

**TEXT:** **1 Samuel 30:9-10, 21-24** David and the six hundred men with him came to the Besor Ravine, where some stayed behind, **10** for two hundred men were too exhausted to cross the ravine. But David and four hundred men continued the pursuit.

**21** Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he greeted them. **22** But all the evil men and troublemakers among David's followers said, "Because they did not go out with us, we will not share with them the plunder we recovered. However, each man may take his wife and children and go." **23** David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. **24** Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."

**TITLE:** **Sharing in the victory.**

**INTRO:**

1. I'm not exactly sure how many years ago it's been, but I read an article by David Wilkerson in which he explained this passage of scripture in such a way that it motivated me greatly concerning the call of missions.
2. Several years later, the Lord made very real to me this message while my family and I served as Assemblies of God missionaries to Africa.
3. It has been great to have missionary Mike James with us today. And to piggyback on what he has already shared; I want to talk for just a few more minutes about how important our participation in missions really is.
4. We are going to focus on missions because I believe **missions is the heartbeat of God.**
5. The purpose for missions. The primary reason why people from one country or place feel called to another place, and why we partner with them to send them there is to see a change in the lives of those who don't know Jesus.
6. I can assure you that **God has no greater motive or agenda than changing the lives of lost people.**
7. If you think about it, Jesus was a missionary in every sense of the word. He was sent by his father to earth, to a people that needed his salvation message and whose lives needed to be changed.
8. Missions matters to God. Today's service and today's guest and today's message is not just filler for another Sunday.
9. Missions is something God calls us to love because missions is something He loves.

10. I love missions because I learned as a young boy if I wanted to have the blessing of God on my life then I better be concerned about the same things God is concerned about.
11. So, at its core missions is about partnership. We partner with missionaries who are partnering with the heart and passion of God to reach a lost and dying world.
12. I want to focus this morning particularly on the partnership that takes place between those who go and those who stay.
13. Then I want us to consider how God views those who stay verses those who go.
14. I remember as a boy and then as a teenager being exposed to missionaries and mission's stories. I remember back when the missionaries would bring a slide projector and a screen and show slides of their travels.
15. I remember stories being told of native people in remote villages and riding in boats and canoes up a snake infested river to get to a group of people who had never heard of Jesus.
16. I used to wonder how there could be anybody who had never heard of Jesus. Growing up in a Christian home I heard about Jesus almost every day. Surely everybody in the world has heard of Jesus. But do you know they haven't. Every person in the world has not had the opportunity to hear about Jesus.
17. That fact became real to me when we traveled to a remote village in Africa once and found that the children of that little village had never seen a white person. The kids ran in fear from us because they had never seen white skin in their life. I realized that day if these kids didn't know about white skin, then I can see how they might not know about Jesus.
18. I used to think of those missionaries with all of their stories and think wow; they must really be something special. Those missionaries must really be somebody important to God. Surely God loves them in a way that we common people don't understand.
19. But then I became a missionary, and I started racking up stories. I could tell you story after story. I've got more stories than there are hours in the day. I learned that that experience didn't make me more special, that going to live on the other side of the world didn't make me more in tune with God or more favored by God.
20. Actually, what our 5 and a half years as missionaries taught us was how important and how favored by God those who stay are.

21. You see in the sending of missionaries there are two groups of people. **God has called some to go.** He has called some to go and live in places that most would never live in. He has called some to go and endure things most Christians would not be willing to endure, **but he has also called others to stay.** And the ones he has called to go can't go unless they have the support and partnership of those who have been called to stay.
22. I believe **God loves and rewards the ones who stay just as much as those who go.**
23. Nowhere is that principle more clearly evident than in the book of First Samuel.
24. David was a great man of God who had been surrounded by an army of about 600 men. While David and his men had been out conquering the land a group of Amalekites attacked their campsite and carried off all the wives, possessions, and families of the men.
25. When David and his men returned to discover what had happened, 1 Samuel 30:4 says that David and his men wept so long that they didn't have any strength left. They thought that all their families had been wiped out in a bloody massacre.
26. Finally however, David and the 600 men gather up their strength and pursue the Amalekites to attack them and get back their families, but verse 9 & 10 of 1 Samuel chapter 30 says that when they arrived at the Besor Ravine that 200 of the men were too exhausted to go on.
27. They were too tired to continue the pursuit, so the 200 men who were too tired stayed there in that place with the supplies while David and the other 400 men went after the Amalekites.
28. David and the 400 catch up to the Amalekite army and defeat them and recover everything that had been captured.
29. The men and their families celebrate and rejoice and then they begin their way back to the 200 men who had been too exhausted to travel and fight.
30. **They arrive back at the Besor Ravine and we quickly see two things occur. 1 Samuel 30:21 Then David came to the two hundred men who had been too exhausted to follow him and who were left behind at the Besor Ravine. They came out to meet David and the people with him. As David and his men approached, he (David) greeted them.**
31. The KJV says that David saluted the men who had stayed behind. That word **salute: to address with expressions of goodwill, respect, to express respect or praise for; honor; commend.**

