

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

*Beauty from Ashes***1 Samuel 30****David Destroys the Amalekites**

1 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.

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."

9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Ravine, where some stayed behind, 10 for two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the ravine. But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit.

11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat— 12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights.

13 David asked him, "To whom do you belong, and where do you come from?"

He said, "I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. 14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites and the territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag."

15 David asked him, "Can you lead me down to this raiding party?"

He answered, "Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them."

16 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. 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 live-

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stock, saying, "This is David's plunder."

21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them. 22 But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go."

23 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." 25 David made this a statute and ordinance for Israel from that day to this.

26 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."

27 He sent it to those who were in Bethel, Ramoth Negev and Jattir; 28 to those in Aroer, Siphmoth, Eshtemoa 29 and Racal; to those in the towns of the Jerahmeelites and the Kenites; 30 to those in Hormah, Bor Ashan, Athach 31 and Hebron; and to those in all the other places where David and his men had roamed.

### Psalm 27

#### Of David.

1 The LORD is my light and my salvation—  
whom shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life—  
of whom shall I be afraid?

2 When evil men advance against me  
to devour my flesh, <sup>[a]</sup>  
when my enemies and my foes attack me,  
they will stumble and fall.

3 Though an army besiege me,  
my heart will not fear;  
though war break out against me,  
even then will I be confident.

4 One thing I ask of the LORD,  
this is what I seek:  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD  
all the days of my life,  
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD  
and to seek him in his temple.

5 For in the day of trouble  
he will keep me safe in his dwelling;  
he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle  
and set me high upon a rock.

6 Then my head will be exalted  
above the enemies who surround me;  
at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy;  
I will sing and make music to the LORD.

7 Hear my voice when I call, O LORD;  
be merciful to me and answer me.

8 My heart says of you, "Seek his <sup>[b]</sup> face!"  
Your face, LORD, I will seek.

9 Do not hide your face from me,  
do not turn your servant away in anger;  
you have been my helper.  
Do not reject me or forsake me,  
O God my Savior.

10 Though my father and mother forsake me,  
the LORD will receive me.

11 Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me in a straight path  
because of my oppressors.

12 Do not turn me over to the desire of my foes,  
for false witnesses rise up against me,  
breathing out violence.

13 I am still confident of this:  
I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living.

14 Wait for the LORD;  
be strong and take heart  
and wait for the LORD.

## LIFE Community Sermon Notes

Sunday, May 11

**Big Idea:** Hearts are formed when we find strength in God in seasons of disappointment and sorrow.

**Key Verse:** *1 Samuel 30:6b*

“But David found strength in the LORD his God.”

**Opening Question:** What is the most significant thing that has happened to you in the past week?

Questions in **bold** below are suggested focus questions. Sections in *italics* and/or parenthesis are for the leaders. Read the passage.

### Discussion Questions:

There are times in our lives that it takes very little energy to Pay Attention to the moment. When we enter times of hardship and pain, like a fire burning down your house, it takes little effort to focus on the moment. However, it is what we do in those moments that makes all the difference. The second movement of the transformation dynamic talks about turning towards God. David illustrates this powerfully for us in our passages this week.

1. How do you feel about the painful moments in life?
2. Describe the situation David is in in 1 Samuel 30. How do you think he felt? How would you feel?
3. **Verse 6 describes David as finding strength in God, or strengthening himself in the LORD. Psalm 27 gives us some insight into what David did to strengthen himself in the LORD. From Psalm 27, what are some of the ways David strengthened himself in the LORD?**
4. Bryan led us deeper than just a restating of David’s prayer in Psalm 27. He spoke about well worn paths of spiritual practice becoming our instinctive or intuitive responses in times of hardship. How might someone develop these well worn paths before the hard times come?
5. **We develop well worn paths by learning spiritual disciplines and then practicing them over and over again during the happy times (“in the sunshine” Bryan said). When the hard times come (“the darkness”) we instinctively lean on these disciplines. What spiritual disciplines have you learnt, are learning or want to learn more about?**
6. **How are you practicing these disciplines now to build “muscle memory”?**
7. **Who could you go to, to learn new disciplines or more about disciplines?**
8. **For those “in the sunshine” the challenge is to practice these disciplines to make them intuitive. For those “in the darkness” the challenge is to rely on these disciplines through the darkness. Are you in sunshine or darkness right now? What do you plan to do about it?**
9. How do you as a group support, help and encourage someone in your group who is “in the darkness” but has no well worn path of spiritual disciplines to rely on?

### Leader’s Notes

1. *This series will be looking at how hearts are formed. This is an ideal opportunity to look back at the discussions we have had from Change of Heart and Interior Redesign and take another few steps down the road of transformation.*
2. *Bryan shared a dynamic illustration with us about how everyday events can become transformational moments. They represented a spiral or flywheel with four movements: 1) Pay Attention; 2) Turn Toward God; 3) Step Forward in Faith; 4) Rise to a New Level.*