

Five Pictures of Spiritual Maturity

1 Samuel 29:1–30:31

Introduction: These two chapters, taken together, form the climax of David's years of exile. In them, we see the results of David's eight years in the refiner's fire. Here are five pictures of spiritual maturity.

- 1. *FIRST PICTURE: GOD'S LEADERSHIP – God invisibly leads his followers even in chaotic situations. 1 Samuel 29:1-11***
 - A. Crisis – David is asked to go into battle against his own people: Israel. 28:1-2; 29:1
 - B. Conflict – The Philistine leaders object to having David with them in battle. 29:2-5
 - C. Character – Achish praises David with words indicating his total confidence. 29:6-11
 - D. Point – When you're growing in Christ, God provides leadership even in tough times.

- 2. *SECOND PICTURE: INNER STRENGTH – Even in tragedy, David is able to strengthen himself in God. 1 Samuel 30:1-6b***
 - A. Crisis – David's city (Ziklag) is attacked and all their families are held hostage. 30:1-2
 - B. Conflict – David and his men return and are devastated. They think of stoning David. 30:3-6a,b
 - C. Character – David removes himself and strengthens himself in the Lord. 30:6b
 - D. Point – When you're growing in Christ, you can weather storms, even the worst storms.

- 3. *THIRD PICTURE: ACTION AND PRAYER – David takes action based on prayer. 1 Samuel 30:7-15***
 - A. Crisis – David desperately needs guidance to discern God's will. 30:7a
 - B. Creativity – David uses *both* God's direction and human intelligence to gain the edge. 30:7b-15
 - C. Point – When you're growing in Christ, God endows you with skillful leadership.

- 4. *FOURTH PICTURE: PROMOTING UNITY – Where there is division, David is able to promote lasting solutions. 1 Samuel 30:16-25***
 - A. Crisis – David succeeds in battle, but there is huge conflict among his men. 30:30:16-22
 - B. Wisdom – David articulates a principle of fairness that guides Israel for a generation. 30:32-25
 - C. Point – When you're growing spiritually, you promote unity even in highly demanding situations.

- 5. *FIFTH PICTURE: SACRIFICIAL LEADERSHIP – When David is blessed, he seeks to be a blessing. 1 Samuel 30:26-31***
 - A. Crisis – David returns to Ziklag, and it's a mess. 30:26a
 - B. Wisdom – David is sacrificing what could have been theirs to foster godly leadership. 30:26b-31
 - C. Point – When you're growing spiritually, you begin to make choices and use your time in line with God's calling on your life.