



## Revival Or Funeral

1 Samuel 30:1 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 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.**

7 And David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech's son, I pray thee, bring me hither the ephod. 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.

9 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.

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;

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, 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 drave before those other cattle, and said, This is David's spoil.

21 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 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.

26 And when David came to Ziklag, he sent of the spoil unto the elders of Judah, even to his friends, saying, Behold a present for you of the spoil of the enemies of the LORD;

27 To them which were in Bethel, and to them which were in south Ramoth, and to them which were in Jattir,

28 And to them which were in Aroer, and to them which were in Siphmoth, and to them which were in Eshtemoa,

29 And to them which were in Rachal, and to them which were in the cities of the Jerahmeelites, and to them which were in the cities of the Kenites,

30 And to them which were in Hormah, and to them which were in Chor-ashan, and to them which were in Athach,

31 And to them which were in Hebron, and to all the places where David himself and his men were wont to haunt. KJV

## **I. Introduction**

Picture of what Christ has recovered for us.

## **II. Loss of All**

The outward losses were only a picture of inner spiritual loss.

Lost everything; possessions, home, family ...

He had forgotten to pray, counseling only with himself, he had turned aside from the inquiry at the throne of God.

Because he had lost vision and passion he had also lost the ability for God-governed action.

1 Sam 27:1 And **David said in his heart**, I shall now perish one day by the hand of Saul: there is nothing better for me than that I should speedily escape into the land of the Philistines; and Saul shall despair of me, to seek me any more in any coast of Israel: so shall I escape out of his hand. KJV

That is why we find David on the wrong side, marching with the wrong army and fighting his own. ...marching into battle with the Philistines against Israel ... only to return to find complete loss.

VISION; PASSION; ACTION

Three things any group of believers must have to survive:

Vision

Passion

Action

People can get away today with a great deal even as Christians; living comfortably, listening to good preaching, enjoying it all with very little personal sacrifice.

But that kind of Christianity is totally inadequate for the real effectiveness of any church.

Our church today stands at a crossroads facing either a revival or a funeral.

What do I mean by Revival?

Vision: the upward look toward heaven.

Passion: an inward hunger and compassion of soul.

Action: the outward manifestation of vision and passion.

But we have lost all three.

We have little vision;

Scarcely any passion

Hardly any heaven directed action.

What is Vision?

David lost his vision because:

A. Forgot God's promises.

B. Ceased to believe in God's power.

He lost everything because he became bankrupt of vision.

What have we lost?

Is heaven consider in our transaction, our priorities the way we spend our time?

Belief has one eye on the throne for orders and the other on the judgment seat of Christ in responsibility for our words and actions.

There is such a marked difference between *knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of the Word*.

**Too often we are a group of unbelieving believers,**

**Perhaps never so well equipped and yet so poorly endued.**

Isa 6:5-9

5 So I said:

"Woe is me, for I am undone! Because I am a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips;  
For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts."

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal which he had taken with the tongs from the altar.  
7 And he touched my mouth with it, and said:

"Behold, this has touched your lips;

Your iniquity is taken away,

And your sin purged."

8 Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:

"Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us?"

Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."

9 And He said, "Go, and tell this people:

'Keep on hearing, but do not understand;

Keep on seeing, but do not perceive.' NKJV

Isaiah's vision of holiness brought:

**Confession** – his vision of heaven's holiness prompted repentance and forgiveness for himself personally.

**Commission** – realization of the hopelessness of men without God Caused him to respond with a desire to go...

None of these things move us ...

**Oh, that we would get a vision of God's awesomeness and Hell's awfulness.**

Christians (total all kinds) (=World C)	<b>2,076,629,000</b>
13. Muslims	<b>1,265,230,000</b>
14. Nonreligious	<b>786,831,000</b>
15. Hindus	<b>849,439,000</b>
16. Buddhists	<b>371,375,000</b>
17. Atheists	<b>151,162,000</b>
18. New-Religionists	<b>105,256,000</b>
19. Ethnoreligionists	<b>237,386,000</b>
20. Sikhs	<b>24,569,000</b>
21. Jews	<b>14,789,000</b>

Oft times we give a money to missions but wouldn't walk across the street to talk to an unsaved neighbor.

Have we any vision of hopelessness

Of men without God.

Have we any vision of our own sinfulness?

Have we any vision of holiness? Do we reverence God's presence?

How do we prepare our hearts for His presence?

Passion

What about our passion to seek God?

Phil 3:10-14

10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. KJV

David had not inquired of God in such a long time that is why he found himself in such an awful place.

So often we have plenty of people ready to interfere but so few ready to intercede.

**Remember the man who sins will stop praying ...**

**Conversely the man who prays will stop sinning.**

Victory in our services is truly won or lost long before the preacher steps into the pulpit.

Prayer – Intercession – The agony of a Hannah – who's lips moved but no sound came out.

Rom 8:26

26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. KJV

Is the church program so indispensable,

The comforts of life so dear,

Success in business so important,

That it must be purchased with at the price of prayerlessness; and spiritual bareness?

David went over to the enemies side when he became the victim of depression ...

His loss of vision

And loss of Passion

Paralyzed all his heaven inspired action.

When giant killers move in with the giant's family ...

How did David recover his spiritual and material losses?

Acts 2:1-4

2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. KJV

David Recovered ALL!

Not only his loved ones and his possessions,

But his Vision, Passion & Action

David strengthened himself ...

We find him inquiring of the Lord again ...

God relights his flaming vision and passion and once again he takes off with such energy that 200 of his own men have to be left behind in the pursuit of the enemy.

David repented and therefore recovered all.

Repentance is not just a few tears at the end of a touching sermon... it is a CHANGE of heart and mind about God and sin.

When he turned back to heaven God immediately answered.

Which do you want?

A Revival ... Or A Funeral?

