

# Ministry on David

## Part 3

Speaker	W. Missen
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*Note: This text is a computer generated transcript of the sermon. In some cases it may contain errors.*

[00:00:00] Let us turn to 1st Samuel, chapter 30, the 30th chapter of 1st Samuel.

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.

And had taken the women captives that were therein. They slew not any, either great or small, but carried them away, and went their way.

And we read down verse 6, 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.

[00:01:07] But David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. And David said to Abiath the priest, the Amalekite son, I pray thee bring me hither the ephod. And Abiath brought hither the ephod to David. And David inquired of 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. So David went, he and six hundred men that were with him, and came to the brook Besor, where those that were left behind stayed.

But David pursued he and four hundred men, for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint they could not go over the brook Besor. And they found an Egyptian in the field, and brought him to David.

[00:02:04] And gave him bread, and he did eat. And they made him drink water. 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. And David said unto him, To whom belondest thou? And when start 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. We made an invasion upon the south of the Cherubites, and upon the coast which belongeth to Judah, and upon the south of Caleb, and we burned Ziklag with fire. 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. And when he had brought them down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking and dancing, because of the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines and out of the land of Judah. [00:03:20] 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.

And David recovered all that the Amalekites had carried away. And David rescued his two wives, and there was nothing lacking to them, neither small nor great, neither sons nor daughters, neither spoil nor anything that they had taken to them. David recovered all. And David took all the flocks and the herds which they draved before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil. Down to verse 20. This, of course, is a very interesting incident in the life of David. David, as you know, had been anointed king over Israel, but at that time Saul was the king.

[00:04:21] And when Saul found out that David was the one who was God's anointed one to be king, he persecuted David. And David was in great distress, living in the mountains, living in caves, and having to hide from Saul and from Saul's soldiers who continually pursued them and tried to take them.

Twice we find that God allowed David to have Saul in his hand to be able to kill him, but David refused to do so. He said, No, as long as Saul's the king, he's the Lord's anointed, I'm not going to touch him.

[00:05:04] And finally, in his distress, David went right out of the land of Israel and came and lived in this town of Ziklag. And at this particular time, David and his men had been out making an incursion into other places.

And while they were away, these Amalekites, they came and invaded this place and they took away everything that belonged to David. They took away their wives and their children and their cattle and everything that they had.

Because in those days, these people were a pastoral people and they lived by their cattle and by their flocks that they had. And everything that David had that he left behind in Ziklag, these Amalekites took. [00:06:02] And when David and his men, his 600 men came back, the men were so discouraged at what had happened that they were even going to turn around and stone their leader. They were going to stone David. They were so discouraged. And you can quite imagine how discouraged they'd be. Here they were, they'd given up everything that they had to go out into that wilderness place to throw in their lot with David because they believed that David was God's man. And now they found that they'd lost everything as they thought. They were going to turn around and stone David. It was a very great test for David. And it's a lovely thing to see that when this happened, David did not allow himself to be discouraged. But it says there in verse, at the end of verse 6, well we'll read the whole verse again. 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 it says, but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. And I believe, beloved, that this should be an encouragement to us. [00:07:12] You know, we as the Lord's people from time to time are called upon to go through distressing circumstances. Nobody gets through life without trials. And we have our share of them from time to time. And we have difficulties that come upon us and trials that come upon us. How wonderful it is when we can do what David did. We can encourage ourselves in the Lord. You know, in order to encourage ourselves in the Lord, we need to know the Lord. And I hope that everyone here tonight knows the Lord. My beloved friend, if you don't know the Lord Jesus as your Saviour, if you don't know Him as your friend, you don't have the right one to turn to when the troubles came. Now David was in a great distress and a great trial. But David knew the Lord. David had known the Lord for many years. I believe that David came to know the Lord when he was just a boy, when he was a shepherd boy, caring for his father's sheep. And his father and mother had taught him the truth of the Lord. And David came to know the Lord when he was very young. And you

