

# Reclaiming what's yours!

(Freedom from despair)

**PART 1 of 2**

October 4, 2021

**READ 1 SAMUEL 30:1-20 FIRST!!!!!!!**

**EPHESIANS 1:3** tells us that Christ came from heaven to earth from the Father to bring us every blessing we need to fulfill our purpose here on earth. Paul will go on to describe these blessings in detail in this section. Here, he emphasizes the fact that "every" spiritual blessing has been given, followed by a list of specific areas that will further define what he has in mind. Perhaps at some point of your life the enemy has stolen what was rightfully given to you. Just as our belongings can be stolen in the physical realm, our belongings can be stolen in the spiritual realm. Now we must remember, we are stewards of the most high, which means God has entrusted in us these belongings which are actually His. Perhaps he (Satan) has stolen your joy, your peace, relationships, harmony of the home, opportunities, even your purpose. You're here and you don't know why. Perhaps your health, your prosperity and the list goes on and on, but David is going to show us how to reclaim that what God has given.

In our scripture context today, David is on his way back where he would have arrived tired, hungry and expecting all the comforts for a welcome home. Only instead he discovers that when he comes back to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it to the ground. The opportunistic Amalekites took advantage of the defenseless city. Worse than that, they had taken captive the women and those who were there, from small to great.

So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. Then David and the people who *were* with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. And David's two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

It took a lot to bring David to this place, but now he is here - God is his only strength. Keep this in mind, This was backslidden David, wayward David, "fight with the Philistines" David. Why would God strengthen him? Because God is rich in mercy and grace, and because David was now completely broken, ready to be filled. Sometimes we think we have to *achieve* God's blessing or strength, but David shows us another way. He received the strength, and felt it flow through himself, and was bold enough to ask for it and receive it from God. Before this, he didn't see himself as weak, but after coming home to a burned-out ghost town, David knew he was weak and needed God's strength.

He didn't wait for someone else to strengthen him. He didn't say, "Well LORD, if You want to strengthen me, that's fine. I'll just wait here until You do it." David knew that the LORD's strength was there for those who wait upon Him, so he strengthened himself in the LORD his God. God's strength was there for David all the time, but now he takes it for himself and will strengthen himself in the LORD his God. This wasn't some kind of rah-rah cheerleader kind of positive thinking mumbo jumbo. This was the strength of the living God making itself real in the life and heart of a hurting man. This was strength for recognition, strength for brokenness, strength for repentance, strength for determination to win back what the enemy has stolen. This is the same strength that would raise Jesus from the dead!

So the question is, "How did David do this?" remembering *God's love*. At this point of total loss, David now saw the love of the LORD in the rejection of the Philistine leaders. If they had not sent him away, he and his men would not have returned right now, when the Amalekites had just left and the fires of their destruction were still burning. If God had not sent him back home through the rejection of the Philistines, it would have been months and months until he returned, and the situation would have been far worse. That which stung him before became sweet to him now, and the most precious expression of the LORD's love.

**SCRIPTURE READING: JUDGES 11:26**

**THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:** We can make all the plans we want but the Lord's purpose for this season will prevail.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"