

From Worst Tragedy to Greatest Victory

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1 Samuel 30:1-6a

David and his men reached Ziklag on the third day. Now the Amalekites had raided the Negev and Ziklag. They had attacked Ziklag and burned it, 2 and had taken captive the women and everyone else in it, both young and old. They killed none of them but carried them off as they went on their way. When David and his men reached Ziklag, they found it destroyed by fire and their wives and sons and daughters taken captive. 4 So David and his men wept aloud until they had no strength left to weep. 5 David's two wives had been captured—Ahinoam of Jezreel and Abigail, the widow of Nabal of Carmel. 6 David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters.

Worst Tragedy

- Their homes were burned down.
- Their families were all kidnapped.
- They had lost everything.
- They were greatly distressed.
- David's men wanted to kill him.
- David was having a bad day.

Esther 3:1-15

After these events, King Xerxes honored Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, elevating him and giving him a seat of honor higher than that of all the other nobles. 2 All the royal officials at the king's gate knelt down and paid honor to Haman, for the king had commanded this concerning him. But Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor. Then the royal officials at the king's gate asked Mordecai, "Why do you disobey the king's command?" 4 Day after day they spoke to him, but he refused to comply. Therefore, they told Haman about it to see whether Mordecai's behavior would be tolerated, for he had told them he was a Jew. 5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead, Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. 7 In the

twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the pur (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. 8 Then Haman said to King Xerxes, "There is a certain people dispersed among the peoples in all the provinces of your kingdom who keep themselves separate. Their customs are different from those of all other people, and they do not obey the king's laws; it is not in the king's best interest to tolerate them. 9 If it pleases the king, let a decree be issued to destroy them, and I will give ten thousand talents of silver to the king's administrators for the royal treasury." 10 So the king took his signet ring from his finger and gave it to Haman son of Hammedatha, the Agagite, the enemy of the Jews. 11 "Keep the money," the king said to Haman, "and do with the people as you please." 12 Then on the thirteenth day of the first month the royal secretaries were summoned. They wrote out in the script of each province and in the language of each people all Haman's orders to the king's satraps, the governors of the various provinces and the nobles of the various peoples. These were written in the name of King Xerxes himself and sealed with his own ring. 13 Dispatches were sent by couriers to all the king's provinces with the order to destroy, kill and annihilate all the Jews—young and old, women and children—on a single day, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month, the month of Adar, and to plunder their goods. 14 A copy of the text of the edict was to be issued as law in every province and made known to the people of every nationality so they would be ready for that day. 15 The couriers went out, spurred on by the king's command, and the edict was issued in the citadel of Susa. The king and Haman sat down to drink, but the city of Susa was bewildered.

Worst Tragedy

- Hamon, the enemy of the Jews rises to power.
- He gets the king to let him devise a plan to kill all of the Jews.
- That's going to be a bad day for the Jews.

What would have happened if the stories would have ended there for David:

- Probably would have been killed by his men.
- David and his men wouldn't have got their belongings and families back.
- David would never have become King.
- They would not have received the victory God intended for them.
- Solomon would never have been born.
- They would not have walked into their destiny in God.

What would have happened if the stories would have ended there for Esther:

- The Jews including Esther would have been annihilated.
- They wouldn't have ever been able to go back to their home country.
- They would not have received the victory God intended for them.
- They would not have walked into their destiny in God.

What happens when people get disappointed, disheartened, greatly distressed, or tired of waiting?

- They blame others.
- They blame the leaders.
- They take matters into their own hands.
- They grumble and complain.
- They lose their heavenly perspective.

Mordecai encourages Esther: Esther 4:14

14 For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

The greatest Victory Esther 5,6,& 7

- They pray and seek the Lord.
- The tables get turned on Haman and he was killed the Jews are saved.
- Mordecai was honored and promoted.
- Haman was killed.

1 Samuel 30:6b-20

6 But David found strength in the Lord his God. 7 Then David said to Abiathar the priest, the son of Ahimelek, "Bring me the ephod." Abiathar brought it to him, 8 and David inquired of the Lord, "Shall I pursue this raiding party? Will I overtake them?" "Pursue them," he answered. "You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue."

The greatest Victory

- David encouraged himself in the Lord.
- David encouraged his men.
- He talked them into going along with him to reclaim all their belongings.

1 Samuel 30:6b-20

9 David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Valley, where some stayed behind. 10 Two hundred of them were too exhausted to cross the valley, but David and the other four hundred continued the pursuit. 11 They found an Egyptian in a field and brought him to David. They gave him water to drink and food to eat— 12 part of a cake of pressed figs and two cakes of raisins. He ate and was revived, for he had not eaten any food or drunk any water for three days and three nights. 13 David asked him, “Who do you belong to? Where do you come from?” He said, “I am an Egyptian, the slave of an Amalekite. My master abandoned me when I became ill three days ago. 14 We raided the Negev of the Kerethites, some territory belonging to Judah and the Negev of Caleb. And we burned Ziklag.” 15 David asked him, “Can you lead me down to this raiding party?” He answered, “Swear to me before God that you will not kill me or hand me over to my master, and I will take you down to them.” 16 He led David down, and there they were, scattered over the countryside, eating, drinking and reveling because of the great amount of plunder they had taken from the land of the Philistines and from Judah. 17 David fought them from dusk until the evening of the next day, and none of them got away, except four hundred young men who rode off on camels and fled. 18 David recovered everything the Amalekites had taken, including his two wives. 19 Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back. 20 He took all the flocks and herds, and his men drove them ahead of the other livestock, saying, “This is David’s plunder.”

What did David do?

- David sought the Lord.
- David pursued his victory and God brought about a great victory for them.
- They got everything back and much, much more.

How do you encourage yourself in the Lord?

- By remembering all of the times God has helped and rescued you in the past.
 - Talk about my book
- By remembering all of the promises God has given you.

I Timothy 1:18-19

18 Timothy, my son, I am giving you this command in keeping with the prophecies once made about you, so that by recalling them you may fight the battle well, 19 holding on to faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and so have suffered shipwreck with regard to the faith.

Remember Harmony:

- God is for us
 - Haggai prophecy
- Covenant of Love
- You're going to be fishers of men – they are going to jump in the boat
- Restorer of the restorers – ministry of restoring people; body soul and spirit
- We have this land, it was covered with brush – we discovered a grapevine, a lush grapevine with an abundance of grapes – the grapes are people being saved
- River – God's presence and power and healing flowing out from you
- Healing for the sake of evangelism
- God's going to fill this place with the lost, hurt, broken-hearted, the lame, the blind, the crippled,
- the dead and they are going to walk out of here saved, pain-free, peace-minded, healed, able to
- see, able to walk, and alive.
- Healers – that's how you will bring in all the people – Win souls

Jeremiah 29:11

11 For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

Hebrews 12:1-2a

1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

Hebrews 11:6

6 And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.

Final Plea

- Church, I implore you to persevere through the tragedy until God brings the Victory for you.
- Remember what God has done for you.
- Remember what God has promised you.