

Share and Share Alike

1 Samuel 28:1-2

1 Samuel 29 - 30

1 Chronicles 12:19-22

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The Philistines were on their way to engage in battle with Israel. King Achish had appointed David and his men as his own personal bodyguards. The other Philistine leaders were not so trusting. "He can't go into the battle with us. What if he turns against us? Can you think of a better way for him to regain Saul's favor? Send him away!"

Achish sent David and his men back to Ziklag. When they arrived home, they found that Ziklag had been burned to the ground. Their families had been carried off, but no one had been killed.

David and his six hundred men set out in pursuit. They came to a ravine where two hundred men stayed behind because they were too exhausted to go on. David continued the pursuit with four hundred men.

Along the way they came upon a starving man in a field. They gave him food and drink and then they questioned him. "My master abandoned me three days ago because I was sick. We were with the band of raiders who just destroyed Ziklag. If you promise not kill me or give me back to my master, I'll guide you to them."

David and his men slaughtered the raiders. They rescued their families and recovered everything that had been taken, plus what the raiders had gathered from elsewhere. When they rejoined the two hundred who had stayed behind, some among the four hundred said, "They didn't go with us. They don't deserve any of the plunder. Let them take their wives and children and go."

But David said, "No! Don't be selfish with what the Lord has given us. We will share and share alike." And he established a regulation for Israel from that day forward. "Those who go to battle and those who guard the equipment will all receive an equal share."