know, youth is the time to come to know the Lord. [00:08:19] That's why we like to encourage the children and the young people to seek the Lord when they're young. Because if you take the Lord when you're young, you have the Lord with you all through your life. And what greater life can one live than to live their life for the Lord, to live for Him. Satan is seeking young people also today. He wants them to live their lives in his service. And you know the devil's service, it seems to pay off dividends for a little while and promises people a great deal. But it's a very, very sad end. It's the end of the devil's service. And as you know, and as we know all that goes on around us, how many go the wrong way and how they end up the wrong way too. [00:09:02] And they not only end up the wrong way in this life, but they end up the wrong way for all eternity. Because to pass out of this life without Christ is to spend an eternity without Christ. And that's a terrible thing. But David knew the Lord. So in spite of this great trial, it says, David encouraged himself in the Lord his God. And then David did something else. He sought the Lord's guidance. He sought the Lord's guidance. It says that he inquired, in verse 8, David inquired of the Lord, saying, Shall I pursue after this troop and shall I overtake them? And he answered, Pursue, for thou shalt surely overtake them, and without fail recover all. David had the abiot of the priest there, and they had the ephod, which was part of the high priest's garment that the Urim and Thummim was connected with. And by that means the Lord at that time used to make known his mind. [00:10:01] And it would correspond to us today that if we were in a trial and we didn't know what to do, we made this a matter of special prayer. We prayed specially about it and sought the Lord's guidance and asked the Lord to show us what we should do. And you know, beloved friends, there's no one that ever seeks the Lord's guidance in trial that does not get an answer. You know, there's a hymn that we sing sometimes, a well-known hymn, What a Friend We Have in Jesus. And it says, Oh, what needless pain we bear, all because we do not carry everything to God in prayer. That's a great privilege we Christians have, when difficulties and trials come, of taking them to the Lord in prayer. Of course, we don't all only want to come to the Lord in prayer when we have trials. You know, you meet people sometimes and they say, you ask them, they say, well, they're in some trouble, and you say, well, do you pray? Have you ever prayed about that thing? [00:11:01] Well, you know, they say, I prayed about a number of things, but God never answers my prayers, so I stopped praying. Well, you know, they think that the answer to prayer means that God gives them what they ask for. Well, you know, God doesn't always give us what we ask for, but the answer to our prayer is all the same. You know, a mother doesn't always give her little child what the child asks for. If a little two-year-old girl comes up to her mother with a pair of scissors and says, Mommy, give me these scissors, is the mother going to give the child those scissors to play with? Of course not. Why, she'd poke her eye out with them or cut her finger or something or other. So the mother says, well, no, honey, you just can't have that now. When you get a bit older, you can play with that. The mother says no in that instance because it's not good. And sometimes God answers no to us when we ask Him things. There are times when He answers yes, and sometimes He tells us to wait too, just like sometimes we tell our children to wait when they ask us for something and say, no, you can't have that now, but you can have it later. But you see, if you're going to come to the Lord when you're in trouble, you need to know the Lord when you're not in trouble. We need to get to know the Lord. And if we know the Lord as our Savior and as our friend, when things are going well, well, then we'll know Him as the one who stands with us and gives us the answer and gives us the right answer to when we're in trouble. [00:12:21] David knew the Lord and he asked the Lord what to do. David says, shall I go after these people and overtake them? And the answer came, yes, pursue them, you'll recover everything. So David set out with his men to pursue this company. It says in verse 10, David pursued, and he and four hundred men, for two hundred abode behind, which were so faint they could not go over the brook Besor. He was a brook, he was a stream there, and of David's six hundred men, two hundred of them were so weary they just couldn't go any further.

[00:13:01] And so they left them behind and they stayed there, but the others went over. And it says when they got over there, now this, we have a wonderful lesson here that we're going to seek as if we can't see what the lesson is in these verses that follow. And verse 11, 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, 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.

So they crossed over this brook Besor. By the way, the word Besor means the good news, the good news. And it turned out to be a place of good news to this young man. And I'm going to explain in a few minutes what good news also that God has for us. [00:14:02] Here was this young man. Now they ask him about himself. We'll read that before we speak about it. Verse 13, David said to him, To whom belongest thou, and whensart thou? He says, I'm a young man of Egypt, servant to an Amalekite, and my master left me because three days ago I fell sick. Well, now here we have this young man. He's an Egyptian to start off with. He's a young man of Egypt. He's a servant or a slave to an Amalekite, because a servant in those days in this sense was just a person who had been taken to be made a slave of.

And one of these Amalekites, who was part of this company that had come and had sacked Siklag and had taken away the wives and the children and all the goods of David and his men, one of these Amalekites was the master of this Egyptian. He was the servant of this Amalekite.

[00:15:09] And he says, and three days ago my master left me because I fell sick. You see, this young man had been taken by this Amalekite and he'd been made a slave. And no doubt as long as he worked for his master, his master thought it was worthwhile keeping him.

But as soon as he got sick, what does he do to him? He just throws him off. He just leaves him there to die in the desert. He didn't care that much for that poor Egyptian. He just left him there. And he was sick and he'd had nothing to eat and he had nothing to drink. And if it hadn't been that David and his men came along just at that time, that young man would have died right there. So they find him in the field, this unconscious young man, and they bring him to David and they nurse him back to health. They gradually give him something to eat, something to drink, and something to eat. And little by little his spirit revives until he's able to talk. [00:16:19] His spirit came again, it says. And then David asks him the questions. So the first thing that David says to him is, he says, to whom do you belong? To whom belongest thou? Whose are you?

