

1 Samuel 30:1-26

From David to Jesus to Us: Restoring Humanity to Humanity

October 18, 2020

Main Point: David, the soon-to-be king of Israel, faces a test. How will he respond when his and his men's wives and children are kidnapped and their homes and livestock are raided? David's leadership helps us to see the fruit of honesty and action. But more than that, David points us to Jesus, and to His victory for the sake of His church, for the sake of all humanity.

SI: from Ch. 27 > David flees to the land of the Philistines, with Achish, king of Gath, and Achish gives David and his men safe refuge in the country town of Ziklag. A time of rest for over a year.

Read 1 Samuel 30:1-26

Intro: It was a Saturday afternoon, last month. Joe and Jennifer Montana were at home. Their 9 month old granddaughter sleeping in a playpen nearby. An intruder somehow got in the house, picked up the baby and ran upstairs with her. Joe and his wife run upstairs and after what they referred to as a 'tussle,' Grandmama Bear Jennifer grabs the baby and the attempted kidnapper flees the house. Now this is Joe Montana. Long time, legendary QB for SF 49'ers. Lots of resources, safe home, safe neighborhood, right? How could this happen? The Montana's had to fight off evil in order to restore peace and safety. To restore humanity.

This story is a picture pointing to what the Church is and does.

The Church is on mission, always, to restore humanity, because this is what Jesus came to do, and we are His ambassadors.

Jesus came to restore humanity to humanity:

What do I mean by this? Restoring humanity – the original way we were made –

Garden of Eden humanity, humanness –

2 things:

Createdness > dependence upon and surrender to the One who lovingly made us

Community > safety in each other b/c we accept our own weaknesses and help fill each other's gaps > this is marriage and the family – God made a helper for Adam b/c he was created sinless but not everything was complete – he had lacks, gaps, weaknesses and disabilities that only this specific woman could fill –

So this joyful submission to human Createdness and the Community flowing out of it are the only way to enjoy God's goodness and to enjoy God.

And then! The mission of David here, of Jesus, and our mission, our purpose for being here is to restore humanity to humanity, to restore human-ness to humanity.

This is what David does, and we will see how it leads us to see how Jesus does this, and finally, how we in the church do this, too.

1 See David: Emotionally Healthy Leadership (Five things)

1. Mourning & Lamenting vs. 4-6

David and his men are on the run from King Saul who b/c of his jealousy, wants to kill David. David and his men have fled to the land of the Philistines to find refuge. Then they are forced to leave and make a 3 day march to Ziklag where they find this. David a model of honesty in his emotions before the Lord.

David is with his men, in the mix with them, in the hurt, in the sorrow, experiencing everything they experienced. When the world falls in on you, mourning and lamenting come first.

2. Seeking God for Strength vs. 6-8

So then what happens?

David models seeking God for strength. V. 6 – 'Strengthened himself in the LORD his God.' Power is found in God alone. Warrior David takes all that has happened and does not panic, does not blame God, does not wallow in victimhood, but takes this as part of life in this fallen world. And he goes to God for strength.

Then, as he is strengthened in the Lord, he models

3. Fighting to Win Back What was Lost (vs. 9ff)

As the kids say, "let's go!" Let's do this. Let's not sit back, shrink back, let's go take back what was taken from us. Not going to sit by and let someone get away with kidnapping. And then they encounter some ground intelligence – the Egyptian slave – who leads them exactly to where they need to go. This ground intelligence is absolutely essential in their fight. We'll get to this later – as ground intelligence about the way the world thinks is absolutely essential to the church's mission.

When they are victorious, David models

4. Fighting for the weak > vs. 22-25. David abolishes forever the haves and the have nots – the world may operate under the production principle – your worth and value are in your ability to produce – but David abolishes forever the 'earn it or else' status achievement in the Church. One app of this: ILLUS of people who have a lot of Bible knowledge and those who don't and how they can feel less than b/c they are not as mature as others are and how this can hinder our effectiveness in outreach. What's the solution?

