



September 28, 2025
A Man After God's Heart
From Loss to Restoration
1 Samuel 30:1-25

1. **Opening Discussion:** (You will probably want to use only one of these openers)

- a. Have you ever returned home from a trip and been confronted by a surprise – either good or bad? Describe the situation and your response. If other family members were with you, how did they respond?
- b. When things go wrong, we tend to seek someone we can blame. When have you been blamed for something that was beyond your control and not your fault? What did you do?
- c. As a child, were you ever told “share and share alike”? At the time, did you think it was a fair and appropriate command? Did you willingly obey? Looking back after some time, do you think your opinion has changed?

2. **Prayer:**

- a. Adoration – Pray a Psalm or other Scripture to focus on praising God.
- b. Confession – Spend time confessing any known sins. 1 John 1:9
- c. Thanksgiving – Thank God for answered prayers, blessings, gifts, and opportunities to serve.
- d. Supplications
 - i. Pray for the activities of His Church locally and around the world.
 - ii. Pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others and yourself.
- e. Least Reached People Group: **Puerto Ricans** (*from the “Operation World” prayer guide – in recognition of Pastor Dan’s heritage.*)

“Evangelical churches in Puerto Rico grew from 0.1% in 1900 to over 25% today! Puerto Ricans traditionally follow Catholicism. A large charismatic movement grew inside the Catholic Church, but most new growth is among independent groups. Puerto Rican mission vision also grew. Pray for effective training and support of new mission ventures. Media ministries use TV, local radio, and Internet sites to offer practical answers to life and faith questions. IFES (International Federation of Evangelical Students) and indigenous student movements reach most campus students. Pray for ministries to continue shaping future leaders, and for discipleship movements to transform the lives of believers. Puerto Ricans number nearly as many in the mainland USA as in their own land. Urbanization and unemployment in Puerto Rico crowd the cities and fuel emigration, leaving rural areas fairly empty. But the traditional stereotype of a US Puerto Rican - that of a ghetto-dweller in New York City - paints an incomplete picture. There are now pockets in Florida, New England, Chicago, and elsewhere, and they span the entire economic spectrum. Pray for those ministering to Puerto Ricans living in the USA.” [NAMB currently has 15 church planters in Puerto Rico (including two who share the same last name as Pastor Dan) that need prayer and support.]

3. **Sermon Key Points**

- a. The Problem at Ziklag
 - i. The destruction
 - ii. The loss
 - iii. The Response

Application: God wants us to seek His strength and guidance during times of loss.

- b. The Pursuit
 - i. Seek God's guidance
 - ii. God Provides

Application: God wants us to trust His provision during times of loss.

- c. The Victory and Recovery
 - i. The Battle
 - ii. The Restoration
- d. The Sharing of the Spoils
 - i. The dispute
 - ii. The new law

Application: God wants us to share His blessings during times of loss and restoration.

4. Bible Study:

- a. **Sunday Afternoon** – As soon as possible after the sermon, make time to consider:
 - i. What stood out to you the most in this sermon?
 - ii. What new truth did you learn, or what truth were you reminded of?
 - iii. Is there a particular Scripture passage you feel God is leading you to meditate on or commit to memory?
 - iv. What is one thing God is leading you to do after hearing this message?
 - v. Did God convict you of a need to make any changes in your life and walk with Him?
- b. **Monday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 1 Samuel 30:1-2.
 - ii. David and his men had been living with the Philistines, where the king of Gath had given him Ziklag as a home (see 1 Samuel 27:1 & 6). When the Philistine military commanders objected to David and his men being present during an upcoming battle (see 1 Samuel 29:6-7), they returned home. What did they find?
 - iii. Read Exodus 17:8-16 and Deuteronomy 26:17-19.
 - 1. Who were the Amalekites, and what was their relationship to Israel?
 - 2. How did Israel's disobedience hundreds of years earlier lead to the situation David is now facing?
 - iv. Read 1 Samuel 15:1-3, 17-19, 23, and 26. How did Saul's disobedience lead to the situation David is now facing?
 - v. Read 1 Samuel 27:8-9. How did David's treatment of the Amalekites differ? As hard as it may be to accept with our modern sensibilities, whose actions showed obedience to God's command?
 - vi. What lesson can/should we apply to our lives from these interactions with the Amalekites?
- c. **Tuesday:**
 - i. Read and meditate on 1 Samuel 30:3-6.
 - ii. How is God's providential hand seen at work in verse 2?
 - iii. What was the initial reaction of David and his men?

