



**1Samuel 30:1-8:**

**1: And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire;**

**2: And had taken the women captives, that were therein: they slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went on their way.**

**3: So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, it was burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives.**

**4: Then David and the people that were with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep.**

**5: And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite.**

**6: And David was greatly distressed; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**

**7: And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David.**

**8: And David enquired at the LORD, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.**

**18: And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives.**

**19: And there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: David recovered all.**

**D**avid was *God's* man. David was *God's* choice. You see, Israel, had decided that, in spite of the fact that God had determined that they would be a theocratic nation, that He himself would be their king, they decided that they wanted to be governed like the nations around them. They weren't satisfied with God's rule. They weren't satisfied with the judges that God had raised up. Samuel and his ilk weren't royal enough. They weren't regal enough. They didn't sit on thrones, like the rulers of the other nations did. Israel wanted a *monarch*, a symbol of power that they could *see*, a human one. In spite of all that God had done for Israel, in spite of all of the miracles that He had performed on their behalf, they were still touchy, feely, see-y people. They had not yet learned how to trust a God that they could not see. All of the other nations had gods that they could pick up, that they could move, that they could touch, that they could *handle*. But God said "I'm not like them. What I'm trying to teach you, Israel, is how to walk by faith. Because as you begin to learn my ways, my character, and my methodology, you will find that without faith, it is impossible to please me. You can't take me out when you need me, and just put me away when you don't." God said, "I'm not a God of wood, neither am I a God of stone. I'm the unseen God, and you've got to learn to trust me even though you don't...see me." But because they were lacking in their faith, Israel preferred the rule of man before the rule of God. And because Samuel's sons had failed to walk in his ways, Israel saw their opening, and began to ask for what had been on their hearts all along. "Nay," they cried, "but we will have a king over us."

God had warned Israel not to intermingle with the other nations. Most of them were supposed to have been killed off when they first entered into the Promised Land. Israel disobeyed God, and so now they would have to deal with the fact that the mentality, the culture, the lifestyle, that God had

striven to inoculate them with, that He might teach them the difference between holy and unholy, clean and unclean, good and evil, had now been diluted, it had been tainted, it had been distorted, and so now God's chosen people had become a mixed multitude.

Now let us not look at Israel funny, because we modern-day believers, we Holy Ghost filled, hand-clapping, tongue-talking, foot-stomping Christians, we sometimes act just like Israel did.

When things don't go our way, and when we don't get what we want right away, and when God doesn't move on our behalf as fast as we want Him to, we sometimes decide that living right just doesn't work. We look outside the church, and it looks like the world is having so much fun, and everybody's got it going on except us. And so we, like Israel did, we decide that life is passing us by, and that we'd better 'get with the program', and start doing what everybody else is doing, or get left behind...

And so Samuel began to tell Israel exactly what it was that they were asking for: "You said you wanted a king. Well, God had sent me to tell you that a king you will have. I know that it looks like they're living large out there, but you don't know what's going on behind closed doors. But since you want to be so much like everybody else, then you can have what they have. Misery, poverty and pain is what they have. Trouble and wars and grief is what they have. This is what your king will do for you. This is what you will get for rejecting God."

And it turned out just as Samuel had said it would. Saul was what they got. A weak, disobedient, jealous, evil-hearted man who was more concerned with himself than he was with God. And so God had to move him out of the way. Once Saul's lack of trust in God had caused him to perform the ultimate

sacrilege, God told Samuel not to mourn for him, “seeing I have rejected him from reigning over Israel. Fill thine horn with oil, and go, I will send thee to Jesse the Bethlehemite: for I have provided me a king among his sons. I have found a man after my own heart.” God said. “I’ve found me somebody who will not only fight Israel’s battles, but who will also obey me. I have found somebody who will not only call upon my name, but who is also deeply in love with me. I’ve found a man whose name is David, and he’s out on the back side of a mountain, tending to his father’s sheep. He’s out there all by himself. He’s writing me poetry, and he’s singing me songs, he’s blowing me kisses, and Samuel, I want you to go out there and get that boy, ‘cause he’s the one that I am going to use to teach Israel not only how to fight, but also how to worship Me in spirit and in truth.”

