

VALLEY OF VISION**Part 9: Facing Ziklag**

1 Samuel 27 – 30

Pastor Daniel Hahn

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MESSAGE NOTES

Self-pity is the most dangerous and addictive of all narcotics. It blinds and isolates us. The greatest temptations come when our identity becomes distorted.

— Robert Fryling, *The Leadership Ellipse, Shaping How We Lead by Who We Are*

Compromise — (1 Samuel 27:1 – 7)

Pretense — (1 Samuel 27:10 – 12)

Disaster — (1 Samuel 30:1 – 6)

God allows temptation and sin to show us who we are; they are the means by which He makes us aware of all the unholy tendencies, motives, and appetites that reside within us. To know and to despair of ourselves is to know our need for God, the necessary prerequisite for handing ourselves over to Him for His healing. — David Roper

God forces us to our knees. But is it better to have the Hell scared out of us or for it to remain in us? I believe the latter is the worse scenario. Better to be there, scared to death, than to be standing tall in a false security. To be fully down, pinned, spent, crushed and defeated is to be in a position to be picked up. — Chuck Swindoll

David was greatly distressed ... But David found strength in the Lord his God. — 1 Samuel 30:6

It is during seasons of brokenness that we encounter and `wrestle' with God and He marks our lives with a fresh sense of the reality that we forever need Him. ... I have come to believe that a Christian leader's greatest moments are the dark, lonely times in which God marks our souls with that profound sense of our need for Him.

— Crawford Loritts, *Leadership as An Identity*

David was greatly distressed ... But David found strength in the Lord his God.

— 1 Samuel 30:6

Sometimes when you're in a dark place you think you've been buried, but you've actually been planted.

— Christine Caine, *Undaunted*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take some time to share anything that impacted you from last weekend's message.
- As a group, can you summarize this part of David's life? Feel free to look back over 1 Samuel chapters 27 – 30 or your notes from the weekend.
- What prompted David to sell out to the enemy at this point in the story? In your own life, can you identify periods in your own life journey that have been particularly discouraging or depleting? How did you manage that?
- David's good days, as well as some of his worst days are forever recorded in Scripture. Why do you think God chose to reveal the dark side of the "man after His own heart?"
- What are some factors that can make it hard for us as believers to be authentic and vulnerable about our shortcomings and failures?
- Like all of us, there were situations in which David demonstrated great self-discipline and character, and then other times when he simply bottomed out. David made some disastrous decisions which led to destructive results. In our own life stories, what can we do that will help us make better decisions up front, allowing for better results to follow?
- The destruction of Ziklag, in many ways, marked a turning point in David's story. How would you describe that? Can you identify a point in your life when God really got your attention through some crisis?
- Looking at 1 Samuel 30:6, how would you frame David's response to the tragedy?
- Without feeling put on the spot, are you able to share some issue you've wrestled with or some character quality you've been working hard to develop?
- How has this series helped you develop your walk with God in some practical ways?