march forward).

Question: Why is it so important to trust in the sovereignty of God?

Answer: Because faith in God's “character” and “rightness” will protect you from four evil snares:

1. Yielding to self-pity
2. Developing a martyr's complex
3. Anger towards God
4. Fainting by the wayside.

- ◆ When you cannot trace God's hand, you can always trust His heart!

III. Criticism Comes To Those Who Lead

“David was now in serious trouble because his men were bitter about their loss, and they began to talk of stoning him.” (V. 6)

Question: What happens when David's men become distraught over their loss?

Answer: They begin to talk of stoning him (David).

Question: What must every leader (who influences people) come to grips with?

Answer: There will always be people around you who will find something to criticize!

(So Remember)

- ◆ No one will agree with you all the time!
- ◆ It is possible to disagree without becoming disagreeable!
- ◆ Put yourself in the critic's shoes to gather any truth in their statements.
- ◆ Never strike the second blow!
- ◆ God did not create you to meet everyone else's expectation or make everybody happy!

So Overcome The “Disease To Please”

“Am I trying to win the favor of men, or God? Do I seek to please men? If pleasing people is my goal, I cannot be a bond servant of Christ.” (Galatians 1:10)

And Never Forget This

- ◆ If criticism had any real power to harm, the skunk would be extinct by now (nuf sed).

Memorize

“An undeserved curse has no effect. It’s intended victim will be no more harmed by it than by a sparrow or swallow flitting through the sky.” (Proverbs 26:2)

In Other Words...

- ◆ Answer your critics with your life and not your words! And commit the following to memory for meditation (because your mind is the factory for your feelings).

Truth #1: *“The Lord shall fight for you and you shall hold your peace.” (Exodus 14:14)*

Truth #2: *“The discretion of a man deferreth his anger and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.” (Proverbs 19:11)*

Truth #3: *“Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord and he shall save thee.” (Proverbs 20:22)*

Truth #4: *“Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.” (Proverbs 24:29)*

Truth #5 *“He that holdeth his peace is counted wise, and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” (Proverbs 17:28)*

And Respond God’s Way

- ◆ **Be slow to react:**

“He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding, but he that is hasty of spirit exalted folly.” (Proverbs 14:29)

- ◆ **Be soft in your response:**

“A soft answer turneth away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger.” (Proverbs 15:1)

- ◆ **Be searching the scriptures:**

“Princes also did sit and speak against Me, but thy servant did meditate in thy statutes.” (Psalms 119:23)

- ◆ **Be seeking God in looking upward:**

For my love they are my adversaries, but I give myself unto prayer.” (Psalm 109:4)

IV. Encouragement From Others Can Only Go So Far

“But David encouraged himself in the Lord.” (v.6b)

Question: What’s the discovery here?

Answer: That David refused to stay down forever!

In Other Words

- ◆ There comes a time when we have to move on with our feelings and create our future.
- ◆ There comes a time to get back in the fight!
- ◆ There comes a time to let God be our source of affirmation, comfort, security and joy!

Question: Why did David ask for the Ephod in verse 7?

Answer: Because David was saying, “I need a word from the Lord” – and he got it!

Question:

- ◆ Have you been feeling isolated and alone?
- ◆ Has the enemy shot some fiery darts at you?
- ◆ Are you desperate for God to lay his hand upon you with the “fresh fire” of the Holy Spirit”?

Question: Why seek the Lord and “encourage yourself in Him”?

Answer: Because you will discover (in prayer) that God (in prayer) will establish something within you that is stronger than anything around you!

V. Humility Turns Every Offense Into A Gift

“Then David said to Abiathar the priest, ‘Bring me the ephod’, so Abiathar brought it.” (v. 7)

Question: How did David respond to his critics?

Answer: He sought the Lord and his strength!

Question: What was the result of David’s proper response?

Answer: He became a better leader (not bitter).

- ◆ His humility turned his (possible offense) into a gift (crowding him to Christ).
- ◆ His humility gave him access to God to get more wisdom.
- ◆ His humility overcame his temptation to sulk, blame, be defensive, withdraw and retaliate.

Remember Leader

- ◆ Any offense that is not crucified is preparing your destruction!

But

- ◆ Honoring someone who refuses to honor you is sowing the seed for God’s favor and reward:

*“Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing; because to this you were called **so that you may inherit a blessing**.” (I Peter 3:9)*

Question: What happens to you when you respond correctly to harsh or unfair treatment?

Answer: “**You inherit a blessing** (reward). (v. 9) which means:

1. God takes notice when you refuse to lower yourself to retaliate.
2. God Himself has promised to “judge justly” those you commit into His hands. (I Peter 2:21)
3. God has guaranteed that (if you practice I Peter 3:9) you will “**inherit a blessing**” – or be honored, favored and **set up for a reward!**

Question: Why is this principle and promise so important?

