

David Finds Strength in the Lord

The Making of a King: Part 16

1 Samuel 30:1-25

February 1, 2026

****Note from Pastor: No, that's not the wrong reference. Yes, we did skip over chapters 27-29. If you'd like, you can either take a few minutes to go back and read what has happened since chapter 26 or just read this lesson for a brief recap of the last three chapters.****

Quite a bit has happened since our last lesson, so let's briefly recap. In chapter 27, David fled back to Philistia and once again meets up with King Achish in Gath. King Achish gives David and his men the city of Ziklag for them to live in. In chapter 28, the Philistines gather to fight against Israel. The impending attack makes Saul nervous, causing him to seek the Lord for wisdom. However, due to his strained relationship with the Lord, he gets no response and seeks help from a medium to summon the spirit of Samuel, who swiftly rebukes his foolishness.

Chapter 29 details the Philistines' distrust of David as they prepared for battle due to David's Israelite lineage. The distrust is so great King Achish sends David and his men home to Ziklag, which is where we enter our current passage. David and his men return to a devastating scene, as their home has been attacked and all of their loved ones captured. Heartbroken, for the first time we begin to see David's men turn on him, blaming him for putting them in this position. How would David respond to opposition of his leadership?

Discussion Question: Verse 6 tells us David's men were so angry they spoke of killing him. What does verse 6 say David did in response to this? What does it mean to "find strength in the Lord"? Could it be different for different people? Explain why or why not.

David faced a difficult situation that many leaders have often faced. David made a decision that was met with little opposition (if any) at the time that then had unforeseen consequences that no one could have seen coming. After all, how could David have known their home would be invaded in the brief few days they were gone? Nonetheless, as is often the case, David as the leader is blamed. This moment could prove to be pivotal for David as a leader. For the first time, his men are actively against him and will not be easily appeased. What will David do?

Discussion Question: Read verses 7-8. What was David's request to Abiathar? What was the ephod? Was this item symbolic of anything in the Bible? If it was symbolic, what message was David trying to communicate by asking for it?

David and his men then begin what would turn out to be a long and tiring journey pursuing the Amalekites. In fact, this journey would become so tiring that nearly one-third of David's men wouldn't make the full journey and stayed behind! As they continue on their journey, they come across an Egyptian slave who'd be abandoned by his Amalekite master. While they easily could have justified killing anyone connected with the Amalekites, they instead decide to show this man great kindness by providing him with food and water. As a result of their kindness, this man leads them right to where all of their families and possessions had been taken?

Discussion Question: The simple kindness shown to a random stranger ended up providing a vital ingredient on David's quest. Why is it so important that we always remain vigilant of how God might work? Why is it so important that refuse to overlook the "little" things?

And just as expected, God does the amazing and gives David and his men full victory over their enemies, allowing them to fully recover everything they had lost. But as they celebrated their victory, an interesting question arises: how should the treasure obtained from their victory (that wasn't previously in their possession) be divided up?

Discussion Question: Read verses 21-25 to read how David responds to this question. David recognized that every role on a team was important. Why is it so important the importance of every role, not just the ones in the spotlight? How has God choosing to give each of us unique roles in his plan make the church work even better?

For Personal Reflection: What is the biggest lesson you personally learned from this lesson? Write it out below.