

David Destroys the Amalekites - 1 Samuel 30:1-31

Topics: Abundance, Answers, Arguments, Benefits, Bitterness, Celebration, Children, Correction, Despair, Disagreements, Emotions, Enemies, Equality, Family, Generosity, Gifts, Greed, Guidance, Hardheartedness, Law, Leadership, Materialism, Mercy, Mourning, Perspective, Possessions, Rebellion, Selfishness, Success, Unity, Wealth, Wisdom, Wives

Open It

1. What qualities keep a leader in office even through hard times?
- * 2. What rules governing your life or work do you consider unfair?

Explore It

3. What did David and his men find when they returned to Ziklag, the city in Gath where they had been living? (30:1-3)
4. What was the reaction of David and his troops to the destruction of their city? (30:4)
5. What was David's personal loss in the Amalekite raid? (30:5)
6. What was the attitude of the troops toward David when they returned to find their families gone? (30:6)
7. How did David handle his own loss and the criticism of others? (30:6)
8. As a leader, what first step did David take with regard to his dilemma? (30:7-8)
9. What did the Lord reveal to David through Abiathar and the ephod? (30:8)
- * 10. Why did some of David's men stay behind at the Besor Ravine? (30:9-10)
11. What method did David use to locate the troops that had captured his family and subjects? (30:11-15)
12. What did David and his men find the Amalekites doing? (30:16)
13. What was the outcome of David's battle with the Amalekites? (30:17)
14. To what extent were the Israelites able to recover their families and property? (30:18-19)
15. How had the attitude of the fighters changed toward David after the battle? (30:20)
- * 16. What did some of David's men want to do about the two hundred troops who had not gone into battle? (30:22)
- * 17. What was David's perspective on the sharing of the spoils of war? (30:23-25)
18. To whom did David send presents from the plunder of the Amalekite raiders? (30:26-31)

Get It

19. What is or isn't fair about holding a leader responsible for the misfortunes that befall the group?
20. What is the best first step for a believer before beginning any enterprise?
- * 21. What were some positive leadership qualities exhibited by David on the occasion of the recovery of the plunder of Ziklag?
- * 22. Why is an extreme concern for fairness sometimes a camouflage for greed?
23. To what extent was God's word to David fulfilled in the course of this story?
24. What seems fair or unfair about David's decree regarding the division of spoils?
25. Why did David feel that to punish those who had to stay behind would not be honoring to God?
26. What might have prompted David to send some of his share of the plunder to friends in Israel?

Apply It

- * 27. The next time you find yourself obsessed with an issue of fairness, how can you check your heart for greed and uncharitable thoughts?
28. What reminders can you use to pray for your church and civil leaders this coming week?