

## Take Back Your Story

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[\(YouTube Video\)](#)

### KEY:

Highlighted = put on screens

### [ILLUSTRATION OF ME PUTTING ON A SNOWSUIT ON MY CHILD]

- It was more than he could handle, but it was good for him, for his protection, etc.
- If I had run him out there with a onesie on, etc. I'd be ridiculed for being a terrible dad

### LIE: God will never put on you more than you can handle

- There will be times you and I are completely OVERWHELMED . . . but in Christ we can (and will) OVERCOME
- *Bad people don't get overwhelmed, ALL people get overwhelmed!*
- David wrote honestly in Psalms about both **DISTRESS** and **RESTORATION** . . . the human experience is living in the tension of both.

### Psalm 120:1-7

<sup>1</sup>In my **distress** I called to the Lord, and he answered me. <sup>2</sup>Deliver me, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue. <sup>3</sup>What shall be given to you, and what more shall be done to you, you deceitful tongue? <sup>4</sup>A warrior's sharp arrows, with glowing coals of the broom tree! <sup>5</sup>Woe to me, that I sojourn in Meshech, that I dwell among the tents of Kedar! <sup>6</sup>Too long have I had my dwelling among those who hate peace. <sup>7</sup>I am for peace, but when I speak, they are for war!

### Psalm 126:1-7

<sup>1</sup>When the Lord **restored** the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dreamed. <sup>2</sup>Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, "The Lord has done great things for them." <sup>3</sup>The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy. <sup>4</sup>Restore our fortunes, Lord, like streams in the Negev. <sup>5</sup>Those who sow with tears will reap with songs of joy. <sup>6</sup>Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them.

### SUMMARIZE STORY OF DAVID AND MEN FINDING CAMP RAIDED AND BURNED

- David was fighting behind the Philistine lines, using this temporary guise to attack other enemies of the Israelites
- The Amalekites had enough of David's advancements and decided to retaliate

### 1 Samuel 30:1-3

<sup>1</sup>David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, <sup>2</sup>and had taken captive the women and

everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them, but carried them off as they went on their way. <sup>3</sup>When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive.

- Anytime you see “3 Days” in scripture you need to pay attention . . . It’s cluing you in to a story of rescue, restoration or resurrection.
- David advanced against the enemy, and the enemy retaliated . . . this also happens in the spiritual
- There is a spiritual battle going on all around us in places and spaces that we can’t see but can perceive. (Ephesians 6 - We do not fight a battle of flesh and blood)
- Have you ever noticed that when you mobilize to do something great for God, there seems to be resistance?
- Or maybe, like David, you feel like something has been stolen from you . . . a relationship, a hope, a dream, a job, an opportunity, your dignity, your peace
- The thief comes to steal, kill, and destroy
- He may not be able to steal our salvation, but he wants to neutralize your effectiveness in the Kingdom
- This is one of the “Perpetrators of Pain” . . . Spiritual Attack

## **1. RESISTANCE**

### **IF YOU’RE NOT FACING RESISTANCE, YOU’RE NOT ADVANCING**

- David had spent the last 16 months as a secret operative behind enemy lines raiding the Geshurites, the Girzites and the Amalekites
- If you’re encroaching on the enemy’s territory he WILL retaliate
- Not all circumstances are enemy attacks . . . car breaking down because you didn’t change the oil
- By reasoning if we decide to be neutral or retreat we’ve played into the enemies ploy
- If you’re not experiencing resistance you have to ask yourself, “Am I advancing against the Kingdom of God”
- This encourages us who are experiencing resistance . . . the Devil knows how effective you can be, so he’s put a target on your back.

### **WHY DIDN’T GOD PREVENT THIS? GOD DOESN’T ALWAYS INTERVENE TO PREVENT HE INTERVENES TO PRODUCE** (This is from Week 1) . . .

- This light and momentary affliction . . . it’s producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is beyond comparison (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)
- If as heavy as your affliction feels, if it’s called light in comparison to the glory you’re going to experience in Christ, HOW HEAVY IS THAT GLORY GOING TO BE?!

### **NEWTON’S 3RD LAW**

- Every action has an opposite and equal reaction . . . you will face resistance. In our case, there is an opposing reaction but it is NOT EQUAL!! (greater is he who is in us than he who is in the world, no weapon formed against me can prosper!)

- God always takes what the enemy means for evil and turns it around for good and for the saving of many lives (Genesis 50) (good for you, and for the world. It's not a zero sum game)
- "God allows evil enough space that it ultimately terminates itself" -Timothy Keller

## 2. RESPONSE

- There is a difference between a REACTION and a RESPONSE to your circumstances
- Your *reaction* is immediate, your *response* is filtered, thoughtful, intentional

### 1 Samuel 30:6

<sup>6</sup>And 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.