And then he says, from where, whence art thou? From where are you, he said. Where do you come from and who do you belong to? Well, he says, I'm an Egyptian.

Now in the Bible, in the Old Testament, Egypt is a type of this world in its departure from God. And this young Egyptian represents every one of us in our natural state in our departure from God.

[00:17:16] Because the Bible distinctly tells us that we're all born with a sinful nature. We're born in sin. Man has sinned. Our first parents sinned and we've inherited this sinful nature from them. And there's not one of us that is not born with a sinful nature. This young man says, I'm an Egyptian. I'm a young man of Egypt. And each one of us can say, I'm a sinner. I'm born into this world a sinner. I'm a sinner by nature and I'm a sinner by practice.

You know, we're sinners by nature because we've inherited a sinful nature. But as soon as we are old enough to know what's right and don't do it, or we know what's wrong and we do what's wrong, then we're sinners by practice. And that's true of every one of us. We're sinners by nature and we're sinners by practice. [00:18:12] And we're accountable to God because God says we've got to give an account to Him for our sins. That's another thing in the Word of God. So this young man, Egyptian, really represents what we are. Then he says, I'm a servant to an Amalekite. Now in the scripture, the Amalekites represent the lust of the flesh. And this Egyptian was a servant to Amalekite. And isn't that true of us in our natural state? In our natural state, beloved friends, we're sinners and we're servants to the lust of the flesh. We get carried away by the things that just please us naturally. The lust of the flesh. And that's what constitutes us, or makes us, we might say by practice, sinners before God. Just being carried away by our mere natural desires. [00:19:07] That's how the enemy seeks to deceive us and make us think that it's alright to do all these things just because they give us pleasure. But we've got to remember that it says in the book of Ecclesiastes these words, Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth, and let thy heart cheer thee in the ways of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thy heart and in the sight of thine eyes. But know thou that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Why you say, is God going to judge us just because we do the things that come natural to us? If those things are opposed to the will of God, God will judge us. Just because a thing comes natural to us doesn't say it's right because we're born in sin. And perhaps the things that come natural to us are easier than the right things. The wrong things come natural to us. And the right things sometimes are the things that don't come so easy to us. [00:20:05] Have you ever thought why it is that we always have to be pulling weeds out of the garden? If you have a garden or if you have a lawn at your place, you know that the greatest thing in keeping a garden nice or in keeping a nice lawn is the fight that you have against the weeds. You never have to sow weeds. Weeds come up of their own. If you want a vegetable garden and you want to get some vegetables, you've got to sow the seed for those vegetables. If you want to get some roses in your garden, you've got to plant the roses. If you want to get some nice flowers in your garden, you have to plant them. And you have to care for them. But the weeds, why you're everlastingly making a war on them. I got talking to a man one day who was pulling weeds out of his lawn. And I said, you know, that reminds us of our life. I said, the weeds come up in our lives of themselves. The bad things, they just seem to spring up. And we've got to pull them out. But if you want something good in your garden, you've got to sow it. And that's why God's got to sow so he's got to plant something in us if something good's got to come out. [00:21:13] And he says, well, you know, I wonder sometimes whether we should be pulling the weeds out because nature puts them there. I said, yes, nature puts them there, but remember it's the fallen nature. We've got a fallen nature. That's why the weeds come up in our lives. It's because we have a fallen nature. And the only remedy for the fallen nature is the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. Well, this young man had a fallen nature. He was an Egyptian and he was a servant to an Amalekite. Well, and he died right there in that desert. His master left him. That's what the service of Satan is. You know, dear friends, Satan offers to pay great dividends in his service. But do you know what he does with those who serve him?

[00:22:04] When he's got all out of them he can, he casts them off. He throws them off. And if you have anything to do with all people in some of these all folks' homes, you'll find a lot of derelicts there. People who live their lives for themselves and for the devil, and then the devil casts them off and leaves them there.