**Introduce Topic: “ I Want My Stuff Back!!”**

**D**avid was God’s man. But David was in trouble. David was God’s chosen. He was God’s anointed, but he was still in trouble. You mean to tell me that it is possible to be God’s man, and still be in trouble? One of the greatest misconceptions that we’ve got to overcome in the church is that when you’re God’s man, when you’re God’s woman, you’ll never have trouble. We’d better be careful what we tell people. There are those who would have you to believe that if you have trouble, it’s a sign of the displeasure of God. The prosperity preachers would have you to believe that when you live for God, nothing bad is supposed to happen to you. But I submit to you today that there are times when you, like David in Ziklag, like Moses out on the backside of the wilderness, like Joseph in the hands of the slave-traders, like Paul and Silas in the Phillippian jail, you will find yourself in trouble. And not because you’ve done anything wrong, but *because* the hand of

**God is on you, *because* the favor of God is on your life, *because* you are God's man, God's woman, God's child, you will find yourself in trouble. The one thing that we have *got* to do is to make up our minds that we will not allow the trouble that God allows to come our way to undermine what God has said about us. God says that *in spite of* the trouble, in spite of the pain, in spite of the loneliness, we are "more than conquerors through Him that loved us!" And that's what you've got to tell the devil. I may be broke, but I'm still God's man. I might be sick in my body, but I'm still God's man. Wrestling with my flesh, but I'm still God's man. Got folk on my job who hate me for no reason, and it's all because I *am* God's man. I am anointed. And I am appointed. "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus *shall* suffer persecution." Because I *am* God's man.**

**Yes, David *was* God's man. David was God's choice. And there he was. In trouble. And exactly why was David in trouble? David was not in trouble because of the Amalekites, even though they were the ones who had stolen his stuff. David was in trouble because *he had refused to wear Saul's armor*. David was in trouble because he refused to accept the status quo. David was in trouble because he had made up his mind to obey God rather than man. David had made a quality decision long before he had left the sheep-fold that because it was *God* who had been there when he was neglected by his father, rejected by his brothers, left alone with no one for companionship but a flock of sheep. David decided that he would never stop looking to the hills from whence his help came. David got into trouble because he got mixed up with people who were more interested in themselves than they were with God. People who didn't mind that the Ark of the Covenant had been taken. People who didn't care that the glory had departed from Israel. They *knew* that God was not in the midst, but they kept on having church anyhow. They still had church, I tell you, but there was no worship. And David's whole agenda was to return the worship of God to Israel,**

**David's whole agenda was to rebuild the Tabernacle, and lead Israel back to the heart of worship. And any time you make up in your mind that there is nothing more important than worshiping God, when you decide that all you want to do is dwell in the house of the Lord, and enquire in His temple, you will find yourself in trouble...**

**So now David finds himself on the run. King Saul is out for his life. David decides that there's nowhere that he can run or hide, so he hooked up with a man named Achish. That might not be a bad thing, but Achish was a Phillistine, and the Phillistines were the enemies of Israel. But one thing about the favor of God, is that it will work for you even in adverse circumstances. Achish liked David so much that he gave him a whole *city*. It seems like sometimes those outside the household of faith will treat you better than the ones on the inside. And you know that things have gotten pretty bad when you get so tired of church-folk being jealous, and church-folk being abusive, and church-folk being political and church-folk being religious that you find yourself hiding out in the enemy's camp. You see, in addition to being king, Saul was supposed to be David's *bishop*. Saul was supposed to be David's spiritual father. But Saul was so crazy with jealousy over the anointing that was on David's life that he ran him right out of the church. Does anybody know what I'm talking about here? We'd better be careful how we treat God's people. But I thank God that He will allow you to sometimes go through circumstances where it'll look like you ain't about nothing, and you ain't got nothing, where you ain't doing nothing, and folk will say "chile, I knew he wasn't saved, I told you he wasn't no preacher." When all the while God has a plan, God has it all worked out how He's gonna raise you up, and bring you back. I thank God that when He does surgery on me, He kicks everybody out of the room! David had to hang out...with the Phillistines, but in his heart, he never left God. He had a promise..that one day...he was going to sit on the throne of**

**Israel. And it does not matter what you go through, you have got to remember...God's promises. You have got to remember...the words of Philippians 1:6- "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:" I don't know about you, but I've been through hell...and I've been through high water! But I've made up in my mind...that God is able...to perfect that concerning me! Somebody look at somebody... and say "I want my stuff back!"**

**So David...camps out with the Phillistines...and he establishes his headquarters in a place called Ziklag...**

**Vs 1-The city had been burned by the enemy (my stuff burned up)...**

**Vs 2- the wives and children had been taken captive (their heritage)**

**Vs 4-things have got to be pretty bad when the men start crying (brokenness)**

**Vs 6-the people talked about stoning David –"it's your fault, Pastor!!"**

**Vs 7- David put on the "garment of praise"- he went into worship**

**Vs 8- David went to God for guidance (*prayer*)**

**Vs 8- God promised David the victory- "*You shall Recover All*"**