

1 Sam 30:1-31—Me-We-God-You-We Model Sermon Outline

I. Introduction (Me/We).

A. My situation—taking care of/cleaning the house.

1. “Has it come to this?”—no longer making money, etc.
2. What Jesus accomplished in 3 years vs. me.
3. Feelings of worthlessness/meaninglessness.

B. Such feelings probably not limited to me.

1. Stay-at-home moms/HWs—feel trapped: “I have no life.”
2. Man (or woman) in a job you can’t stand.
3. Students: “Why am I taking chemistry? I’ll never use it.”
4. Retirees: “Life has passed me by—never see the kids anymore.”
5. X’ians: “Where is God? I don’t see him.”

Interesting passage of Scripture that might help us when we are prone to think this way—1 Samuel 30:

Proposition: What this passage is telling us is that: “*God rewards faithfulness.*”

- Even the little things are *not forgotten* and can be *very important*.

II. Biblical Exposition (God).

A. Background (vv. 1-6). [READ]

1. Ziklag (1 Samuel 27)—David flees Saul; lives with Philistines >1 yr.; given Ziklag (east of Gaza).
2. Philistines going to battle against Saul & Israel (1 Sam 29:1).
 - David in a very tough situation.
 - Even when he lived with Philistines, David had not attacked Israel (**1 Sam 27:8-12**).
 - What we do in times of stress is a very good indication of what we really believe, & whether we are truly faithful or not.
3. God rewards David’s faithfulness.
 - The Philistine commanders mistrusted David (**1 Sam 29:2-3**).
 - God rewarded David’s faithfulness to Israel—even though David was estranged from Israel, God provided a way out from attacking his own people.
4. 1 Sam 30:2-6—Ziklag sacked; wives taken; David’s men so distressed they want to stone David.
 - How often we give into despair and fail to see God’s provision for us.
 - David didn’t lash back, but accepted responsibility & found strength in the Lord.
 - African proverb: “In weeping a leader must still open his eyes to see the road.”
 - As salt and light all X’ians are leaders: to lead people to Christ; to show them the right way to live—by word and example. God honors that faithfulness.
5. vv. 7-10 (READ)
 - *Ephod* = kilt; high priest had urim & thummim to discern God’s will.
 - **vv. 9-10**—the 200 who remained—Exhausted, but played a vital function, as we will see later.

B. vv. 11-20—The Battle. [READ]

1. vv. 11-15—the Egyptian: “God rewards faithfulness” (both ways).
 - *The Egyptian* got his life by giving information.
 - *David/Israel* got vital information they needed—David could have killed him (he was foreigner & member of an enemy raiding party); he showed compassion instead (see, **Matt 10:42**).
 - Don’t be so focused on the “big things” in this life, or that we want to do for God, that we neglect the seemingly small things and “unimportant people.”
 - God has a plan for them (us) and the “big things” may *hinge on their contribution* (“For want of a nail”)—here, David’s victory hinged on this seemingly unimportant, sick Egyptian.
 - Compare the difference between David’s compassion to an enemy & the *lack of compassion* shown by the Egyptian’s Amalekite master to his own slave—that lack of compassion came back to slaughter the Amalekites.

- Truly, “God rewards faithfulness.”

C. vv. 21-25—*The Immediate Aftermath* [READ]

1. David recognized that “God rewards faithfulness” (v. 23—“*the Lord has given us*” the victory).
2. The 200 vs. the 400:
 - *The 200 were exhausted, but were faithful in what they had*—they guarded the equip. (v. 24).
 - *They also acted as a rear guard*—Ziklag had been taken b/c David had *not* stationed any fighting men to guard the city.
 - In the battle for souls, some go out (missions); others are needed to stay and provide the funding; others are needed to stay and take care of the home.
 - *The 400 who fought were selfish*—as long as they thought they would get it, the spoils were *David’s spoil*” (v. 20)—they demonstrate that *our money reveals what we are really like*.
 - *The 400 were also shortsighted*—in future battles the 200 would be needed (and some of the 400 might be the guards)—but they were willing to have 1/3 of David’s army leave.
3. “God rewards faithfulness,” but he uses his people to do so.
 - Here God used David both to *articulate a policy* and to *carry it out*.
 - David had credibility b/c he didn’t hoard his plunder—*he led by example*.

D. vv. 26-31—*The Long-term results.* [READ]

1. David also shared the spoil with the elders of Judah.
2. He also shared spoil with his friends in “*all the places where David himself and his men were accustomed to go*” (v. 31).
 - When David was on the run from Saul, these people had shown him friendship & hospitality.
 - They had been faithful to him, possibly at the risk of their lives.
 - They had probably not expected any reward, and may have even forgotten about the kind acts they had done.

III. Applications and Vision/Conclusion (You/We).

A. *Applications (You).*

1. All situations—even the seemingly insignificant ones, like the 200 exhausted men & the sick Egyptian—are important.
 - If you are faithful in the little things, God does not forget or overlook that (**Luke 16:10**).
2. What appears to us to be unimportant may be a necessary link in a chain leading to a very large & important outcome (“For want of a nail”).
3. This perspective should show us that our seemingly meaningless lives at home or school or work are not meaningless at all—but are invested with meaning.
 - We may not see the fruit/reward for a long time (like those in Bethel, Ramoth, and Jattir), but we do not lose heart.
4. B/c God uses his people to reward faithfulness, we can look for acts of faithfulness of others (like David did), and *encourage, recognize, and reward them*.
5. Let’s try this week to recognize and acknowledge—even reward—just *one act of faithfulness* by someone else: *Who knows where this may lead?*

B. *Vision/Conclusion (We).*

What if we all started thinking and acting this way?

1. A lot less whining and “poor me.”
2. Co-workers, fellow students, friends may notice that I don’t give in to despair or bitterness like so many others—and that may give me a natural way to talk to them about Jesus.
3. Think of how strengthening and encouraging it would be if we recognized the faithfulness of others:
 - The world doesn’t do that.
 - That is where the church can be so different from the world.
4. “God rewards faithfulness.”
 - He hasn’t forgotten or overlooked us.
 - He wants to use us as his instruments to honor the faithfulness of others.