

Title:            **WEAKNESS REWARDED**

Text:            1 Samuel 30:21-25

Subject:        *David's Statute for Sharing the Spoil*

Date:            Sunday Morning — April 1, 2012

Tape #            AA-56

Reading:        *Matthew 19:27 - 20:16*

Introduction:

The title of my message is **WEAKNESS REWARDED**. You will find my text in the 30<sup>th</sup> chapter of 1<sup>st</sup> Samuel.

There were six hundred men in Israel who lined up with David against Saul. They forsook family, home, career, and friend to follow David, when it was most unpopular to do so. They were willing to lay down their lives for David. They followed David through thick and thin, preferring to be with David in caves, in the wilderness, and upon the battlefield than to be with Saul in the palace.

A few of these men were the bravest, most valiant men in Israel. But for the most part David's men were a rag-tag band of helpless, useless paupers,

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whose only hope of life was that David might graciously receive them, defend them, protect them and lead them. The scriptures say, “**Everyone that was in distress, and everyone that was in debt, and everyone that was discontented, gathered themselves unto (David); and he became a captain over them**” (1 Samuel 22:2).

David, you know, was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of David. And his rag-tag army of nobodies fairly well represents the church of our Lord Jesus Christ in this world (1 Corinthians 1:26-29).

**1 Corinthians 1:26-29** “For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things

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which are not, to bring to nought things that are:  
29 That no flesh should glory in his presence.”

## **ZIKLAG BURNED**

With that in mind, let's look at our text — 1 Samuel 30:21-25. Let me remind you of the story leading up to our text.

**While David and his men were away seeking peace and safety by alignment with Achish and the Philistines, the Amalekites came to Ziklag, burned the city and took all the wives, children, cattle, sheep, and valuables that belonged to David and his men** (vv. 1-6).

**1 Samuel 30:1-6** “And it came to pass, when David and his men were come to Ziklag on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the south, and Ziklag, and smitten Ziklag, and burned it with fire; 2 And had taken the women captives, that were therein: **they slew not any**, either great or small, but carried *them* away, and

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went on their way. 3 So David and his men came to the city, and, behold, *it was* burned with fire; and their wives, and their sons, and their daughters, were taken captives. 4 Then David and the people that *were* with him lifted up their voice and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5 And David's two wives were taken captives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the wife of Nabal the Carmelite. 6 And **David was greatly distressed**; for the people spake of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and for his daughters: **but David encouraged himself in the LORD his God.**”

## **DIVINE COUNSEL**

**David turned to seek the counsel of the Lord and, armed with the Spirit of God and the promise of God, he pursued the Amalekites** (vv. 7-8).

**1 Samuel 30:7-8** “And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring

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me hither the ephod. (*The ephod was a part of the priestly garments containing the Urim and Thummim.*) And Abiathar brought thither the ephod to David. 8 And **David inquired at the LORD**, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop? shall I overtake them? And he answered him, Pursue: for **thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all.**”

## TWO HUNDRED FAINT

**As David pursued his enemies, some of his men had to be left behind** (vv. 9-10).

**1 Samuel 30:9-10** “So David went, he and the six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed. 10 But David pursued, he and four hundred men: for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint that they could not go over the brook Besor.”

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**Two hundred of the men were so faint that “they could not go over the brook Besor.”** They were “*so faint that they could not follow David.*” We are not told that they “would not go,” but that they “*could not go*”. **They would have gone if they could have gone, but they simply did not have the strength and ability to go.** Therefore, they stayed “*by the stuff,*” while David and their four hundred brethren pursued the Amalekites.

**I repeat this because it is very important:** — They would have gone if they could have gone, but they simply did not have the strength and ability to go. Therefore, they stayed “*by the stuff,*” while David and their four hundred brethren pursued the Amalekites.