- iv. What was David's personal loss, and how did the reaction of his men compound it? Why do you think the men were planning to stone David?
- v. 1 Samuel goes to great lengths to show the comparison of Saul and David's fitness to be king. Compare Saul's reaction when confronted with grave danger in 1 Samuel 27:4-8 with David's in 1 Samuel 30:6.
 1. How did their response differ?
 2. What does the last sentence of verse 6 suggest about David's faith? How does this demonstrate the truth set forth in Ephesians 2:8?
 3. In what way is David's strengthening "himself in the Lord his God" equivalent to Abraham's actions when commanded to sacrifice his son (see Genesis 22:1-10 and Hebrews 11:17-19)? What did David know that made the threat of stoning somewhat irrelevant (see 1 Samuel 16:1 & 12-13, also 23:16 & 24:20)?

d. Wednesday:

- i. Read and meditate on 1 Samuel 30:7-10.
- ii. After "strengthening himself in the Lord his God," what did David not do that we might have expected from a man whose wives had been kidnapped? How do you think this lack of action may have resonated with the people who wanted to stone David?
- iii. Instead of taking immediate action, what did David do?
 1. Read Exodus 28:6, 15, & 28-30. What was the significance of asking for the ephod?
 2. How does David's action show the extent of the strength he had from the Lord?
 3. What was David's response to the answer he received from God? Although it is hypothetical, based on David's actions in these verses, what do you think his response would have been if God had answered "No"?
 - a. In your opinion, which answer would be harder for David to obey?
 - b. What applications can we glean from these verses to apply when we are seeking God's will?
- iv. If you have the resources, locate Ziklag and the brook Besor (modern day Wadi Ghazze) on a topographical map. Is it more surprising that one third of the men were tired or that two thirds were able to go on? What was likely the source of their strength?

e. Thursday:

- i. Read and meditate on 1 Samuel 30:11-15.
- ii. Although God answered David's initial question, what information did God not provide at that time?
 1. What did that require David to do first?
 2. How did David eventually learn the location of the Amalekite camp?
 - a. Do you think it was a coincidence that David "found an Egyptian"?
 - b. Make a list of some of the events/circumstances that God, in His providence, controlled to bring about this meeting.

3. What lessons can we learn and apply to our lives?
- iii. What was the Egyptian's condition when found?
 1. What did David do before he even knew who the Egyptian was or what information he could provide?
 2. What command of Jesus was David demonstrating by his actions?
 3. How might the outcome of this story have been different if David had not shown love?

f. **Friday:**

- i. Read and meditate on 1 Samuel 30:16-25.
- ii. We know that David entered the battle with 400 men. What does verse 17 suggest about the size of the Amalekite force?
 1. What accounts for David's force of 400 being able to fight "from twilight until the evening of the next day" despite having just completed a forced march that left a third of their number too exhausted to continue?
 2. Where must the credit for the victory go?
 3. In your view, what is the most amazing part of the victory (perhaps verse 19)?
- iii. Even after the victory, David's challenges as a leader were not over. What new problem did he face (verses 22-24)?
 1. What were the "wicked and worthless fellows" really concerned about? How are expressed concerns for fairness sometimes just a camouflage for greed?
 2. What do you think of David's solution? Does it seem fair?
 3. Did David come up with this solution on his own (see Numbers 31:25-27 and Joshua 22:8)?
 4. How was this same principle demonstrated in the early church (see Acts 4:32-35)? What application should it have today?

g. **Saturday:**

- i. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-25 once more, looking especially for applications to your life.
- ii. Then read the final six verses of the chapter. What did David model for us in these last verses?

5. **Application:**

- a. God uses adversity in our lives, including loss, to mold us and to accomplish His ultimate purposes. As David's long period of running from Saul comes to an end, God provides one more "lesson" for him, and in the process, many lessons for us. David knew he would be king – God had promised – but he still had to face concerns about his men's loyalty and the loss of his wives (and probably children). As he turned to God for strength and guidance, so must we. As he was willing to obey whatever God told him to do, so must we. As he stepped out in faith without knowing the exact destination, so must we.
- b. God is concerned about fairness in our lives here on earth and expects – commands – that we "love our neighbor as ourselves." This requires that acts of physical mercy must accompany our sharing of the Gospel's good news. We should all seek out "Egyptians in the open country," remembering what Jesus taught us in Matthew 25:31-46.