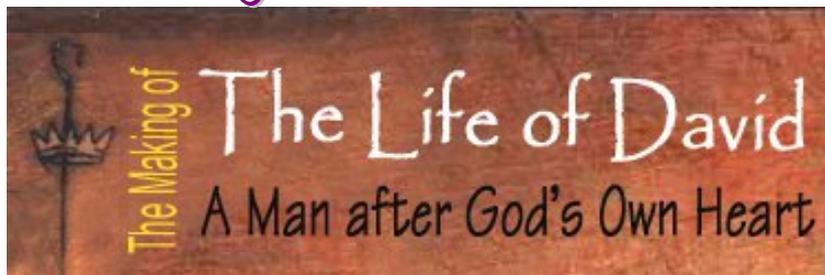




1 Samuel 30

Returning to the Lord Sunday, June 7th 2006



It

doesn't always take hitting rock bottom to turn to God

- Such a thing would prove untrue to be universal
- Yet...truth is...it does often take such a state
- Getting to end of self, end of rope –rock bottom

As we open up to 1 Samuel – that is where David is

- David called to be a king, chosen by God...wow
- But after 8½ years of waiting, David quit on God

Saw David “Quit” last week

- Perhaps tired of waiting on God's ways, timing
- Takes life back into his own control
 - Picture life like a car – surrendering to God is to give Him the wheel in our lives (not just with us)
 - Maybe better to see as plane – two sets of controls
- After 8 years...David takes over the controls
 - Perhaps thought knew better, do a better job
- David lived life for self...by self

As open up – David has run his life into the ground

- Lost everything...destroyed everything
- Walked away from God's call
- Built own life – to lose it all
- Job, family, money...friends
- Broken, empty...picture, cried till can't cry anymore
- Sitting staring out window...at ground...gone, all gone and it can happen so fast...so furiously

Say this...far easier to read about this, talk about than life

- For some of you...you have lived it
- For some...perhaps you are living this now...
 - Want to walk tenderly, with love
- Yet there is hope...direction I believe today

As David hits rock bottom...He turns back to God

- Not everyone does....but it is the best to do!
- Today – I want to call you to this...to see, to do

I. Strengthening in God

1. This phrase means to Receive God's strength

- a. David's life is deflated...trying to keep up on own...but now, turns to God to strengthen
- a. Note the words – His God – in relationship w/God

2. Notice David does this...to himself, for himself

- b. To turn to the Lord – must do yourself
- c. You cannot do it for someone else
 - i) Not wife, not parent, no friend can do
- d. No one can do it for you
 - i) Can't trust in spouse, pastor, friend – you...
 - ii) Deep theology...simply–not even God can do for you
- e. Know this – you can turn! – Don't get overwhelmed
 - i) **Eze 33:7-11** 📖

3. Note with me...how willing God is to restore

- a. David turns back to the Lord – immediately God blesses, immediately God meets him
- b. So unlike what we think, so unlike me
 - i) I could be snide..."O, I haven't heard that voice in 16 months...now that you messed up, you want Me to help
 - ii) "I told you so.... why you people won't listen to me"
- c. God is anxious to forgive
- d. Perhaps for some – most important thing I will say
 - i) Just to know, God is so willing to forgive
 - ii) **Isaiah 30:15-18** 📖

David returns...that is what is important. Rest of chapter shows us what that return looks like, what happens when he does. Much could say – but note eight things with me about his return

II. Returning to God

1. Returning is returning to a Relationship

- f. Already noted, so won't spend lot of time on
- a. But I would be amiss if I did not point out that this comes first, relationship...strength
- b. Can just seek the blessings...need Him

2. Returning is Letting God Guide our lives

- a. Notice, David doesn't just run off and pursue
- b. That would have been the knee jerk reaction
- c. But here, back in place of surrender – only wanting to do what God wants him to do
- d. There is in this an acceptance of God's will
- e. So much in this I need...not wise enough for this world**

3. Returning is to know God's Providence

- a. Not only does God directly guide, but does so providentially as well
- b. Find Egyptian...get some well needed information
- c. Knows to pursue...but how to find – whala
- d. There is a blessing to being back with God
- e. God just orders, causes things to work together

4. Returning is to begin again to Reflect God's Character

- a. Within meeting this Egyptian, note the character David displays – kindness
- b. Unlike his master...unlike last 16 months
- c. Not because they knew he would benefit
- d. Hard to put into words...but I know this well
- e. w/o God...I lack character, I am a grump, impatient**
- g. Gal 5 – calls this the fruit of the Spirit

5. Returning is to know God's Empowering

- a. David and his men march for days and pursue
 - i) So hard that 200 cannot continue
 - ii) 400 pursue, overtake and defeat...that's is God!
- b. We need power...God's – **Acts 1:8**
- c. Amalikites a picture of the flesh
 - i) in the Spirit, overcome the flesh **Gal 5, Rom 8** 📖

6. Returning is to know God's Restoration

- a. Recover all ...wow, think about it
- b. See here the amazing grace, kindness of God
- c. Again...unlike me. I might keep at distance
- d. Joel 2 - restores 📖

7. Returning is to know God's Provision

- a. See the situation, the hearts of those who did not want to share the abundance
 - i) They obtained more than what lost
- b. See David's thoughts – says No, why?
 - i) Sees it as God's blessing...cannot be selfish with
- c. As lived for 16 months, take care of number one
- d. Now...seeing differently

8. Returning is to Seek God's Service

- a. David share his blessings with those in Israel
- b. Could be that these also lost to the Amalekites
- c. More...obviously David is currying favor
- d. Nothing wrong in so doing...in fact quite right
- e. David is seeking again God's plan for him as king. To do so, is to desire again to serve God
- f. This is what David had quit on 16 months previously
- g. Imagine it today

Conclusion

It is so right, so needed to return to the Lord

- It doesn't take hitting rock bottom
- Can do so today
- But if at rock bottom, know you can return

Prodigal Son – Luke 15

- Takes his inheritance...wastes it – loses it
- Comes to himself...to his senses
- Reasons his return – can't be son, but slave
- Yet, Father sees afar off – runs, embraces
- Son asks forgiveness
- Father restores...as son
- God is so willing to forgive
- God is so willing to restore

Today...do you need to come home? You can

- God is a God of amazing grace – restoration
- It is what the Cross is about, why Jesus died
- Speaking to the saved...and wandering
- Speaking to the unsaved and needing

Side thought – don't be a “elder son”

- who loses God's heart to forgive and restore