Answer: Because when you believe it, receive it and live it...

...you will not allow someone else’s wrong behavior to control your behavior!

VI. The Holy Spirit Still Leads Those Who Seek God In Prayer!

“Then David asked the Lord, ‘Should I chase them or not? And, will I catch them?’ and the Lord said, ‘Yes, go after them and you will recover everything that was taken from you.’” (v. 8)

Question: How did David respond to his dilemma?

Answer: He sought the Lord and His wisdom.

Question: What is the example and warning in all of this?

Answer: That the Holy Spirit will lead us (if we are willing to humble ourselves in prayer).

Don't Miss This:

- ◆ Humility is the birthplace (seed) for personal growth and intimacy with God. (For)
- ◆ Pride is easily noticeable in a non-seeking person! (Why?)
- ◆ Because those who do not seek, do not believe they lack!

(Thus, there is no opportunity for change or improvement or intimacy.)

Remember: Only a fool knows everything!!!

VII. What You Have Is Enough When God Is In It!

"So David and 600 men set out, but 200 of the men were too exhausted to cross the brook; so David continued on with the 400 remaining troops." (v. 9 & 10)

Question: What happens when David sets out with his soldiers to recover what was taken?

Answer: The extra travelling proved too much for a third of David's soldiers (who went only as far as the Besor Brook).

In Other Words

- ◆ 200 of David's 600 men (1/3) dropped out, refused to continue and stayed behind.

Question: How do you respond when somebody you trusted in walks, quits or refuses to support your leadership?

Answer: You remember what God teaches us right here:

1. That five loaves and two fish can still feed a multitude.
2. That a little oil in a jar can keep on pouring.
3. That Gideon's army won an unforeseeable victory.

So if you want to get discouraged...here is the formula...

- ◆ Look at the task at hand!
- ◆ Look at the little that you have!
- ◆ Leave God out of the picture!

VIII. God Still Works In Unconventional Ways!

"So the Egyptian led David to the Amalekite camp...and David got back everything the Amalekites had taken." (V. 16, 18)

Question: How did God lead David into the enemy camp to recover what was stolen?

Answer: Through an Egyptian man lying in a field who was sick, hungry and without strength.

"I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite, and my master left me behind three days ago because I was sick." (v. 13) (In Other Words)

- ◆ David was totally surprised by the way God provided through a stranger.

What A Lesson Here

- ◆ That God provided what David needed while David was at least doing his part in marching forward! (So Remember)
- ◆ If we do what we can do – God will do what we cannot do!!!

And Never Forget Ecclesiastes 11:4

“If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done.”

IX. Givers Are Happier Than Takers!

“When they reached Besor Brook and met the 200 men who had been too tired to go to battle, David greeting them joyfully.” (v. 21)

“Don’t be selfish with what the Lord has given us...we share and share alike with those who go to battle and with those who guard the equipment.” (V. 23, 24)

Question: What did some of David’s men say when David recovered all that was taken?

Answer: They were carnally selfish:

“Some troublemakers among David’s men said ‘They didn’t go with us, so they can’t have any of the plunder.’” (v. 22)

Question: How did David respond?

Answer: He settled the dispute - and oh what an example:

1. David was patient with those who were too exhausted to make the journey (a sensitive leader).
2. David was willing to give above and beyond what was expected (a generous leader).
3. David acknowledged that everything in hand belonged to the Lord (a content leader).
4. David recognized that people are more important than money in hand (a secure leader).

(I love how David treated those who couldn’t go with him in battle.)

He greeted them “joyfully”. (v. 21) (In Other Words)

♦ David didn’t have tunnel vision!!!

1. He saw those who fought with him in battle (400 men) and...
2. He also saw those who stayed behind guarding the base operations (200 men)

Fact: Givers are happier than takers because we shovel it out, God shovels it in and His shovel is bigger than our shovel!

X. Every Set-Back Is A Set-Up For A Comeback!

“David made Hebron his capital and he ruled as king of Judah.” (II Samuel 2:11)

Fact: In I Samuel 29, David was rejected in Aphek and told “Go home you Hebrew.”

Fact: In ch. 30, (three days later) David was broken, criticized, weeping and disappointed.

Fact: In II Samuel 2, David is anointed King – just three days after he shared the spoil.

In other words (David discovers what God wants you to discover)

1. At times God’s work is invisible but God is working even when you cannot see Him!
2. The past is no indication of your future opportunities!
3. The devil is a liar and God is not finished with you yet.
4. God has not called you to fail, quit, be unproductive, get sour or faint in battle – you have been called to a great work in reaching lost people!

Amen
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