

Message #71**I Samuel 30:11-20**

As I have told you and Mary will verify this, I have all but stopped watching the news. I cannot stand it because it is so politically depressing. It brings me down from a focus on the positive to all that is negative. But actually for the most part the depressing stuff is not personal to me, at least to this point. It is political, but it is not personal.

But think for a moment how depressing the political world was personally to David. Let us recap what has happened at this point in the life of David.

- 1) He was told he would be the next king of Israel, when he was a teenage shepherd.
- 2) He went to check up on his brothers and ended up fighting Goliath and winning.
- 3) He was promoted to being military commander, but he lost his job as a military commander
- 4) He was given Saul's daughter for a wife and lost her.
- 5) He was given a place to live in Saul's palace and lost that.
- 6) He ended up living in caves and his own people wanted to kill him.
- 7) He was given a city Ziklag by the Philistines and it was burned down.
- 8) He came home from a military expedition and his family was gone.
- 9) His friends didn't like David anymore and blamed him for everything.
- 10) His own life was being threatened by his own people via stoning (I Sam. 30:6).

What a mess. This would not seem to be the political formula anyone would use to produce the next king of Israel. But this was God's formula. David would come to realize that all he really needed was God on his side and he would win. The events of this text prove that is true.

GOD SOVEREIGNLY INTERVENES IN A MOST UNUSUAL WAY AT JUST THE RIGHT MOMENT TO GIVE HIS SERVANT/KING VICTORY.

At this point in time, David looks like anything but a reigning King. He must have wondered did Samuel really get it right when he anointed me. Was Jonathan really bringing me a message of God when he said I would be the next King? Did Saul see it right when he said that he knew that David would be the next king (24:20)?

How in the world would God pull this off? This amazing text of the sovereignty of God starts the process. There are three sovereign events that occur here that are amazing:

**SOVEREIGN EVENT #1 – David finds an abandoned Egyptian servant of an Amalekite.
30:11-14**

We may recall that the Amalekites had taken all of the wives and children of the Israelites while David and his men had been away (30:30). They got back to Ziklag and found their families taken. Their city was burned down and all the families of the men were gone.

David prayed and God told him to go after them. So David and 600 men took off. But when they traveled about 16 miles, 200 of the men were completely worn down and could not go on. So David left them at the brook Besor and kept going with 400 men (30:10).

So David and 400 men started out to track down the Amalekites and they found an Egyptian servant who was more dead than alive. This right here is an amazing display of God's sovereignty.

This servant is a heathen Egyptian slave, who had been involved in the very conflict that ruined David's city and took captive the women and children. **This is the last type of person one would think would be used by God to make a difference in any person's life.** Furthermore, when David found him, he had not eaten or had anything to drink for three days. He had been sick and the Amalekites abandoned him and left him in the desert to die. The man was near death.

According to **verses 11-12**, the first thing David did when he found this man who was near death was to give him food and water and a fig cake and raisins. It is quite clear that David did not believe in the hospice philosophy for those near death.

When David, who was a man after God's own heart, saw someone sick and dying, he gave them some food and drink. He did everything he could to help the man get back to life and health.

I am certain that if we carefully examine what David gave him, we would discover that some of these things can help one who is near death: 1) Bread; 2) Water; 3) Piece of fig cake; 4) Two clusters of raisins.

David was in a hurry to track down the Amalekites, but he took the time to stop and be a blessing to one hurting and dying man. David had no idea when he stopped to help this man where this would all lead.

You may never know what one act of kindness may accomplish. I remember reading a story of a man who stopped to help change a tire that someone else had. Inside the car was a young Donald Trump who paid off the man's house. In Idaho, we had a former Pastor who did a funeral for a man who had come to Christ under his ministry. The son of the man who died was so thrilled that this Pastor had been used to help his dad come to Christ that he took him to his car dealership and told him to pick out any truck he wanted.

But before we move on in the narrative, let us pause to admit that this is exactly what the Holy Spirit still does. He finds people who are helpless and incapable of saving themselves and takes them from their death condition and gives them life and refreshment by saving them.

According to **verse 13**, David asked this man to identify himself and he informed David that he had been a young Egyptian slave of an Amalekite.

According to **verse 14**, he told David that he had been with the Amalekites when they made their raids in the south. This had been a very extensive raid in the south and when they had made a raid on Ziklag and burned down the city.

He told David that as soon as he became sick, his master deserted him and left him behind to die. That was three days ago. According to **verse 12** they did not even leave him with enough food and water. They left him there to die.

