

## Time To Make A Change

### **A TOUGH JOURNEY SO FAR:**

1 Samuel 30:1-6, 1 Samuel 27:1

### **5 QUESTIONS TO ASK BEFORE 2011:**

1 Samuel 30:7-31

❶ Where do I find my **security**?

**Family**

**Friends**

**Possessions**

**Position**

**God**

❷ How do I **impact** those around me?

❸ How am I being **generous**?

❹ How am I playing my **position**?

❺ What needs to be made **right**?

## Food for Thought

For the week of December 26, 2010

(Questions and Scriptures for further personal study)

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1. We can all identify with putting our security in those things that are material or temporary instead of who we are in Christ and the priorities God has given us. How do the following verses help keep your focus and “security” in who you are in Christ?

### **Philippians 3:4-11**

4 though I myself have reasons for such confidence.

If someone else thinks they have reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for righteousness based on the law, faultless.

7 But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. 8 What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which is through faith in[a] Christ—the righteousness that comes from God on the basis of faith. 10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. [NIV]

### **Colossians 2:10**

10 and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. [NIV]

### **Mark 8:35**

35 For whoever wants to save their life[a] will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me and for the gospel will save it. [NIV]

### **1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things—and the things that are not—to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him. 30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption. 31 Therefore, as it is written: “Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.” [NIV]

2. One of the keys to building generosity into our life is learning to be content with what we have. As most of us know, this kind of contentment can be a challenge. What insight and hope does Paul give us in moving toward this kind of contentment?

### **2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

8 And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. 2 In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme

poverty welled up in rich generosity. 3 For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, 4 they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord's people. 5 And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us.

### **Philippians 4:10-13**

10 I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. 11 I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. 12 I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. 13 I can do all this through him who gives me strength.

What are your greatest challenges in being content with what you have?

How can the principles in Matthew 6:25-27 & 33-34 help us grow in our ability to be content with either much or little?

### **Matthew 6:25-27**

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? [NIV]

### **Matthew 6:33-34**

33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. [NIV]

3. What guidelines do the following verses give us to heal and maintain healthy relationships? Are there any you need to put into action?

### **Matthew 5:23-24**

23 "Therefore, if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember that your brother or sister has something against you, 24 leave your gift there in front of the altar. First go and be reconciled to them; then come and offer your gift. [NIV]

### **Ephesians 4:29, 31-32**

29 Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

31 Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. 32 Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. [NIV]

**Colossians 3:12-17**

12 Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. 13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. 14 And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

15 Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. 16 Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. 17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

**James 5:16**

16 Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.