Stealing The Hearts Of Men

Tony Mauck · 2 Samuel 15:1–6

INTRODUCTION

- So Absalom stole away the hearts of the sons of Israel.
- Absalom is in the exact same business as our adversary.
- Absalom's success at gaining a following mirrors the activity Satan still employs.

1 He Disguises Himself as an Angel of Light

2 Samuel 14:25; Genesis 3; 2 Corinthians 11:14

- People are often far too impressed with the way things look outwardly.
- God does not look on the appearance but looks on the heart.
- We are impressed by pretty packaging.
- Satan is the master at pretty and glitter and making it attractive.
- He puts it in this pretty packaging and gets people to swallow it because it sounds good.
- Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. He makes these things that he wants to promote look pretty attractive, pretty appealing in our best interests. But its essence is corruption.

2 He Works Gradually and Subtly, Promoting Discontent

2 Corinthians 2; 2 Corinthians 10:5; Psalm 73

- He works on people gradually. It's a slow process.
- Most often, the seeds of that began long before that first day that they quit attending.
- He starts by saying, I'm your friend, I'm on your side. I'm just the help that you need.
- If Christianity is taking every thought captive to the obedience of Christ, which it is, then what's Satan doing? He's wanting to take our thoughts captive to his will and purposes.
- When I looked at the wicked, I was envious, my feet almost slipped. That's the devil working on us.
- When I read the Bible, I never see an occasion where sin is good for us or helpful or beneficial.

3 He Gets People to Forget the Qualities of the King

Matthew 25:46

- Could you think of a better king than David to have as your king? This is the guy that killed Goliath.
- How in the world did people buy into Absalom's ploy? The only thing I can think of is that they forgot the qualities of the king.
- Whenever we struggle spiritually, it's because we forget important things.
- We forget the scriptures. We forget where all of this is ultimately going.

- Everyone who defects forgets about God. And to reject David and follow Absalom is to reject God's anointed.

4 His Way Is Better Than the King's Way

Romans 6; Galatians 5:7; Mark 16:16

- Finally, he tells people that his way is better than the king's way. If somebody would put me in charge, things would get better.
- There's a narrow gate and a narrow way that leads to life, and few there be that find it.
- Only the blood of Jesus Christ can cleanse your sins.
- Somebody's telling you that this way is better, but it's not the king's way. Don't listen to an Absalom.
- The king's message is He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.
- Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of your sins.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't let the devil steal away your heart. Surrender your heart to the king and reap the rich rewards from that choice and your dedication and that pursuit.

MY NOTES