**“Pursuing the Spoils”**

I Samuel 30:1Now it happened, when David and his men came to Ziklag, on the third day, that the Amalekites had invaded the South and Ziklag, attacked Ziklag and burned it with fire, 2and had taken captive the women and those who *were* there, from small to great; they did not kill anyone, but carried *them* away and went their way. 3So David and his men came to the city, and there it was, burned with fire; and their wives, their sons, and their daughters had been taken captive. 4Then David and the people who *were* with him lifted up their voices and wept, until they had no more power to weep. 5And David’s two wives, Ahinoam the Jezreelitess, and Abigail the widow of Nabal the Carmelite, had been taken captive. 6Now David was greatly distressed, for the people spoke of stoning him, because the soul of all the people was grieved, every man for his sons and his daughters. But David strengthened himself in the Lord his God.

7Then David said to Abiathar the priest, Ahimelech’s son, “Please bring the ephod here to me.” And Abiathar brought the ephod to David. 8So David inquired of the Lord, saying, “Shall I pursue this troop? Shall I overtake them?”

And He answered him, “Pursue, for you shall surely overtake *them* and without fail recover *all.*”

**“Pursuing the Spoils”**

**Purpose:** It is time for us to pursue what God has for us. The calling, the ministry, the devotion.

One day a man walked past a camp of elephants.

Looking closer, he was surprised to see that these mighty animals weren’t held in cages or kept in chains.

The only thing stopping them from escaping?

A thin rope tied from one of their legs to a simple pole in the ground.

Confused as to why they didn’t use their strength to break the rope, he asked the trainer why they weren’t attempting to run away.

To this the trainer replied,

“As baby elephants, we use the same system. But, at that age, the rope is strong enough to stop them from escaping. They grow up like this, believing they can never break the rope, so even as adults they stay put.”

In other words, these powerful, magnificent and intelligent elephants didn’t *believe* they could free themselves, so they never tried.

I do not think you are elephants, however, I believe the moral of the story can be applied to your lives.

There is potential in this room that has not yet been unleashed.

A young person who hasn’t figured out the power that is inside of them.

I’m talking to a young person who might have self doubts and fears inside of them.

Afraid of what others think of them.

A young person who goes to school and just wants to fit in with everyone else, but knows they are different and just can’t seem to break away from the mind game going on inside of their head.

Anxiety, depression, hurts, feeling inadequate all have you tied to an invisible rope around the spoils God has given to you.

After the Lord told David to pursue. He happens upon an Egyptian.

They gave the Egyptian water and food.

David asked him who he was. The man said a servant to an Amalekite. The master had left him because he was sick.

David realizes he was a servant of the group he was chasing and he asks the servant to show him the way to his group.

The servant agrees, but only if David agrees not to kill him.

David finds this group and watches them as they were spread apart eating and drinking and dancing.

The Bible says because of all the great spoil that they had taken out of the land of the Philistines and out of the land of Judah.

1. **The enemies attack.**

[**I Peter 5:8 (NKJV)**](https://www.bible.com/bible/114/1pe.5.8)

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, *seeking* *whom* he may devour.

We focus on the lion as being loud and roaring. And he is.

But he is also very sneaky, quiet, and always strategizing.

The lion can hide and wait hours for his prey.

Waiting for their prey to make a mistake.

Waiting for the innocent to be all alone by themselves.

Once the prey gets close enough, then the lion attacks.

We should note that the lion attacks as we get close to him.

The enemy is doing just that right now.

He is in waiting and hiding, trying to rob a young person of their future.

He is doing everything in his power to keep you from understanding you can break free.

Stay tied up. While you stay tied up, your spoil goes unused and wasted.

Get close to the door, because the enemy wants to derail you from your future.

David was away from his family with his trips.

The Amalakites came and attacked the home front and took everything from him.

Then they burnt the rest to the ground.

[John 10:10 (KJV)](https://www.bible.com/bible/1/jhn.10.10)

The thief cometh not, but for to *steal*, and to *kill*, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

1. **The Value of the Spoil - David saw the value**

When David returned to Ziklag and realized all the Amalakites had taken from him, he asked the Lord if he could pursue.

