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SERIES: 1 Samuel, Part 2 (Who Are You Most Like – Saul or David?)

TITLE: Program 34 – A Generous Heart

THURSDAY

OPEN

Have you ever stood on the sidelines and watched your friend or watched your colleague get all the applause, all the acclaim, all the honor? And you stood there and you knew that they were there because you were beside them to help them. And what happened when they turned to the side and saw you? Did they say, “Hey, come on up here; it belongs to you as well as to me.” That’s my kind of a friend. What about you?

PART ONE

I love the life of David and the study that we’re doing. And I love this sculpture that was given to me by my son Mark and by his wife Leslie, my daughter-in-love. They gave it to me because they know that David has meant so much to me. Jack and I named our youngest son David because we wanted him to be a man after God’s own heart. And when I go to Rome, every year one of the things I do is I take people to see the statue of David

by Bernini. Yes, we see the statue of David by Michelangelo and it is beautiful, and he's standing there and he's strong and he's muscular and and that, but when you look at Bernini's statue of David, it is a study in motion, as he takes that stone and as he whips it around and you see that determination on his face. And when I think of David I think of determination, determination to be a man of God, determination to be pleasing to God, determination that he is going to have a heart that is set on God so that he might please God in all of his ways. Yes, I think of David like you do, sitting with Bathsheba, having Uriah put to death, numbering the children of Israel and all of that. It's in 2 Samuel. And 2 Samuel is yet to come after 1 Samuel. And yet, as I look at all of that Beloved, and see him in his frailties, I still see that David makes it because David is zealous for God and not for David and that is the secret. And that's what we're going to look at as we study 1 Samuel, chapter 30 again. In 1 Samuel, chapter 30 I want to take you back and I want you to remember that at this point David is going after his people that have been taken by the Amalekites. The Amalekites have raided Ziklag. They have burned the city with fire. The women and the children and all of their treasures have disappeared. And David, in the midst of weeping until he could weep no more, and weeping with his men, then inquires of God. He strengthens himself in God and then he inquires of God and he says, ["Shall I go up? Shall I pursue them?" And God says, "Pursue them." And God tells him, "And you are going to recover everything."] (1 Samuel 30:8 Paraphrased) Now as David goes there are important lessons that God wants us to see about this man. And they're important lessons that have to do, I believe, as I look at this passage, at David's desire only for the glory of God, rather than his own glory and his own aggrandizement. So let's go to 1 Samuel, chapter 30 and come to verse 10. It says, **"But David pursued..."** They come the brook Besor where some that they had left behind remained. **"But David pursued, he and four hundred men, for two hundred...were too exhausted to cross the brook Besor [and they]**

remained behind.”(1Samuel 30:10) And I want you to understand is that he has told us that there are six hundred men. Four hundred men are continuing the pursuit and two hundred men have just had it and they cannot go any further. So they’re leaving those two hundred behind but David is moving forward with his four hundred. That’s very important for you to know in the light of what we’re going to see later on in the chapter. It says, **“Now they found an Egyptian in the field and [they] brought him to David...,”(30:11a)** I mean, they’re traveling; they’re looking for their people and they find an Egyptian in the field. **“...and [they] gave him bread and he ate, and they provided him [with] water to drink. They gave him a piece of [a] fig cake and two clusters of raisins, and he ate...;”(30:11b-12a)** Now listen; that is a lot of carbs. That is a lot of carbs and that is going to raise his blood sugar real quick and he’s going to be alert and able to think. **“...then his spirit revived. For he had not eaten bread or drunk water for three days and three nights.”(30:12b)** Now remember, and I don’t want you to slack up because we’re getting to the end of 1 Samuel. I want you to continue to mark the text. I want you to continue to mark time phrases. This is a time phrase, so we put a clock over it. You say, “Orient me. I’m new to this program.” Well, I’m going to orient you by telling you to go to *preceptsforlife.com*, *preceptsforlife.com* and you’re going to find out that this program is all about helping you discover truth for yourself, bringing you face to face with the Word of God in a way that helps you see and know that you know that you know that this is what God has said. And part of that is the discipline of observing the text, finding out who and what and when and where and why and how. So we’re finding out who. We’re finding out that 400 go on; 200 stay back. We’re finding out where, at the brook Besor. We’re finding out another who, an Egyptian that has been left behind in a field, accidentally, or sovereignly on purpose. Well let’s watch what happens. **“[And] David said to him, ‘To whom do you belong? And where are you from?’ And he said, ‘I[’m] a young man of Egypt, a**