Now keep in your mind that the Amalekites have plenty of spoil from these raids. They had plenty of food and water and animals. It would have been nothing for them to have carried along this sick man and try to nurse him back to health. But life was cheap and this man was discarded as if he were nothing more than a wounded animal.

I want to pause here for a moment to bring up a point. If you have a sick animal such as a dog or cat, you at least try to give them some food and drink. The Amalekites didn't even do that, and frankly neither do some of these agencies who are supposed to help people who are sick and dying. In my opinion, some of them treat humans at times worse than animals.

I'll bet when the Amalekite owner of this slave made the decision to leave this man behind to die, he never dreamed that by leaving this one sick man behind, God would use this man to help destroy the entire Amalekite army.

What no one knew, including David, is that God's sovereign hand was at work and God would let David find this man and this one man would become a key instrument God would use to give David a great victory on his way to becoming the King.

Had not David taken the time to stop and help this man, he would have missed vital information necessary to his victory.

Before we move on let's make some four key observations:

- 1) God caused this slave to become sick and abandoned to help David. This very sickness was Sovereignly controlled by God to be used in ways only God knew.
- 2) God guides His faithful servants by giving them the information they need at exactly the time they need it.
- 3) God provides different kinds of people to come into your life at just the right time to be used by Him in your life.
- 4) When you take the time to help someone, you never know the value of what you are doing in the big picture of God's sovereignty.

Many years ago, in St. Louis, Missouri, a man named Tom McPheeters, a dedicated Christian, was finishing up some business with his lawyer. Before leaving the office he said to the lawyer “Why aren’t you a Christian?” Well his lawyer hung his head and said, “You know my weakness,” “Isn’t there something in the Bible about drunkards having no part in the kingdom of God.” McPheeters said, “I am not asking you about your drinking,” “I am asking you why aren’t you a Christian.” Well that set the attorney back and he said, “Well no one has ever asked me that and no one has told me how to become a Christian.” McPheeters explained the need to believe in Jesus Christ and that day that attorney did. The lawyer was a man born in Michigan, whose name was C. I. Scofield, whose impact on Christianity is still powerful today.

You never know what will happen when you take the time to minister to someone who needs it.

SOVEREIGN EVENT #2 – David asks the servant to lead him to the Amalekites. **30:15**

When the man was better, David asked him if he would lead him to the Amalekites. What an amazing turn of events. David is going to use this servant in a key elevated way. Think of this. This is an Egyptian slave left to die and now he is being used to help David as a leader.

He asked David to make a promise or oath to “Swear by God.” Just this week, some fool in Congress stood up to pray and said God goes by all kinds of different beliefs and names. Not the true God of the Bible. No, He doesn’t. This Egyptian was raised in a polytheistic world. I counted over 30 deities and probably the name most familiar is Isis.

This slave did not want David promising him something based on all of the false deities; but on the one true God.

The servant asked David if he would promise him two things:

- 1) David would not kill him.
- 2) David would not turn him over to his master.

David obviously agreed to these terms and promised that he would take him with him.

Think of this. This one discarded slave, who was nearly dead becomes the key agent God uses to turn this entire episode completely around.

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SOVEREIGN EVENT #3 – David tracks down the Amalekites. **30:16-20**

The servant led David to their hideout location and there are four historical facts we want to see:

Historical Fact #1 - The Amalekites were celebrating. **30:16**

When David got to them, the Amalekites were spread out all over in one massive party. They were eating and drinking and dancing because of all the spoils they had taken from the land of the Philistines and land of Judah.

What they don't know is that their destruction is just moments away. This is exactly the way it will be prior to the judgment of God. Most people will be living a party life of enjoyment (Rev. 18:3). They will be drifting along until Christ brings them to an end. Most will have no clue that their demise is moments away.

Historical Fact #2 - David slaughtered the Amalekite army. **30:17**

David and his men definitely went on the offensive. They slaughtered the Amalekites for 24 straight hours. No one got away except 400 young men who jumped on some camels and fled.

Historical Fact #3 - David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken. **30:18-19**

David rescued everything. He got back the wives, the children, the spoils. Every bit of it was recovered.

Historical Fact #4 - David recovered more than the Amalekites originally had taken. **30:20**

David also brought back all the things the Amalekites had taken from the Philistines. He brought back sheep and cattle and livestock and he ended up with far more than he had when he began.

When God blesses, He is not stingy. His blessings are abundant.

When God delivers and rescues a person out of a sinful life, He gives him an abundant life.