



JC Alzamora: Sunday Nov 5, 2023

## Recovering David's Heart of Conquest

1 Samuel 30:6-8

### OPEN

This week we are taking a break from our I Am series as JC Alzamora will be joining us for a powerful weekend of preaching and prayer ministry. Feel free to discuss the events of Saturday nights prayer service or Sunday mornings worship service. Share what God spoke to you during these times. How were you encouraged? How were you challenged? Where did you want to go deeper? If God spoke to you share that with your group and have them pray and discern with you how you should respond.

### READ

**Read 1 Samuel 30:1-8** *CONTEXT: David and his army return to Ziklag to find their home raided by their enemies the Amalekites. Not only have their possessions been plundered but all their people have been captured and taken away.*

- Summarize the story in your own words.
- David returns home finding everything lost. Town burned, possessions and people taken. How does David's men respond? How does David respond?
- When have you gone through a time of difficult loss? How did you respond? How did God meet you through that time?
- Not only has David lost everything but his own men are now turning against him (30:6). Read 1 Samuel 30:6-8 again. David's has no strength of his own, so he finds strength in the Lord.
  - When has God given you strength to face difficulties?
  - How did that build your faith and trust in him?

### REFLECT

Scripture contains many examples of discernment but most powerfully is the life of Christ. Discerning the voice of the Father for Jesus was not only a practice but a *rule for his life*. Read these examples and discuss:

- How did Jesus discern the voice of the Father?
  1. "Therefore Jesus answered and was saying to them, 'Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of Himself, *unless it is something He sees the Father doing; for whatever the Father does, these things the Son also does* in like manner.'" **–John 5:19-20.**
  2. "I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me." **–John 5:30**
  3. "For I have come down from heaven, *not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.*" **–John 6:38**
  4. "So Jesus said, 'When you lift up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He, and I do nothing on My own initiative, but I speak these things as the Father taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me; He has not left Me alone, for I always do the things that are pleasing to Him.'" **–John 8:28-29**
- Everything Jesus did and said was in response to him discerning the Father's leading in his life. How do you discern God's leading in your life? How can the witness of scripture, the Holy Spirit, and the prayers of other believers help you hear from and follow God's leading?
- Discuss this quote: **"God will speak to the hearts of those who prepare themselves to hear; and conversely, those who do not so prepare themselves will hear nothing even though the Word of God is falling upon their outer ears every Sunday..."** - A.W. Tozer

### APPLY/PRAY

When David doesn't know what to do he inquires of the Lord in prayer (30:8). A fifteenth century practice in discerning God's leading through prayer is to "frame" our prayer request as a question.

- What is a decision you have before you in your life? Take some time right now (on your phone or a piece of paper) to frame it in the form of a question to God. If you feel comfortable share your question with your group and pray into those questions together.
- Pray for our church, elders, staff and leaders for God's wisdom during this time of transition.