The stark contrast between v. 22 and v. 23. 22 is all about what these guys have done, what they have accomplished – “the spoil that we have recovered” – and v. 23 is David’s correction – wait a minute – this spoil is what God has given us. So renew yourselves in what you have been given and rebuke yourself when you think it’s what you have accomplished on your own, even something as beautiful and wonderful as knowledge about God’s word and ways.

This can be a temptation in the church – to fall for the wickedness and worthlessness – this poison can slip in unnoticed – judging others as unworthy or more worthy depending on what they do... or just as bad – to do this to yourself – to judge yourself as more worthy or less worthy and therefore either puff yourself up and wonder why others don’t notice what a great leader you would be for this team or this project, or to shrink back and never get involved in anything of service to the church because you have judged yourself as less than. Of course, we use tools of godly discernment and testing before the Lord and the elders of our motives and gifts, but don’t undermine kingdom growth by hoarding what is only yours to give away because it’s been first given freely to you by the Lord of all.

To press on this just a bit more > ILLUS of “Guns for Hands” by Twenty One Pilots

I know what you think in the morning
When the sun shines on the ground
And shows what you have done
It shows where your mind has gone
And you swear to your parents
That it will never happen again
I know, I know what that means,
That you all have guns
And you never put the safety on

Will you look at yourself hard and recognize that you have guns for hands? That you have incredible power to kill and destroy? Not just other people who have hurt you, but you yourself?

So David fights for the weak, and then,

5. Sharing the Treasure > vs. 22-26

See David, now,

2 See Jesus: Restoring Humanity to Humanity

What David is doing and how this points to what Jesus did and does for all who trust in Him and come in to the refuge of the Church. This is for those who come in to the refuge, who see Jesus and run to Him > 4 Things to highlight about Jesus:

1. **Blessed are Those Who Mourn & Lament**

The Incarnation. God with us. So that like David, when the world falls in on you – all this bad stuff piles up on Jesus so that he feels what his people feel. Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus b/c his friends were torn apart by their grief. Jesus weeps with us. Blessed are Those Who Mourn, for they shall be comforted – Matthew 5:4

(I wonder if many of you and your anger would be dissipated, diminished, and turned to good if you would let yourself mourn over the brokenness for a while. Something that the Black church can teach us and help us with)

2. **Prayer As Its Supposed to Be** > Prayer to His Father > The perfect model of human dependence and reliance on God for strength.

3. **The Warrior and Keeper Church** > Jesus created the Church (2nd verse in Guns for Hands) – the safe community for the strong and the weak. So many I encounter who have been hurt by the Church or have a view of the Church written up by demons that says the Church is not a safe place, at least not for them.

It is a **Warrior** Church – fighting for people’s good, for their flourishing, and fighting off the wolves and self-deceived liars. It is a **Keeper** Church – keeping watch over the flock and keeping watch for what the cultural tide is pushing to get into the Church.

Jesus fights and wins:

4. **Jesus the Victor**/ Victorious One – Resurrection and Ascension – So that every Sunday for the Christian is a ticker tape parade where the streets get blocked and everyone parties over what has been won for them, for us! Eph 4:8 > “When He ascended on high, he led a host of captives and he gave gifts to men.”

See David modeling createdness and community, see Jesus Restoring Humanity to Humanity,

For what? Why? Trans to 3

3 Be the Church: Restoring Humanity Five things:

1. **Healthy Mourning & Lamenting** > Honesty about the Bad News

If the Warrior King David could mourn like this, and write scores of songs of lament that are inspired Scripture, and if Jesus says “Blessed are those who mourn,” then surely we can restore some humanity to the world by beginning with lament.

Def of lament > Trusting in God's sovereignty in a world filled with tragedy.

And then our trusting God will actually look like trusting God instead of a slogan

2. **Confident, Joyful, Strength-Giving Prayer** > Only God can handle this, so we go to Him, we live in Him. My family and I once lived for over a year with a now former church members – Jim and Marie Hazlett. And one time I asked Marie about a decision and she said that she lived in a spirit of prayerful dependence and so she didn't have to wrestle a whole lot with a decision – her blood ran through with trusting, joyful, confident prayerfulness and so her life was full of peace and stress-free decision making.