32. When David saw the men who had stayed behind with the supplies the bible says that David respected them, he saluted them, he honored them and commended them.
33. However, another group of men from the 400 who the bible calls troublemakers, began to complain and argue that these 200 men didn't deserve to have any of the spoils or bounty or rewards of the victory.
34. These evil men spoke up and said, those 200 who stayed behind can take their wife and children, but they aren't going to share any of the riches from the battle.
35. In the minds of these evil men the 400 who had gone and fought deserved better treatment and greater reward than the 200 who had guarded the supplies.
36. But David quickly spoke up and said no way. We don't operate that way.
37. Listen to what David says in 1 Samuel 30:23-24 David replied, "No, my brothers, you must not do that with what the LORD has given us. He has protected us and handed over to us the forces that came against us. 24 Who will listen to what you say? The share of the man who stayed with the supplies is to be the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike."
38. David uses the word "us" four times in these two verses of scripture. He keeps repeating the word "us" over and over again. Why? Because he was trying to drive the point home that in the kingdom of God there is no we and they, only us.
39. Now I believe it's important to understand that David didn't set the precedent for this decision. David was actually following what God commanded Moses in Numbers 31:25-27 The LORD said to Moses, 26 "You and Eleazar the priest and the family heads of the community are to count all the people and animals that were captured. 27 Divide the spoils between the soldiers who took part in the battle and the rest of the community.
40. In other words, divide the spoils between those who went and fought and those who stayed back in the camp.
41. As I read this I wondered why God would give equal reward for those who went as he did for those who stayed.
42. Was God encouraging some people to be lazy and do nothing, while others worked their fingers to the bone and do everything?
43. Not at all. God wants everyone to be involved in ministry.
44. God wants every believer to serve Him by serving others.
45. God wants every believer to share in the responsibility of missions, it's just that some people have different roles than others.

46. Not lesser roles. Not less rewarding roles. Just different.
47. So, let's look at a couple of ways that happens.

**Those who went were more free to fight because of those who stayed.**

1. We have to keep in mind that the people of this day were nomadic people. They lived in tents and every time they moved they carried all they had with them.
2. If they would have had to fight and carry all their belongings at the same time they wouldn't have been as free to fight and win the battle.
3. Because they didn't have to haul around the tent, and kitchen table and everything else, they were more free to fight the battle and be victorious.

**Those who went felt protected by those who stayed.**

1. So, you can't fight while you are dragging around your tent, so what do you do? You leave it some place. But if you leave all the belongings in one place and everybody goes out to battle, the enemy can sneak in behind you and steal all of the stuff in the camp. I imagine it would be hard to fight knowing someone might be sacking your camp.
  2. Those who stayed behind provided protection for the stuff and allowed the warriors to be more affective at their job.
  3. That is why God gave equal reward in Numbers 31, and that is also why David saluted and honored and respected those 200 men who stayed behind and guarded the supplies. Those who stayed behind had just as vital a role to play as those who went.
48. I believe the same is true in this battle for the souls of mankind all over the world. There is no we and they, only us. God doesn't look with more favor on those missionaries who go than he does on those of us who stay back with the supplies. In the eyes of the Lord we are all the same. One is not more important than the other.
49. Now, for sure. Our roles are not the same. We don't all do the same thing in the same way, but each and every person's role is vital.
50. Those of us who give and support and pray for our missionaries are going to share the reward in heaven with those missionaries who actually go because we have played an important role just like those missionaries.
51. What is our role? Our role is to free up missionaries to do the work God has called them to do.

52. Our role is to provide protection for them from this side of the ocean so that they don't have to worry about what has been left behind.
53. I remember being in the oppressive heat of Africa. 100 miles north of the equator. I was teaching in the bible school several nights a week.
54. During the weekdays I was physically building churches, leading teams who were doing construction work.
55. And then on the weekends we were working with a team of bible school students planting two different churches in two different locations. I was worn out.
56. But one day I came home, and the mail had come (which was a very big deal). In the mail that day was our financial statement and a card from a church who supported us back here in the states.
57. I opened up the financial statement and was overjoyed that the churches in the US had been faithful to send the financial support they had promised.
58. Because they were doing their part, I didn't have to concern myself with having the resources to work. I could just do the work.
59. I opened up that card and all it said was we want you to know we have been praying for you. Keep up the good work.
60. What was so entirely amazing was that the card had been mailed from the US about 3 months before we got it. It generally took mail that long to arrive.
61. On the day I got the card, I especially needed it. We were going through some extremely difficult challenges, and the card was an immense source of encouragement. We needed that encouragement right then.
62. But God had spoken to someone three months before we needed the card, to write the card and pray for us before we ever even knew we would need it.
63. I broke and cried that day because I knew I couldn't be affective at what God had called me to do if those at home were not faithful to do what God had called them to do.
64. Friend we have been called by God to be involved in missions. Do you know that every person here is called to missions? We are just called to stay and give and pray while others are called to go.

## Conclusion:

1. This morning I want to salute you. I want to praise you and honor and commend you for the part you play in spreading the message of Jesus around the world.
2. Many of you give to missions on a weekly or monthly basis.
3. You give an offering designated for missions that is above and beyond your tithes.
4. And together we as a church pool those resources together to support over 50 different missionaries and ministries here locally and around the world.
5. Many will give in a missionary offering like we are going to receive in just a moment. You allow the Lord to speak to you an amount to invest, and you obey.
6. Others of you pray for our missionaries all over the world. You lift them before the throne of God on a regular basis.
7. May I remind you; your part is not less significant than those who live overseas. Your part is vital. Your part is making a difference.
8. One day the great and awesome king of all the earth will reward you for your part.
9. This morning I honor you for staying with the stuff and making a difference.
10. Would you stand this morning and join me in thanking God for this great calling that is on each of our lives?
11. Let's thank God that he is big enough to be working in every corner of the earth all at the same time.
12. Let's thank God that he is saving people and changing lives all over the world right this very minute?
13. Would you right now accept the calling God has on your life to be a part of missions? Many of you already have. Renew that commitment.
14. Some today need to make a new commitment.
15. Salvation call.
16. Have people sit down.
17. Receive the offering.
18. Checks payable to BFA.
19. Go online and select guest speakers.