

“From Tragedy to Triumph” 1 Sam. 30

Disaster at Ziklag produces David's darkest moment, 1-6a

- *David escapes mess in ch. 29 but is blindsided by another mess in 30.
- *Amalekites were raided earlier by Saul / David (27:8 / 15:8). The war that's brewing up north results in these southern Amalekite raids.
- *David and men weep till they wear out. Why the desire to stone him?

Divine guidance / providence bring a great victory, 6b-20

- *David turns to God (*strengthened in the Lord*, 23:16) and unlike Saul he gets helpful direction.
- *Challenges that God must help David overcome:
 - #1, Fatigue: three days traveling already (1,10), later 1/3 must rest
 - #2, Direction: Amalekite cruelty to a slave works as a compass
 - #3, Numbers: David's 400 overpower thousands of Amalakites
- *David's big victory could have been for Saul and Israel if only . . .

Discernment with spoils ensures David's popularity, 21-31

- *While Saul is getting pounded up north by one of Israel's long-time enemies, David is down south whipping up on another of Israel's long-time enemies—making it very obvious who should succeed Saul.
- *The spoils sadly spoil the victory initially! Contrast David and Saul's handling of the spoils' problem in 15:21. His wisdom sets a precedent (30:25) and makes for good “campaign contributions” (2 Sam. 2:1-4).

***What lesson is here for interpreting life's ups and downs?
What are some lessons for leaders here? 30:6-7,22-25***