More ways the Church responds to being alive in a dying world, in the mission of restoring humanity:

3. **Holding the World Together or Dying Trying** for the good of the world. (Fighting for the Weak)

Vs 22 > The beginning of the development of a faction within the church...

vs. 22 > See 22:1-2

How quickly the healed forget their sickness! How quickly the misfits forget their misfitness!

And they turn wicked and worthless! Strong words!

vs. 23 > but David sets them straight! No one gift is any more important than any other gift! David is the warrior to give the weak as much value as the strong – explain the men too exhausted to go any further

To kick in the teeth the 'survival of the fittest' or the 'I'm not as important as they are in the kingdom'

We all share in what God gives. Who really gets the credit? Are there differences in value among people? Are we going to be worldly about this or godly?

Paul dealing with this in the Corinthian church: 1 Cor 4:7 For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

4. **Going After the Lost**

Evil is real. Not being naïve about what it takes to convert our enemies nor being naïve about how strong evil is. But b/c we strengthen ourselves in the Lord through prayer, we are willing to go into enemy territory.

Watch God provide opportunities > the Egyptian in the open country > ground intelligence > tattoos as a door to knock on – Does your tattoo have a story?

Ian's: It's just something cool – turns out it was a connection between him and his brother and father about a happy memory that all of them shared together. That's really cool, it makes me think about how God works through our families, what do you think about that?

We go to war, but we use different weapons to capture the lost... bombs of love, kindness, forgiveness, and truth. B/c we know Jesus will have His way with people, we just go and love people and leave the results to Him.

Story this past week of a man who is tempted to be full of shame for what he has done, and thinking he deserves people to give up on him. Well he does deserve that. But another man in our church knows this truth > We all have fallen. We all need a Savior, so he went after him. Because Grace Wins, and Mercy Triumphs over judgement. Always!

This goes against everything in your fleshly instinct which is why we need to hear this over and over again. The bad news and the good news. The good news will propel us outward into the world.

And then finally, the Church restores humanity by

5. **Celebrating The Treasure** > Christians should (and do) have the best parties on earth. As a taste of when earth and heaven are one.

ILLUS of children's sermon I did with candy jar and you can take as much as you want.

Conc: Joe and Jennifer Montana fought to restore what was in danger of being lost – their granddaughter. Like David and his men, we are involved in a battle for the restoration of what has been lost. Let us be about restoring humanity to humanity b/c we strengthen ourselves in God's strength for us and for His purposes. We defend the Church and serve the world by going and changing our enemies into our friends...

Benediction: 2 Cor 13:14

Small Group Leaders Questions

1 Samuel 30:1-26

From David to Jesus to us: Restoring Humanity to Humanity

This is a pretty long passage (takes over 5 minutes to read) so you might consider a summary, and/or read the "Main Point" from the bulletin or the sermon notes located on the sermon site at avpc.org.

1. What would it be like to experience the destruction of your property and the kidnapping of your family? Can you relate to David and his men's mourning?
2. How does David turn his and their mourning into lamenting? How does he turn a desperate situation around? (See vs. 6-8)
3. Consider how David and Jesus restored humanity to humanity, and how we as the Church are called to this as well. What does it mean 'to restore humanity to humanity'?
4. How do you in your life practically surrender to your createdness and the community God has given you?
5. Look at the stark contrast between vs 22-23. What does David see and understand that some of his men don't?
What do you think is so difficult for us (for you) when it comes to the area of strengths, weaknesses, achievements, and receiving from God?
6. What about both David and Jesus seeking God for strength and then going out into enemy territory to fight to win what was lost resonates with you?
What are some ways that you can 'go after the lost' in your sphere of influence?
7. What are some things you and our church can celebrate? What treasure has God given us that can help us to rejoice in God and in one another?