

protective actions, what does this sovereign deliverance by God display about God's mercy?

Sermon Notes

"Finding God's Help in a No-Good, Really Bad, Awful Rotten Day"

1 Samuel 27, 29, 30

December 3, 2017

4. Read 1 Samuel 30:1-20.
 - a. What does it look like to "find strength in the LORD" (30:6)? (Consider a similar phrase in 1 Samuel 23:16-18, and what Jonathan did and said.)

 - b. Where do you observe the Lord's guidance and sovereignty in this rescue narrative?

 - c. Exiled, deprived of his family and his belongings, threatened with the mutiny of his grieving troops, and without the comfort or counsel of his friend Jonathan and mentor Samuel, David in 30:6 had only the Lord between him and despair. Are you able to depend only on the Lord in times of trial? How can you do this in your current situation?

Let's Pray:

For our missionaries:

Jon Payne, Superintendent, Forest Lakes District EFCA
Pray for Jon as he travels throughout the district, mentoring and encouraging pastors and leadership teams.

Growth Group Homework

For the week of 12-03-17

Questions adapted from 1&2 Samuel: Life Change Series, NavPress, Colorado Springs, CO, 2012, pp. 79-84..

Getting Started:

1. In your walk with Christ, have you ever taken a vacation from God – a time when you neglected your relationship with him, and decided to go out and make your own way? Briefly share with your group about the experience and what you learned from it.

Digging Deeper:

2. Read 1 Samuel 27.
 - a. What are your impressions of David's experience among the Philistines as narrated in chapter 27? Do you think David's move into Philistine territory reflects a lack of faith in the Lord? Why or why not?
 - b. "David and his men became desert raiders who raided desert raiders. ... David wiped out any human captives taken – he couldn't risk anyone blowing his cover, rattling on what he was really doing in Ziklag and beyond." (Dale Ralph Davis, Focus on the Bible 1 Samuel, Looking on the Heart, Bell & Bain, Glasgow, Great Britain, 2014, p. 280) How do you respond to David and his men supporting themselves this way? What do you think about David's practice of "take no prisoners"?
3. Read 1 Samuel 28:1-2, and chapter 29.
 - a. Consider David's dilemma. He had steadfastly refrained from violence against Saul and his own people. Now, his Philistine master required him to join the assault on Israel. "If he were to refuse to fight with Achish, his lies would be uncovered, and Achish would not hesitate to eliminate this deceiver. If he were to obey Achish and fight with the Philistines against Israel, his anticipated kingship over Israel would be undermined before it had begun" (John Woodhouse, , Preaching the Word: 1 Samuel, Crossway: Wheaton, IL, 2008, pp. 509). How do you think David plans to get out of this mess? What in the text supports your theory?
 - b. This passage does not explicitly say God delivered David from bloodying his hand against Saul. (In fact, the only mention of God in chapters 27 and 29 come on the lips of the Philistine king [29:6,9]). But what do you think the narrator believes? Did God sovereignly deliver David, or did David "luck out"? (Consider 18:14; 23:14; 25:29-31; 26:23-24.)
 - c. If David's movements in 27:1-2 were indeed motivated by a loss of confidence in God, by fear, and by self-
- c. David told Achish that he was raiding Israelites (or their allies), when he was really raiding Israel's ancient enemies (27:8-12). In what ways were David's words to Achish ambiguous and deceptive (see 28:2; 29:8)? Was he right to act this way?