David realized what he had lost.

He asked for the ephod.

We should always seek the face of God first.

It’s time to pursue. When the enemy attacks us, we need to pursue after Jesus with everything we have.

They wanted to kill David. They were talking of stoning him.

While everything around him was in turmoil, he puts his eyes on God and says what would you have me do?

We should always get direction from the Lord before we make decisions.

David seeks the Lord and God makes him a promise.

David, go and pursue and you shall overtake them and you shall recover all.

David, you won’t recover half of what you had or some of it, but you will recover all.

You shall overtake them.

You will have to fight, but you are going to win.

God has given us a promise of not some of the spoils, but all of the spoils.

But you don’t know what I’m dealing with. You don’t know what’s going on in my life.

Preacher, I’ve messed up and I’ve made mistakes.

I’m too young.

You don’t understand the family I come from.

I don’t come from a family that has it all together.

You don’t know what my school is like.

The elephant has all the potential and power.

It could easily break free from the rope, but the lack of knowledge to do so keeps it in the same spot.

If we could ever understand the power we possess.

The Word is alive inside of you.

(KJV)Proverbs 21:21He that followeth after righteousness and mercy

Findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

Another Translation:

(ESV) Proverbs 21:21Whoever **pursues** righteousness and kindness

will find life, righteousness, and honor.

When you pursue after God. When you pursue to have mercy and righteousness, you will find the spoils God has for you.

Will it always be easy, will it always be the way you want it? Probably not, but you will find life.

You will find peace. There is hope in God’s way.

Just maybe God has given you a promise of victory and you haven’t stepped out.

You haven’t decided to pursue.

You are waiting for something else, but I’ve come to tell you, PURSUE!

1. **The Spoil in your life**

What is the spoil in your life?

Your calling, your ministry, your devotion.

Maybe the enemy hasn’t robbed you of these things yet, but maybe he hasn’t needed to.

Maybe you are fine staying close and never breaking free from the rope.

Letting the rope contain you.

Never branching out to what God really has for you.

God has people He wants you to witness to.

People He has entrusted in your life to represent Him.

It’s easy for us to focus on what we don’t have.

Focus on the differences we have from everyone else.

But God has called us to be separate.

Own the separations. Don’t be afraid of it.

If we are constantly afraid and embarrassed of or separation, we won’t be who God has called us to be.

God has called you to break free from the rope you are tied to and pursue after the spoils He has for you.

You are called by God for such a time as this.

When David went to fight Goliath, he did not focus on the fact he was small.

He was young.

He was the least qualified.

He was just a shepherd.

He couldn’t fit in Saul’s armor.

All he had was a sling and a few stones.

Although all those things were true.

He knew he served a God who takes the inadequacies we have and turns them in to glory for Him.

The spoil you receive, isn’t for you to keep bottled up.

The talents and abilities God has given you that you are fine tuning in your pursuit of God is not for you to keep all to yourself.

After David recovered all, he took the extra God had given him in his victory, and he divides it up.

He goes back to Ziklag and starts sending it to his friends.

He takes what he has and he starts to share it.

1. **David’s Blessing**

When David returns from fighting the Amalakites, he goes back to Ziklag.

He is there only a short while and he gets word that Saul has been killed.

David goes to Hebron, and they name him King of Judah.

David first learned to ask the Lord, and when he did he got a Word from the Lord.

David had showed himself faithful. He followed the direction of the Lord.

The Lord blessed him for it.

Musicians come:

**Mark Batterson wrote,**

**“We want joy without sacrifice.**

**We want character without suffering.**

**We want success without failure.**

**We want gain without pain.**

**We want a testimony without the test.**

**We want it all, without going all in.”**

Often, we want the success of others, but minimal commitment from ourselves.

We want the greatest return for the smallest investment.

God wants you to pursue with everything in you.

Pursue the kingdom of God.

God has given you talents and abilities.

He has given you study habits not just to help you study better for a test at school, but to share God’s Word with others.

Pursue

Victory is yours

You shall recover all.

**Closing**:

Psalms 18:29

For by thee I have run through a troop;

And by my God have I leaped over a wall.

**The lady with the issue of Blood.**