#### Victim Mentality:

These are David's Mighty Men. They volunteered for this.

**PEOPLE NEED A PLACE TO PUT THEIR PAIN (If you don't put your pain in the proper place -- The Lord -- you will blame others)**

- You can't blame anyone else for the misery you're in
- There is a difference between being a victim and adopting a victim mentality!
- Casting blame only robs us from being able to move out of that place
- The Holy Spirit of God empowers you to walk in victory . . . if there is a tiny, minute thing you can do about your situation,
- *"You may be able to steal my stuff, but you can't steal my salvation!" . . . "You may be able to steal my possessions, but you can't steal my praise!" Cmon, don't let the enemy steal your joy!!*
- If you are going to walk out of the paralysis of pain, you have to adopt the mentality that says no matter I have the ability
- Somehow God saw it fit for this situation to go through His sovereign hand as a gift to me AS A GIFT TO ME . . .

#### "GAIN OF LOSS"

- Elizabeth Elliott said "what you gain in relationship with the Giver far outweighs the loss of the gift"
- "Every good and perfect gift comes from above"
- "God gives us everything we would ask for, if we knew everything He knows."

So how did David respond that helps him tap into this paradigm

### 1 Samuel 30:4-5

<sup>4</sup>Then David and the people who were with him raised their voices and wept until they had no more strength to weep. <sup>5</sup>David's two wives also had been taken captive, Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail the widow of Nabal of Carmel.

## LAMENT:

- Weep
- Don't push it aside with a pithy theological phrase
- You've experienced a loss
- A feeling buried never dies
- You can't selectively numb
- This is the portal to healing (though weeping may tarry through the night)
- God had to empty them of themselves so they could be filled with something better

[Possible Illustration: "[RUN TOWARDS THE ROAR](#)"]

### 1 Samuel 30:6b

But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

- DAVID DIDN'T DENY HIS FEELINGS . . . BUT HE PUT HIS FEELINGS IN SUBMISSION TO HIS FAITH!
- He put his EMOTIONS in submission to his DEVOTION to God!

**"BRING ME THE EPHOD"**

### 1 Samuel 30:7

<sup>7</sup>And David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelech, "[Bring me the ephod.](#)"

- The ephod is the "garment of praise" . . . the outer garment the priest would wear to represent the people in worship
- **It was an outer signifier of worship**
- If our praise is contingent on what he does for us, it will leave us feeling empty . . . If we praise Him for WHO HE IS we

[You know how you feel differently when you are wearing different clothes? Illustration]

- Dress for the job you want
- "Dress to impress" . . . Dress in the way you want to *impress* upon your heart to respond!
- Don't let anyone minimize the pain you're going through . . . Praise isn't the ABSENCE of Pain . . . But Praise in the MIDST of Pain changes our Perspective!!

DAVID WORE THE EPHOD IN HIS MOST **TRAGIC** MOMENT AND IN HIS MOST **TRIUMPH** MOMENT

- "Whether you give or take away"
- The other time he wore the Ephod was dancing during victory parade

### Ephesians 4:22-24

<sup>22</sup>You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off** your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; <sup>23</sup>to be made new in the attitude of your minds; <sup>24</sup>and to **put on** the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

### **Ephesians 6:10-14**

<sup>10</sup>Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. <sup>11</sup>**Put on** the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. <sup>12</sup>For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. <sup>13</sup>Therefore **put on** the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then . . .

\*\*There is something we need to PUT ON when God PUTS ON US more than we can handle . . . PRAISE

***\*\*Bringing the ephod is putting on the garment of praise to worship God. It is time to seek God again, face to face. Looking up, and not anywhere else!***

### **3. RESTORATION**

#### **1 Samuel 30:8**

8 and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

- **God - "Let's go take back your story" . . . It's time to take it back**
- YOU NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR ENEMIES WILL BE COMPLETELY VANQUISHED!
- "Not a man of them escaped"

#### **1 Samuel 30:18-20**

<sup>18</sup>David recovered all that the Amalekites had taken, and David rescued his two wives. <sup>19</sup>Nothing was missing, whether small or great, sons or daughters, spoil or anything that had been taken. David brought back all. <sup>20</sup>David also captured all the flocks and herds, and the people drove the livestock before him, and said, "This is David's spoil."

- *How do you know God as a defender . . .*
- *How do you know God as a provider . . .*
- *How do you know God as a healer . . .*
- *How do you know God to be a RESTORER unless you've had something stolen and need to be restored?!*
- Proverbs . . . God will make a thief repay 7 fold!!