servant of an Amalekite; and my master left me behind when I fell sick three days ago.”(30:13) Now who do you think made this little boy sick? I think it was God that made him sick, left him behind, kept him alive, and then revived him. And listen to what he says. He’s saying, “Who are you and where did you come from?” He says, **“We made a raid on the Negev of the Cherethites....,”** The Negev is like the south country. That’s what Negev means. **“...on the Negev of the Cherethites, and on [the land] which belongs to Judah, and on the Negev of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire.”(30:14)** Oh, there’s our answer. Here’s a man that knows what happened and has just told David. David has found himself a planted prize, a prize planted by God because God knows that David is a man after His own heart, because God is about to take David out of the wilderness. And God is about to let David win a mighty mighty battle of faith. Watch what happens. **“Then David said to him, ‘Will you bring me down to this band?’ And he said, ‘Swear to me by God that you will not kill me....,’** Swear to me by God that you will not kill me, **“...or deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring you down to this band.”(30:15)** [“If you tell me, if you promise.”] Now what you have to understand is a man’s word was a man’s word in those days. I mean there wasn’t lying. And when a man swore he was swearing before God. There was a fear of God before their eyes. And so he says, “Okay you promise me that if I do this, that you’re not going to deliver me over the hand of my master.” Verse 16: “[And] **When he had brought him down, behold, they were spread all over the land.”(30:16a)** Now watch; here he is, he’s on his way up to find the Amalekites. He’s in the field. He doesn’t know where to go exactly. He finds an Egyptian made sick by God, planted by God, sustained by God until David could get there; finds out that his master is the one who made the raid on Ziklag. And so now he says, “I’m going to take you there.” Well he takes them to where they are because he knew where they were going. And all of a sudden David and his four hundred men are looking at all these Amalekites.

They are spread all over the land. Listen, I mean they are feeling their oats. And they are feeling their oats because they are the mighty warriors. I mean they have these women in tow. They have these children in tow. They have all these spoils of war. It is time to celebrate and they are having a party. And look at what it says. [And] **“When they had brought him down, behold, they were spread [all] over...the land, eating and drinking and dancing because of all the great spoil that they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from the land of Judah.”(30:16)** They had raided Ziklag, which was a Philistine city that Achish had given to David so that it belonged to the Israelites after that. But also, they had been raiding the land of Judah. Now remember the Amalekites are the ones that Saul was to put to death. He was to kill Agag and put to death the Amalekites and he spared them instead of putting them to death. So now, here they are nipping, as they have been from the very beginning in Exodus, chapter 17, when they come out of the land of Egypt, here are the Amalekites are nipping at their heels, and here they are doing it again. So what does David do? What does any good man do? He slaughters them. That’s what he’s supposed to do. You say, “Gross, oh, awful. How can he do that?” What you have to understand is this, that God is a righteous and holy God. And God deals with the wicked. And God supports the righteous. And God uses people and uses nations to accomplish His purposes. And the Amalekites were the enemies of God. He had told Saul to get rid of them and Saul did not. So now, what does David do? It says, **“David slaughtered them from the twilight until the evening of the next day...;”(30:17a)** I mean that is one whole day and night and a little bit more. **“...From the twilight until the evening of the next day.”** I mean it is a battle. How many people are fighting in that battle? You tell me. You’ve got it. It’s four hundred. Where are the other two hundred of David’s valiant men? You say, “They’re worn out at the brook Besor.” That’s right. They’re worn out and they’re staying by the stuff. And you’re going to see something that goes with that that is very important. But

you know what? I'm going to show it to you and show you what it means to say to your friend, "Come on up here." But I'm going to do that right after this important announcement. And as we prepare for this I want to thank you for supporting this program and I want to tell you that we need your support. Pray and give, will you? Share with us so we can share with others.

PART TWO

Welcome back Beloved. Don't you love this? I have an Inductive Study Bible, which I think is the best Bible in the world to have as your personal Bible and to study, because it does not tell you their interpretation of the text, but rather it tells you how to discover truth for yourself, how to study every book of the Bible according to that particular book. And it has wonderful maps in it. And the map at chapter 30 is called Ziklag and the Spoils. And so that's where we're at. We've got David going to get the people that have been taken from them. And he's going to get them and he's going to bring them home. The Amalekites are enjoying the spoils until David's men level them to the ground. And it says this in verse 17, [And] **"David slaughtered them from the twilight until the evening of the next day; and not a man of them escaped, except four hundred young men who rode on camels and fled. So David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and [he] rescued his two wives. But nothing of theirs was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that they had taken for themselves; David brought it all back."**(30:17-19) And he brought back all the spoils. **"So David had captured all the sheep and the cattle which the people drove ahead of the other livestock, and they said....,"** now listen carefully, **"...‘This is David's spoil.'"**(30:20) Oh, was David the only one that fought in the battle? Was he the only one that wielded the sword from the twilight until the next evening? Is he the only one that fought? What did the other four hundred men do? Did they just stand there and watch David perform? No,

