

Becoming a Woman After God's Own Heart

Return to the Lord

Lesson 11

David and his men headed home after the Lord saved them from joining forces with the Philistines in a battle against Israel. Upon reaching Ziklag, they found that the Amalekites had destroyed the city and taken their families captive. David had lost everything he held dear, including the support of his men.

For the past sixteen months he had been living according to his plans, his wisdom, and his will. Now, with his home burned and his family gone, he was done with doing things his way. He wanted to know and follow God's will. At the end of himself, he cried out to the Lord and found Him ready to forgive and waiting to help. God still had great plans for David's life.

THE BIG PICTURE

Read 1 Samuel 30

1. What did David and his men find when they entered Ziklag?

◦ How are their emotions described?

2. How did David's men react toward him?

3. Where did David turn to for help?

- What did he receive from the Lord in verse 6?

4. What actions demonstrated that David had turned back to the Lord?

5. How did the Lord respond to David's prayer?

6. What do you observe about David's wisdom and care of the people when he divided the spoil?

A CLOSER LOOK

Having recognized his desperate need for God, David strengthened himself in the Lord. If we drift from God's will, His restoration and grace are always available when we repent and seek His face.

Turning back to the Lord

1. David was out of God's will for sixteen months, living among the enemy. What could be some of the reasons it took him so long to turn back to the Lord?

2. What are a few of the reasons you find yourself reluctant to quickly repent when you drift and sin?

3. What do you learn from **Luke 15:11-32** about the Father's response to the repentant?

- How are you growing in your understanding of God's mercy and grace toward you when you sin?

Praying for wisdom

1. Like David, we need to know God's will for our lives. Read the following verses and record what you learn about how God gives us his wisdom.

Proverbs 2:1-6

John 16:13

James 1:5

2. How has the Lord recently provided you with wisdom regarding a decision?

Praying for Strength

David strengthened himself in the Lord and then obeyed what God told him to do. In order to obey God's will we need His strength.

1. What do the following verses tell us about receiving strength from the Lord.

- Psalm 27: 14

- Isaiah 40:31

2. In what specific ways can you strengthen yourself in the Lord?

PERSONAL DISCOVERIES

What did you learn in this study about:

1. Turning back to the Lord?

2. Seeking God's will?

3. Obeying God's will?

4. God's grace and forgiveness?

5. Strengthening yourself in the Lord?

YIELD AND OBEY

Our Heavenly Father's arms are always outstretched to us as we turn back to Him.

1. Ask the Lord to search your heart for any sin, small or large, that has caused you to drift from His will. Write a prayer of repentance seeking His forgiveness and mercy.

2. Are you facing a decision in which you desperately need God's wisdom? Ask Him to reveal and confirm it to you now, trusting that He will provide it.

3. Are you in circumstances so difficult or painful that no one can help you but the Lord? If so, what are they?

- Read **Psalm 73: 21-28** and make it your hearts cry to him.

- Write below the verse that speaks most deeply to your heart.

4. Take some time today to strengthen yourself in the Lord!