And they're the most unhappy people on the face of the earth. With one foot in the grave, the devil's cast off. Some of them even get saved at the eleventh hour, thank God, but not a great many. Do you know that the biggest percentage of the Christians in the world today are those who've been saved

while they're young? The older people get, the more hardening effect sin has on them, and the more difficult it is for them to leave Satan and come to the Lord. The majority that are saved are saved when they're young. And while you're young, dear friends, is the time to accept the Lord. As our little hymn says, we were singing, be in time while the voice of Jesus calls you, be in time. [00:23:09] Now David's men found that young man, and it was through David that that young man was saved. He was saved from death in the wilderness because David rescued him at the place of the brook Besor, which means the good news. And what is the good news today? The good news, beloved friends, is that God saves our souls through faith in the Lord Jesus. God sent his son down to this world to be the Savior. The Lord Jesus came and was born in Bethlehem, and he died on Calvary's cross. Thirty-three odd years later, he was nailed to the cross, and there he shed his precious blood for our salvation. I was over in New York a few years back and happened to be visiting some of the Puerto Ricans over there, and we were in a home speaking Spanish to a dear Puerto Rican lady. And so I said to her, I said, why do you think it was that the Lord Jesus died on the cross?

[00:24:15] And he cried out on the cross, my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Well, she says, I don't know, but she says, I think it was a terrible thing. She says that Jesus allowed the people to nail him on that cross and that he didn't escape. When he could have escaped from the cross because he was God, he didn't escape and allow himself to come down off the cross. I says, lady, I says, did you, do you realize that Jesus could have done that? He could have come down off the cross, but if he'd done it, not one of us could have been saved. Not a single one of us could have been saved. He stayed there out of love for us. He allowed them to nail him on the cross because he loved you and me, because he loved us that he allowed him to stay there. [00:25:01] Well, she says, I never understood that before. She says, thank you so much for coming around and telling me that. She says, I never understood that before. And yet that woman had, that woman had grown up with at least an outward knowledge of Christianity. She had known since her childhood that Jesus was born in Bethlehem and that Jesus had died on the cross and all that, but she didn't realize that the reason why he stayed there on that cross and suffered that he did was that was the only way that we could be saved. And I believe that right there and then she accepted the Lord Jesus as his savior and that's what you, as her savior. And that's what you can do tonight, beloved friend, if you've never done it, to realize that this is good news for you. The good news is that God gives you salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus who died as your substitute and who took your place. You see, God is not going to punish the same two persons for the same thing. And if the Lord Jesus Christ bore your punishment on the cross and you accept that for yourself, you won't have to bear it. [00:26:13] You say, well, why is it there are many people that are lost then that are going to go down to hell and to a lost eternity? It's because they refuse to take him as their savior. You must accept it. It's one thing for God to make an offer, but it's another thing for us to accept it. Each one of us individually must accept this precious thing for ourselves. That young man who was a Malachite there, servant to an Egyptian, a slave of an Egyptian, there within the field, David's men rescued him at the place of the good news. They did everything for him and so he was saved. And the Lord Jesus is the one who on Calvary's cross did everything for you. He couldn't do anything to save himself. It was what David and David's men did for him. And you and I can do nothing to save ourselves. The best life we could live could never atone for our sins. [00:27:07] If we could turn over a new leaf right now and live a perfect life in the future, that would never take away the black pages that we have in the past. Thank God, the precious blood that the Lord Jesus shed is of such value that it blocks out everything that God has against us and God then gives us the power of a new life to live for Christ from now on when we take him as our savior. Now it says that he tells David what happened. So David says, can you bring me down to this troop? Can you bring me down to where they are? He says, yes I can. But he says, you make a promise to me. He says, promise me you won't kill me, verse 15, nor deliver me into the hands of my

master.

He didn't want to go back to, he didn't want to go back to be the slave of that man again who just cast him off and left him there. And David promised him that he wouldn't deliver him. He had a new master. Who was his master now? David. [00:28:16] And David wasn't going to be a slave driver. David was going to be his master, but he was going to serve David now out of the love of his heart because of what David had done for him. And that's what it is with us, beloved friends. When the Lord saves our souls, we have a new master. We're going to serve the Lord now. The Lord is the one, the one who saved us is the one that we have as our master. And we say, I want to please him and I want to serve him. And certainly David was not going to deliver him back into the hands of his master. And that's what the Lord says to us, you know. When the Lord saves us, he says, I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. [00:29:02] The Lord is not going to let us be handed back over to Satan again once he rescues us from the power of Satan. He keeps us as his own and gives us the strength to go on in the Christian life for him. So now he's David's servant and he's going to faithfully serve David. He says to David, yes, I'll bring you down. So he told David where they'd be and he brought them along and they come down there. What did David and his men find when they get there? These Amalekites are spread abroad on the face of the earth, it says.

There in verse 16, when he had brought them down, behold, they were spread abroad upon all the earth, eating and drinking and dancing because of all the great spoil that they'd taken out of the land of the Philistines and out of the land of Judah.

[00:30:03] Here they are, this great company that had come and taken away all that was David's. They were having a regular feast. It says they were eating and drinking and dancing. Have you ever heard of those three things put together before?