## **DAVID’S SPOIL**

**At last David and his men caught their enemies and thoroughly conquered them** (vv. 11-20).

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**1 Samuel 30:11-20** “And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David, and gave him bread, and he did eat; and they made him drink water; 12 And they gave him a piece of a cake of figs, and two clusters of raisins: and when he had eaten, his spirit came again to him: for he had eaten no bread, nor drunk any water, three days and three nights. 13 And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? and whence art thou? And he said, I am a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite; and my master left me, because three days ago I fell sick. 14 We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherethites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb; and we burned Ziklag with fire. 15 And David said to him, Canst thou bring me down to this company? And he said, Swear unto me by God, that thou wilt neither kill me, nor deliver me into the hands of my master, and I will bring thee down to this company. 16 And when he had brought him down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking,

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and dancing, because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines, and out of the land of Judah. 17 And David smote them from the twilight even unto the evening of the next day: and there escaped not a man of them, save four hundred young men, which rode upon camels, and fled. 18 **And David recovered all** that the Amalekites had carried away: and David rescued his two wives. 19 And **there was nothing lacking** to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil, nor any thing that they had taken to them: **David recovered all**. 20 And David took all the flocks and the herds, which they drove before those other cattle, and said, **This is David's spoil.**”

**David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken from them. Nothing was lacking.** — What a great picture the Holy Spirit here gives us of our great David, the Lord Jesus! Our dear Savior has recovered all for us. Nothing is lacking!



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By nature, by reason of sin, we had lost everything. We lost paradise, with all its joys. We lost this world. That which was once the fertile field of vegetation now yields thorns and thistles to us. We lost life, hope, peace, and the favor of God. But Christ has restored all! All that the first Adam lost the last Adam has restored. David recovered all. And Christ recovered all.

**We were lost; but Christ recovered us** (Luke 11:22).

- *“I plucked the spoil out of his teeth”* (Job 29:17).
- *“Firebrands plucked from the burning!”*

As David rescued his two wives that had been taken into captivity, Christ Jesus has snatched his beloved bride from the hands of the law, the fires of wrath, and the hand of Satan.

**We had forfeited life; but Christ recovered life for us** (1 Corinthians 15:22-23, 49; Ephesians 2:1-4; John 3:17).

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**We had forfeited our eternal heritage; but Christ recovered all** (Ephesians 1:11, 14).

- Behold all the elect around the throne, and say, *“This is David’s spoil.”*
- Let each believer look at himself, his past, his present, and his future, and say, *“This is David’s spoil.”*

These are the things our Lord has recovered for us. But there is more than the recovery. As Israel was enriched by the Amalekites, God’s elect are enriched by their enemies. By Christ, God’s promise is fulfilled — *“They that spoil thee shall be a spoil”* (Jeremiah 30:16-17; Colossians 2:13-15).

**Jeremiah 30:16-17** “Therefore all they that devour thee shall be devoured; and all thine adversaries, every one of them, shall go into captivity; and they that spoil thee shall be a spoil, and all that prey upon thee will I give for a prey. (17) For I will restore health unto thee, and I will heal thee of thy wounds, saith the LORD;

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because they called thee an Outcast, *saying*, This is Zion, whom no man seeketh after.”

**Colossians 2:12-15** “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. (13) And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; (14) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; (15) *And* having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”

See the glorious banner waving!  
Hear the trumpet blow!  
In our Leader's name we triumph  
Over every foe!

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**David recovered all. And David also gathered a great spoil from the Amalekites.** Now David and his men are marching back in triumph. As they approach the two hundred they left behind at Besor, they put all the flocks and herds David had taken from the Amalekites in the front, and shouted, as they came across the brook Besor, “*This is David’s spoil!*” Now read the text with me (vv. 21-25).

**1 Samuel 30:21-25** “And David came to the two hundred men, which were so faint that they could not follow David, whom they had made also to abide at the brook Besor: and they went forth to meet David, and to meet the people that were with him: and when David came near to the people, he saluted them. 22 Then answered **all the wicked men and men of Belial**, of those that went with David, and said, Because they went not with us, we will not give them ought of the spoil that **we have recovered**, save to every man his wife and his children, that they may lead them away, and depart. 23 Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, **with that which**

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**the LORD hath given us**, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but **as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.** 25 And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.”

## **MEN OF BELIAL**

Some of those who went with David to the battle were proud, wicked men, men of Belial. They said, — “We will not share the spoil with these two hundred weak men who went not into the battle with us. They are not as strong as we are. They have not done as much as we have. They do not deserve to be ranked with us. And they shall not be rewarded with us. We will allow them to have their wives and children, but no more. We have done greater things than they; and we will have greater reward. — “The spoil that WE HAVE RECOVERED!”

