



Life Group Sermon Study Notes

“Father’s Day: It’s Never Too Late”

Sr. Ps. James Lowe- June 21, 2020

Warm Up (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. No right or wrong answers.

- What man has made the most significant impact on your life?
- Share one high point and one low point from this past week.
- If you had one song stuck in your head for the rest of your life, what would it be?

Word (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at www.bethelworld.org

1 Samuel 30:1-6

Now when David and his men came to Ziklag on the third day, the Amalekites had made a raid against the Negeb and against Ziklag. They had overcome Ziklag and burned it with fire and taken captive the women and all who were in it, both small and great. They killed no one, but carried them off and went their way. ³And when David and his men came to the city, they found it burned with fire, and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. ⁴Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. ⁵David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel. ⁶And David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because all the people were bitter in soul, each for his sons and daughters. But David strengthened himself in the LORD his God.

We all experience moments in life when we come face to face with how much do we really trust God to bring about better circumstances. As we look at the divisive state of our nation, family problems, personal health, and the daily grind, we consciously or subconsciously adopt a mindset to deal with these aspects of life. One mentality that seems to be prevalent is that "it's too late". We can settle for thinking we won't get to experience any restoration or reconciliation in our lifetime.

Although personal sins and collective sins have consequences, God is still able and willing to intervene on our behalf. In other words, it's never too late to trust God for better!

One example from Scripture of what it looks like to trust God for better is from king David. **David's life was full of hard moments, and time and time again, his actions show us he never gave into the mindset that says its too late.** Instead, David found strength and wisdom in the provision of God. The scenario in 1st Samuel 30 is no different. David is not officially king yet and has the constant threat of Saul looking to kill him. Furthermore, David and his men were returning home after the Philistines rejected their help in battle only to find their families gone; the city raided and destroyed in a fire by the Amalekites. David and the people wept. Yet David and the people's next responses were completely different. The people in a convoluted manner decided to blame David and desired to stone him. David could have decided to give up, be mad at people, angry at God, or go after the Amalekites without seeking God; instead, David decided to go to God.

David teaches us how to respond in times of distress. **He shows us that we should look to God over the demands that humanity might try to put on us or the natural desire to respond immediately.** David encouraged himself in the Lord. I would imagine he recalled how God had worked on his behalf in the past and of his promises to be with him in the future. Then David positioned himself to hear from God on the matter. He recognized hearing from God was not just for him, but for the well-being of all the people. God gave him a word that he would overtake and rescue. We further see that David had a heart for all people because they brought him an Egyptian man in need of food and water. They feed the Egyptian, and David learns his story. David and the people didn't get so caught up in their mission that they didn't help someone in need along the way. The Egyptian was the one God used to give them the location of the Amalekites. David recovered every possession and every person who was taken captive by the Amalekites.

We learn that no loss is too great nor pain too deep that it can't be overcome or regained through the strength and wisdom of God. May we be like David, a man after God's own heart. He didn't let the woes of life deter him from seeking to hear from God. David always trusted God, which led him to adjust his actions and mindset based on a word from the Lord.

Discussion (10-15 minutes)

Choose one of the points below, and discuss how the lesson applies to our lives.

- Have you ever operated out of a mindset that it's too late? Why and what was the situation?
- What stands out to you from David's response to finding out his family and community were taken captive and the city destroyed?

Prayer (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as other requests you may have.

- Thank God for his mercy and faithfulness towards us.
- Ask God for forgiveness for not trusting that he intervenes on our behalf.
- Ask God for the will to think and act in a way that values all of humanity.