

Theme: In his darkest moment of despair, God delivered David, fulfilled His promises and made him king over His people.

I. Intro - The Battle of Midway

- A. Dark days in early 1942 - Japanese crushing everyone
- B. Pearl Harbor, Philippines, Burma, East Indies, Guam, Wake Island, destroyed Allied Air Power in SE Asia
- C. Only bright spot was a draw in battle of the Coral Sea
- D. June 4-7, 1942 - Battle of Midway changed everything
- E. Japan lost 4 carriers, 1 heavy cruiser, 248 planes
- F. One historian “Most stunning and decisive blow in history of naval warfare.”
- G. The course of the war was literally changed in 3 days!
- H. Today we see something similar in David’s life - from despair to kingship seemingly overnight
- I. How did this happen?
- J. What does it mean for us?

II. The Depth’s of Despair

- A. David was in his darkest moments
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. 1 Samuel 30:3–6

- 1. He had been pursued by Saul and fled his country
- 2. He had been rejected by the Philistine leaders
- 3. His city was destroyed, and everything taken away
- 4. His wives had been carried away by the Amalekites
- 5. His men wanted to stone him to death
- 6. This is the depth of despair - he might have cried “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

- B. David turned to God in this moment of despair
But David found strength in the Lord his God.
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.” 1 Samuel 30:6–8

- 1. In his despair, David cried out to God
- 2. God answered David and promised to deliver him
- 3. David is a good example here - in our deepest moments of distress and despair we should turn to God and find our strength in Him.

III. The Fugitive Freed

- A. God delivered the Amalekites into David’s hands
 - 1. They pursued the Amalekites and found an Egyptian who had been left behind to die
 - 2. They found the Amalekites drunk

He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. ¹⁷ 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. 1 Samuel 30:16–17

- a. They were a larger force than David had - 400 escaped and that was all David had to begin with!
- b. But God let David find them drunk and partying - not ready for war!
- c. David crushes them and wins a total victory

B. David recovered everything that had been taken

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. 1 Samuel 30:18–19

1. He recovers everything taken from him and his men
2. Note the stress - everything; nothing; delineation; anything; everything - he recovered all that was his!
3. When God's anointed King goes forth, he routs the enemies of God and recovers God's captive people!

C. David shared the spoils of his victory with his people

When David arrived in Ziklag, he sent some of the plunder to the elders of Judah, who were his friends, saying, "Here is a present for you from the plunder of the Lord's enemies." 1 Samuel 30:26

1. Some men had not wanted to share - even with soldiers to weary to continue fighting (31:21- 25)

2. But David is generous with the spoils! He not only gives them to the weary soldiers but to the people of Judah.
3. He does not just keep the spoils - he shares them
4. This is the plunder taken from the Lord's enemies
5. When God's anointed King wins the battle, He shares the spoils of victory with all God's people!

D. Saul has died and will no longer pursue David

1. 1 Samuel 31 recounts the death of Saul
2. God delivered David and removed Saul without David striking out himself
3. In fact, David is even able to grieve for Saul (2 Samuel 1)
4. When we do not strike out and take vengeance ourselves, God will intervene in our behalf to deliver and rescue us.

E. David was able to return from exile back into Judah

In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. "Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?" he asked. The Lord said, "Go up." David asked, "Where shall I go?" "To Hebron," the Lord answered. ² So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³ David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. 2 Samuel 2:1–3

1. The fugitive is able to return home to Judah!
2. At long last, the exile is over, the fugitive returns home!

F. Dave was anointed as king

Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. 2 Samuel 2:4

1. It had been over a decade since Samuel had anointed David
2. David had spent of that time as a wanted fugitive, fleeing for his life
3. He had spent over 16 months in exile
4. But now, seemingly overnight, God's promises are fulfilled, and David is king!
5. Often, the darkest moment of despair is right before God saves, delivers, blesses, and fulfills His promises to us!

IV. Applying the Word

A. In dark times, do we despair - or seek our Father?

1. This all began in the darkest moments of David's life
2. Thankfully, the darkness prompted him to seek God
3. This is also what Jesus did!
During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with loud cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission.
Hebrews 5:7
4. When I face times of darkness, do I despair or find strength in God?
5. When my fears hound me - do I look within, or do I look to God and find strength in Him?

6. When faced with crushing disappointment, do I despair and give up, or do I find strength in God?
7. When friends or family desert or attack me, do I strike back, or do I find strength in God?
8. When my own body fails me, do I complain and despair, or do I find my strength in God?
9. In our deepest moments of distress and despair we should turn to God and find our strength in Him.
10. As it was for David, very often the darkest moment is just before dawn - do not despair, but find strength in God!

B. Finding grace & strength through Christ our King/Priest

1. In this section David is a picture of Christ
 - a. Jesus is the anointed one who was persecuted and abandoned by even His closest companions
 - b. Jesus was the one who cried out to God for strength
 - c. Jesus is the anointed one who is delivered in the darkest moment
 - d. Jesus is the anointed one who crushes the enemies of God to free God's people from captivity
 - e. Jesus is the anointed one who recovers the spoils and freely gives them to His people (Ephesians 4:8)
 - f. Jesus is the anointed one set in as King and as High Priest to deliver, rule, and bless us!
2. Because of this we have every encouragement to come to Him in our moment of darkness to find help!

For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are —yet was without sin. ¹⁶ Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. Hebrews 4:15–16

C. Approaching our Father in prayer to find strength

The Fugitive Freed

1 Samuel 30-31; 2 Samuel 1:1-2:4

June 26, 2016

Prayer

Psalm 20:1-5

Teaching keywords: biblical characters; exile and return; salvation and deliverance; typology

¹ May the Lord answer you when you are in distress; may the name of the God of Jacob protect you. ² May he send you help from His sanctuary and grant you support from His throne. ³ May he remember all your sacrifices of praise. ⁴ May he give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed, ⁵ so that we shout for joy when you are victorious. May the Lord grant all your requests. Psalms 20:1–5

¹ In the course of time, David inquired of the Lord. “Shall I go up to one of the towns of Judah?” he asked.

The Lord said, “Go up.”

David asked, “Where shall I go?” “To Hebron,” the Lord answered.

² So David went up there with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ³ David also took the men who were with him, each with his family, and they settled in Hebron and its towns. ⁴ Then the men of Judah came to Hebron and there they anointed David king over the house of Judah. 2 Samuel 2:1–4