

The “Life of David” Series

When Life Caves In

I Samuel 30:1-6

David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, 2 and had taken captive the women and all who were in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way.

3 When David and his men came to Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. 5 David's two wives had been captured — Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the Lord his God. NIV

Opening Thoughts

Tragedy is a part of life. It does not take planning. The calamities of life overtake us when we least expect it. The result is clearly seen as was demonstrated in the attack on our nation on 9-11-2001. Pain, grief, heartbreak, and despair are overwhelming.

The Point: When life caves in and you have no ability to function, there is God.

I. The Tragedy 1 Sam 27:6-9

6 So on that day Achish gave him Ziklag, and it has belonged to the kings of Judah ever since. 7 David lived in Philistine territory a year and four months.

8 Now David and his men went up and raided the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites. (From ancient times these peoples had lived in the land extending to Shur and Egypt.) 9 Whenever David attacked an area, he did not leave a man or woman alive, but took sheep and cattle, donkeys and camels, and clothes. Then he returned to Achish. NIV

II. The Application

A. No one can escape the _____ and _____ of life.

B. The way we _____ to crises is more important than the crises itself.

1. _____ ... until there was no more strength”

2. _____ ... “if only they had not gone ...”

3. _____ ... “someone must be held accountable”

4. _____ in the Lord ... “looking beyond self”

III. The Conclusion

A. Asked the Lord what to do 1 Sam 30:7-8

7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, 8 and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?"

"Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." NIV

B. God answered and gave the victory 1 Sam 30:17-20

7 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. 18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. 20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, "This is David's plunder."

C. Note: God readies the _____ before the _____...
the _____ before the _____.