David won the battle because God brought him mighty men of valor. But now they're taking part of the spoil and they're saying, "This is David's spoil." And, **"When David came to the two hundred men who were too exhausted to follow David, who had...been left at the brook Besor...,"** Remember I told you; you want to mark geographical locations. **"...and they went out to meet David and to meet the people who were with him, then David approached the people and greeted them."**(30:21) Now remember he has left two hundred of his mighty men of valor behind because his mighty men of valor were just tired and exhausted and couldn't go any further. And it says, **"Then all the wicked and worthless men among those who went with David said, 'Because they did not go with us, we[re] not [going to] give them any of the spoil that we[ve] recovered, except to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away and depart.'"**(30:22) "We won this battle. We got this spoil. It's ours. You can have your wife. You can have your child, but you can't have anything else." **"Then David said [to them], 'You must not do so, my brothers..."** Now listen very carefully. **"...with what the Lord has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us."**(30:23) In other words, "No, you can't do this." He says, "Don't you know and don't you understand that it's the Lord that did this? It's not just me. It's not just them. This is God, and it's the Lord that delivered these people. It's the Lord who kept us. It's the Lord." I want you to know something, if you're going to be a man after God's own heart, if you're going to be a woman after God's own heart, if you're going to hold David up as a model, and it's good to hold him up as a model. Even when he sins he acts like a man after God's own heart because he does not let his sin defeat him; he does not let his sin define him for the rest of his life. He names it for what it is. He confesses it. He forsakes it and he believes God and accepts God's healing, God's cleansing of his sin. O Beloved, what a man David is. And if you want to be a man after God's own heart, if you

want to be a woman after God's own heart, you have to remember that God shares His glory with no man. **"The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but [safety is of] the Lord."** (Proverbs 21:31) He's saying, "Listen, it is God that has delivered this to us. **"Then David said, 'You must not do so, my brothers...,'"** Verse 23, **"...with what the Lord has given us, who has kept us and delivered into our hand the band that came against us. And who will listen to you in this matter? For as his share is who goes down to the battle, so...his share [shall] be who stays by the baggage; they shall share alike."**(30:23-24) In other words, some stayed back here with the baggage and others went down to the battle, but it was necessary to stay with the baggage, and it was necessary to go down to the battle. And I want you to know this is not the spoil for one man. It is to be shared with everyone. Now this is very important and this written down in the Word of God. Now watch the next verse. **"So it has been..."** verse 25, **"...from that day forward, that he [David] made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel to this day."**(30:25) In other words, he says, ["Listen this is the way it's going to be. I'm making it a statute, I'm making it an ordinance and those that go on the battlefield get the spoil, and those that stay behind to watch over the stuff, to watch over the baggage, to take care of the home fronts, they're going to get the spoils also. It is not going to be just for a certain level of people."] (30:23-25 Paraphrase) And see so many times what happens to you and me, Beloved, is we think, okay, you know, it's only for the heroes, it's only for those that have their names out in lights. It's only for those that are well known. O no, Beloved, it's also for the person that's standing on the sideline that helped that person get where they are. And in God's eyes they are just as important as the hero. So listen to what it says. **"Now when David came to Ziklag, he sent some of the spoil to the elders of Judah, to his friends, saying, 'Behold, a gift for you from the spoil of the enemies of the Lord...:'"**(30:26) Proverbs 18:16 says, ["A man's gift prepares his way."] (Proverbs 18:16a Paraphrase) **"...to those who were in**

Bethel, and to those who...Ramoah [at] the Negev, and to those who were in Jattir, and to those who were in Aroer...,”(1Samuel 30:27-28a)

And he goes on and he says, to all these people, and he names city after city after city and you're double underlining it, and double underlining it and double underlining it. The spoil wasn't just for David and just for the six hundred men, the four hundred that went to battle, the two hundred that stayed behind, but he was going to share it with others. And you know what? It was a very gracious move and a very wise move, because he realized that those people had been faithful in their own place of appointment, and they were going to share the spoils of the enemy. And it says in verse 31, **“...and to those that were Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to go.”(30:31)** He shared the spoils where he was accustomed to go because where he went he made friends. And where he went those friends gave him hospitality. And where he went he built a bond among those people and he proved that this wasn't about him, but it was about all of us. And Beloved, in the kingdom of God it is about all of us, all of us working together and striving together for the furtherance of the gospel of Jesus Christ. And we will share that award. God's not just going to give awards to those names that you know to those authors of books, but to all those that helped them achieve God's purpose. Go for it; the award's waiting.