Isn't that what the world goes in for, to enjoy itself even today? These men were just having a celebration. They said, now we've taken everything out of all those places. We don't have anything to fear now. We don't have to fear either God nor man, so we'll just have a celebration. Here they were eating and drinking and you can be pretty sure that they weren't just drinking milk and water. They were no doubt drinking things that were a good bit higher than that and dancing. They were really having what the world calls a good time. [00:31:04] But you know, this is really a little warning we might say what we have here. These people represent the people of the world living their lives without the Lord and not realizing that the judgment is just about to fall on them. Those people had no idea that they were just about to be put to death, every one of them.

Here they were having a great celebration. David and his men come and fall on them and the whole company of them are slaughtered, except it says 200 men who escaped on camels. The rest of them were all killed there and then.

And David recovered. David and his men recovered their wives and their children and all of their cattle. Everything that they had taken away, they recovered and a lot more beside because these people had a lot of other things that they'd taken from other places too and David was able to get it all. [00:32:09] So actually David got back a lot more than he lost in the first place. Actually David and his men were better off afterwards than they were before. And those people that were there, judgment fell upon them. That's the sad thing. And you see, that young man, that Egyptian, had he been with them, he'd have died with them. He'd have died with them. Now what happened to those

people is a picture of the judgment of God that's about to fall upon this world. The day of judgment's coming for this world. People are just getting further away from God. They're living their lives without God. The majority of people today are just eating and drinking and dancing and enjoying themselves and God's outside. God is not in all their thoughts as scripture says. And just as sure as we stand here with the word of God in our hands, the judgment of God is going to fall upon this wicked scene. Man is leaving God out of his life and is going on in wickedness and this is going to bring the judgment of God upon this world. [00:33:18] And beloved friends, every one of us here tonight should be warned to learn the lesson from this young man. Thank God that young man's master forsook him and he would be very grateful after that he had to, that he would fall into the hands of David and be spared instead of being among those that were judged. And so this is a lovely picture of God's good news that Brook Besaw was where he finally came into blessing. And this is where each one of us can come into blessing tonight. And my beloved friends tonight, if there's one of you here tonight, and I don't know the hearts of everybody here, many of you I know, but I don't know all. [00:34:01] If there's one soul here tonight that's still unsaved, that as yet has not taken the Lord Jesus as your savior, may you be tonight like this young Egyptian. May you come to the Lord Jesus. David represents here the Lord Jesus Christ. Through David, this young man was saved from a terrible fate and he found a new master, one whom he served no doubt faithfully the rest of his life. And if you up till now, beloved friend, have been in the service of Satan, no matter how young or how old you might be, turn away from the service of the devil tonight. Turn to the Lord Jesus. Take the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior, the one who died for you, the one who shed his precious blood for your salvation, the one who now lives for you in heaven and who's able to save you. He died to save us and he lives to keep us. And you say, oh, I'd like to be a Christian, but I'm afraid that I won't, I won't have the strength to hold on. The Lord's the one who gives you the strength. Do you believe that the Lord Jesus died on the cross to save you and yet he doesn't have, that he's able to save you and he won't be able to keep you? No. [00:35:19] If you can trust the Lord Jesus to save your soul, you can trust him to give you the strength day by day in the Christian life and he'll give you the strength. He'll enable you to witness a good confession for him and to live for him. And then you'll have a new master and that will be the Lord, the one who will tell you what to do in his precious word and he will give you the strength to do it. And when God's judgment falls upon this world, that it's very soon to fall, instead of being those upon whom the judgment falls, you will be with the Lord and with the Lord's people, you'll be with the Lord, the one who's going to execute the judgment, not the one be with those on whom the judgment falls. [00:36:05] Oh, how important it is to be on the right side. You know, we have to make choices in life. Every one of us makes choices all along our life. We're making choices from day to day. How important tonight that you should choose for Christ to take the Lord Jesus as your savior, accept him and he will give you the strength to live for him and to serve him until he comes to take us home to be with himself. Let us close with prayer. Gracious God, our father, we thank thee for the lesson that we see here of this young man of Egypt who was delivered from this terrible fate and found a new master in David and was able, our gracious God and father, to serve him and thus to escape from the terrible judgment that fell upon those who there were feasting and just enjoying themselves in the things of this life. [00:37:02] We pray that tonight, our gracious God and father, that precious souls may be found who realize their need of a savior and who turn to trust in him who died that they might live. So we thank thee now, our father, for this day that thou hast given us and we just commit us each one into thy loving care as we give thanks in the precious name of our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. Amen.