

Word on the Street

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Here's Life Inner City in New York City

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Going Into Battle v. Staying with the Supplies

Who is more important - those who march into battle or those who stay back with the supplies? That's the question that some missionary friends of ours recently raised. We'd like to share with you God's perspective through the story of David in the book of 1 Samuel, chapter 30.

While David and his army were away at a battle, a people called the Amalekites raided the city of Ziklag. You might think of Ziklag as David's base of operations. The Amalekites plundered the city and took all of the women and children. David returns to find the town in ruins, and asks God what to do. God says, "Pursue them. You will certainly overtake them and succeed in the rescue." (1 Samuel 30:8)

David obediently decides to go after the Amalekites and rescue his people. But the problem was that since they just got back from another battle, one-third of David's army were too exhausted to join the rescue efforts and had to stay back and guard the supplies. David and his men take off, battle the Amalekites, win, and rescue the women and children. "Nothing was missing: young or old, boy or girl, plunder or anything else they had taken. David brought everything back" (1 Samuel 30:19)

When David returns to Ziklag, selfish men try to convince him to share the plunder only with the men who went into battle and not give anything to the men that stayed behind and didn't fight in the rescue operation. David says:

"The share of the man who has stayed with the supplies is the same as that of him who went down to the battle. All will share alike." (1 Samuel 30:24)

What's going on here in the story is that David is saying that all of the people had an equal share in the battle, whether they were on the frontlines or they stayed back and were watching over the supplies. They all had an equal part in defeating the Amalekites and rescuing the women and children.

When we read this story, we were struck by the parallel to God's work here in New York City. As we serve on the frontlines, it is so important to us that you understand the equally important role that you play as shepherds of God's supplies. This ministry is not just about the Shenks in Brooklyn. We are one part of many pieces. We are privileged to serve alongside you as you pray, volunteer in various ways, and provide financially for this ministry.

We rejoice in the fact that we are part of an amazing team that God has assembled. Thank you for your partnership in the gospel!

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