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**Does that sound like anyone you know?** There are many who teach that the rewards of heaven are earned by men upon the earth. They tell us that God will distribute the crowns of glory according to the merits of our labors, works, and faithfulness upon the earth. These wicked, self-righteous men of Belial will allow the poor weaklings are saved and will get to heaven by grace. But, because they have not performed great works, they shall not have all the fulness of heaven's reward. Thus they attempt to mix the works of men with the grace of God as the grounds of reward in heaven. Such a mixture, we cannot and must not tolerate.

**Proposition:** All the blessings of grace come to God's elect freely, not by the merits of our works, but by the merits of Christ's righteousness and shed blood as our Substitute.

**Who shall be rewarded?** You will find the answer to that question in David's words to the wicked men of Belial (.24). — "**As his part is that goeth down to**

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**the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.**”

**Divisions:** I have a God-given word of comfort for my faint, weak, and weary brothers and sisters in the family of God. Those who think they are mighty, strong, and deserving of special reward from God will hear nothing pleasing to their proud hearts. But I am sure that all who are the children of God, dependent upon Christ alone, seeking acceptance with God only by grace through the blood of Christ, will rejoice to hear what I have to say.

1. In the family of God there are many faint, weak brethren.
2. Christ is especially the Lord of the faint and weak ones.
3. The Lord Jesus Christ will come again to his faint ones.
4. When Christ our Lord comes again, he will grant all his faint and weak ones a full inheritance in glory.

**FAINT, WEAK BROTHERS**

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*First, **I want to remind you that in the family of God there are many faint, weak brethren.** It is true, there are some strong young men and fathers among the saints. But there are many babes in grace, too. And even the strongest are, at times, weak. The mightiest hands sometimes hang down. The most faithful soldier weakens in the knees at times. And in the army of Christ, the strongest ones know their own weaknesses, and trust Christ as their Strength. As David had his weak ones, so does our Lord. No doubt, there are some sitting before me whose faith is real, whose love is sincere; but, right now, your strength is weakness. You are depressed in spirit, downcast in your soul, and weak. If you could, you would go out to fight the Amalekites, but you cannot. — **“The spirit indeed is willing; but the flesh is weak.”** This faintness may be attributed to many things, without excusing it in the least.*

**In the case of David’s men, these weak ones might have become faint because of great perplexity.** —  
— David had wrongfully sought to join forces with



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Achish and the Philistines. **David, who had slain Goliath, was seeking to find terms of peace with the Philistines!** David, who would not allow his men to harm Saul, was trying to join forces with Saul's most determined enemies. Would David fight with the Philistines against Saul and Israel?

**God's people are sometimes perplexed, weakened and hindered by the misguided zeal, untempered words, and faulty examples of their God ordained leaders.** I am not talking now about false prophets. I am talking about faithful men who err in their speech, conduct, and attitude. When pastors, elders, deacons, and teachers behave in a manner that is out of character and contrary to the gospel of Christ, they do great harm to the family of God. — **We should always seek to adorn the gospel of Christ and mark a plain path, by our example, for our others to follow.**

- Faith!
- Faithfulness!
- Commitment!
- Contentment!

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- Encouragement!

**Titus 2:1-15** “But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: 2 That the **aged men** be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The **aged women** likewise, that [they be] in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; 4 **That they may teach the young women** to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 [To be] discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. 6 **Young men** likewise exhort to be sober minded. 7 **In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works**: in doctrine [shewing] uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, 8 Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. 9 [Exhort] **servants** to be obedient unto their own masters, [and] to please [them] well in all [things]; not answering again; 10 Not purloining, but shewing

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all good fidelity; that they may **adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.**”

“11 ¶ For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 **Teaching us** that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, **we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;** — 13 **Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;** 14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 15 ¶ These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.”

David, in a time of weakness, unbelief and frustration, set before his brethren an example of weakness, seeking safety by compromise; and many, in perplexity, followed his example!

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**No doubt, these two hundred men became weak because they looked at the events of providence, instead of looking to the God of providence.** —

They saw Ziklag burning. Their wives were gone. Their children were gone. Their cattle were gone. Everything in this world they cherished was gone. **These were not ordinary trials.** I have seen strong men break under far less pressure. Who has not experienced this weakness? We look at our circumstances and conclude the worst. When everything around us makes it appear that God is against us, we have a hard time believing that God is for us.

**These men could not pursue the Amalekites, they could not obey God's command** (v. 8), **because they looked to Ziklag's ashes rather than God's promise!** They tried to obey. They went as far as Besor. But they just could not go any farther.

