



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“I CAN”

Ps. James Lowe – 10/19/2014

Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep.

David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

1 Samuel 30:1-16

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- *Have you ever been robbed? Were you able to recover any of the things that were taken from you?*
- *What's your go-to reaction when you are facing a problem? (Do you pretend nothing happened? Do you look for someone to blame? Do you go and try to solve the problem on your own?)*
- *Can you recall a time when somebody you had helped at some point ended helping you even more in your own time of need?*

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

David through his brokenness learned to overcome hardships. He learned he could do all things in God's power. He fought with a bear to defend his flock. He fought a giant to defend Israel. He learned to hide even when he had a promise that he would be king. In our passage in 1 Samuel 30, David had gone to the Philistines running from Saul. He felt he would be safer with the enemy than with his own people. It is in this context that he had to face a problem he had never faced before.

1. Problem

David had a problem because he had left the land of God by acting on his feelings. He became a mercenary for the enemies and fighting battles for the enemy instead of fighting for God. He became a person worse than he had ever thought he would become. He was lying to the king and killing people God hadn't told him to judge.

Many times we have a problem because we leave the land God has promised us; we leave the very people God has called us to serve. We usually don't mean wrong, but we end up lower than we ever thought we would be. The problem is that when we do wrong, our problems are not just ours, they are also our family's problems. They are our loved ones' problems.

2. Pursue

When David faced the loss of his family and the families of his men, he strengthened himself in the Lord. For the first time in a long time, he sought God's direction on how to proceed. God assured him he would have victory, and to proceed. When we pursue God first, we have the strength to pursue and subdue our enemy.

3. Pause

Because he pursued God first, he was able to rest and look after other people. He allowed the soldiers who were too weary to keep going to stay without making them feel guilty. He found an Egyptian and fed him. He stopped his life and welcomed interruptions. We cannot be so consumed with ourselves that we can't help others. David had a mission to rescue his family, but he stopped for others. Many times when we are going to do a mighty work, we move so fast that we don't care for people. Because David stopped to care for a man, he found the answer in the person for whom he had cared.

4. Plunder

There is a plunder to take back what the enemy has robbed from us. Plunder means that he got all the enemy had been piling up for himself. He got what had been taken from him plus seven times. He gave their families back, not only to those who had fought, but also to those who had stayed behind. David sent some of the plunder to all who had helped him at one time or another. The result was that when Saul died, Judah helped him to become king. If we share our blessings with others, and we don't eat the seed we are supposed to sow, we will find the help and answer we have been seeking.

David was about to forfeit his destiny because he felt he couldn't stay in his own land. But when he sought after God's will and direction, he was able to recuperate what the enemy had stolen from him. God has given us a word that we are blessed but we have been wandering around like we were cursed.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- *What do you need to overcome? Are you pursuing God to overcome that problem?*
- *Do you take time to care for others? Who are you helping to carry his/her burdens?*
- *What plunder (blessing) are you expecting from God?*

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- *Pray for strength and perseverance to pursue God for His response.*
- *Pray for patience to care for other people.*
- *Pray that God will restore what the enemy has stolen from you and your family.*