

20220724 BLESSINGS TO THE JOYFUL!

Philippians 4:4; 1 Samuel 30

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

LESSONS ON JOY FROM THE STORY OF DAVID IN 1 SAMUEL 30

1. Difficult situations can arise in life. (1 Samuel 30:1-2)

¹ Three days later, when David and his men arrived home at their town of Ziklag, they found that the Amalekites had made a raid into the Negev and Ziklag; they had crushed Ziklag and burned it to the ground.

² They had carried off the women and children and everyone else but without killing anyone.

2. It's human to be frustrated when we face a difficult situation.

(1 Samuel 30:3-4)

³ When David and his men saw the ruins and realized what had happened to their families,

⁴ they wept until they could weep no more.

3. Learn to rejoice to find strength in God (1 Samuel 30:6)

⁶ David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

To rejoice means 'to be full of cheer'.

4. A joyful person finds the clear vision from God though prayer and God's answer. (1 Samuel 30:8)

⁸ Then David asked the LORD, "Should I chase after this band of raiders? Will I catch them?" And the LORD told him, "Yes, go after them. You will surely recover everything that was taken from you!"

5. A joyful person steps out courageously and experiences God's victory. (1 Samuel 30:17-20)

¹⁷ David and his men rushed in among them and slaughtered them throughout that night and the entire next day until evening. None of the Amalekites escaped except 400 young men who fled on camels.

¹⁸ David got back everything the Amalekites had taken, and he rescued his two wives.

¹⁹ Nothing was missing: small or great, son or daughter, nor anything else that had been taken. David brought everything back.

²⁰ He also recovered all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock. "This plunder belongs to David!" they said.

6. A joyful person is gracious. (1 Samuel 30:21)

²¹ Then David returned to the brook Besor and met up with the 200 men who had been left behind because they were too exhausted to go with him. They went out to meet David and his men, and David greeted them **joyfully**.

Without joy, there is selfish greed which is evil.

²² But some evil troublemakers among David's men said, "They didn't go with us, so they can't have any of the plunder we recovered. Give them their wives and children, and tell them to be gone."

7. A joyful person is generous. (1 Samuel 30:23-24)

²³ But David said, "No, my brothers! Don't be selfish with what the LORD has given us. He has kept us safe and helped us defeat the band of raiders that attacked us.

²⁴ Who will listen when you talk like this? We share and share alike—those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment."

THREE BLESSINGS TO THE JOYFUL

1. Strength in God
2. Clear vision from God
3. Power of God (Victory)

TWO SPIRITUAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE JOYFUL

1. Graciousness

A joyful person understands others and is gracious to them.

2. Generosity

A joyful person is generous enough to share the victory with everyone.