**Child of God, never interpret the will of God by providence; but always interpret providence by the will (revelation) of God.**

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“Judge not the Lord by feeble sense.  
But trust Him for His grace:  
Behind the frowning providence  
He hides a smiling face.

His purposes will ripen fast,  
Unfolding every hour:  
The bud may have a bitter taste,  
But sweet will be the flower.”

**The only cure for this weakness is faith** (Romans 8:28).

**Romans 8:28** “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

- Trust the wisdom of God.
- Trust the goodness of God.
- Trust the promise of God.

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**No doubt these men became faint because the task before them was great.** — They were a small band of men going out to do battle with a great, well-equipped, mighty army. Though they had both the command of God and the promise of God, they could not think of anything except their own weakness and the Amalekites' strength.

**The fear of failure and defeat made them too weak to fight.** It is hard to be very severe with these faint ones when you realize that they were very much like us. Isn't it? **The most powerful successful foe in the world is fear!**

- Fear makes every enemy a giant. — Faith slays the giant.
- Fear creates a mountain in every path. — Faith levels the mountain.
- Fear makes the feet heavy. — Faith makes them wings and makes them swift.
- Fear makes the brook Besor a torrential river. — Faith crosses the brook, swimming if necessary, building a bridge if necessary, but faith crosses the brook.

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- Fear makes every tree a forest. — Faith clears the forest, one tree at a time.
- Fear measures the obstacle. — Faith obeys the will of God.
- Fear looks to the strength of the enemy. — Faith looks to the promise of God.

**Apply this to the church and the work of the gospel.** Fear says, “We can’t do that!” Faith says, “By the grace of God, for the glory of Christ, according to the will of God, we will do what God has given us to do.”

## **LORD OF THE WEAK**

God has many faint, weak children in his family. But, *second*, I want you to see that **Christ is the Lord of his faint and weak ones.** — **He is especially, particularly the Lord of his faint and weak ones.** — David was captain over a bunch of weak ragamuffins. Everyone that was in distress, in debt, and discontent were the ones who gathered to David. **In this too, he was typical of Christ.** A poor wretch,

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head over heels in debt, without a penny to pay, good for nothing, worthless, I came to Christ. No one else would have me. But he graciously received me and became Captain over me.

We are not among those self-praising, mighty ones, who have accomplished great feats of holiness and wonders of righteousness, by which (they suppose) they have made themselves so great before God that now, by their mighty progress, God has become a debtor to them.

Some time ago, I received an article from a man who claims to preach the gospel of God's grace. He was very upset with something I have written. So he felt compelled to write an article against it. In criticizing my doctrine, he went to great lengths to defend what he called "progressive righteousness," his own, imaginary progressive righteousness!

We have no part with such men. We mourn our weaknesses, iniquities, transgressions, and sin. But we rejoice in the faithfulness of our dear Lord. He



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delights to be the Lord of sinners who need him. He will not cast them off because they need him.

**Though we are often in distress, by reason of our own weakness, Christ is touched with the feeling of our infirmities.** Though it was through David's sin that Ziklag was burned, the Lord did not forsake him, or even punish him, but graciously rewarded him. Though it was through weakness that these men stayed behind at Besor, David still used them and rewarded them just as fully as if they had single-handedly defeated the Amalekites.

- Our Lord chastens us, but never punishes us.
- He reproveth us, but never renounces us.
- He never forsakes or ceases to love his own (Hebrews 13:5).

**Hebrews 13:5** “Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”

- He loves all his children with the same love.

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- He is with us, even when we stray, especially when we stray.
- He protects us even when we sin, especially when we sin.

**It is because we are weak and need him that Christ is ever present and willing to help us, defend us, protect us, and provide for us** (Isaiah 43:1-5; Hebrews 4:16).

**Isaiah 43:1-5** “But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine. 2 When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee. 3 For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. 4 Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have

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loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life. 5 Fear not: for I am with thee: I will bring thy seed from the east, and gather thee from the west.”

**Hebrews 4:16** “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

When will we ever learn this? — **It is not our goodness, but our sinfulness that qualifies us for mercy.** The strong do not need Christ’s strength. The righteous do not need his grace. The rich do not need his help. The Son of God still goes home and eats with publicans and sinners. He is especially the Lord of the needy. The needy need mercy!

**There is nothing we would not do for our Savior if we could; but we cannot do what we would.** I make no excuses. I am weak and faint, shamefully faint and sinfully weak (Romans 7:14-24).

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**Romans 7:14-25** “For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve

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the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

I repeat, I make no excuse for my shameful, sinful weakness. But I will glory in my infirmity, because in my weakness I am compelled to look to Christ, who has promised, — “**My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness**” (1 Corinthians 12:9). — My Savior’s perfect strength is made manifest in his grace upon me, his faint, weak, sinful servant!

## **CHRIST’S RETURN**

*Third, **the Lord Jesus Christ will come again to his faint ones.*** As soon as David had finished his business with the Amalekites, he returned to his faint, weak men at Besor (v. 21). He was determined to make them know the joy of his accomplishments. David came to the two hundred who could not follow him, and saluted them, asked about their well-being! What a great picture that is of our dear Savior!

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**Though our Lord hides himself from us for a time, for our own good, that we may seek after him, he will return to those who need him.**

**Illustration:** Peter (Mark 16:7).

**Mark 16:7** “But go your way, tell his disciples **and Peter** that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see him, as he said unto you.”

And the poor, faint, weak, and needy ones are always overjoyed to see him again (Song 3:1-4).

**Song of Solomon 3:1-4** “By night on my bed I sought him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. 2 I will rise now, and go about the city in the streets, and in the broad ways I will seek him whom my soul loveth: I sought him, but I found him not. 3 The watchmen that go about the city found me: [to whom I said], Saw ye him whom my soul loveth? 4 [It was] but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I

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held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.”

**Soon, our Lord Jesus will come again to call his faint ones, his poor, weak ones home, and we will go out with anxious hearts to meet him** (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18).

**1 Thessalonians 4:17-18** “Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

O blessed day! Our faintings will then be over forever!

## **FULL REWARD**

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And, *fourth*, **when Christ our Lord comes again, he will grant all his faint and weak ones a full inheritance in glory** (2 Samuel 2:3).

**2 Samuel 2:3** “And his men that were with him did David bring up, every man with his household: and they dwelt in the cities of Hebron.”

As David became an advocate for these two hundred faint men in the teeth of their accusers, the Lord Jesus Christ shall be Advocate for us in the Day of Judgment (vv. 23-24).

**1 Samuel 30:23-24** “Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.”



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Look at the reasons David gave for giving all his men an equal share in his spoils, and you will discover why we insist that all God's saints will have all the fulness of the glories of heaven. **The rewards of heaven are Christ's spoils, not ours!** — *“This is David's spoil!”*

**The church of God is one body, and we are one with Christ!** — Notice how David uses that word “us.”

**1 Samuel 30:23-24** “Then said David, Ye shall not do so, my brethren, with that which the LORD hath given us, who hath preserved us, and delivered the company that came against us into our hand. 24 For who will hearken unto you in this matter? but as his part is that goeth down to the battle, so shall his part be that tarrieth by the stuff: they shall part alike.”

**The glories of heaven are all gifts of Divine grace.** — *“That which the Lord hath given us!”* Human merit has nothing to do with heaven's glory. — The

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crowns are crowns of grace. — The thrones are thrones of grace. — The mansions are mansions of grace. — The songs are songs of grace.

**The weak and faint believer serves Christ just as fully and sincerely as the strong and zealous.** —

These men could not go to battle. They were too weak. But they could and did stay by the stuff.

- If they had not stayed by the stuff, the other men could not have won the victory.
- They were more fearful, but not less earnest or useful than their stronger brethren.
- Our Lord honors those who do what they can for him.

### **Illustrations:**

- The Widow.
- Martha and Mary.
- The Woman (Mark 14:6-8).

**Mark 14:6-8** “And Jesus said, Let her alone; why trouble ye her? **she hath wrought a good work on me.** 7 For ye have the poor with you

## **WEAKNESS REWARDED**

always, and whensoever ye will ye may do them good: but me ye have not always. 8 **She hath done what she could**: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying.”

**These men received their reward because it was the will of the king** (Luke 12:32; v. 25).

**Luke 12:32** “Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.”

**1 Samuel 30:25** “And it was so from that day forward, that he made it a statute and an ordinance for Israel unto this day.”

## **APPLICATION**

I am seeking recruits for the King of glory. He wants the needy! If Christ is so kind to the weak, how much more we who are weak should be.

Amen.