

Remnant Life Church  
April 24, 2016  
**Recovering What the Enemy Has Stolen**  
**Part 2**  
2 Corinthians 3:12-18

- REVIEW from Part 1 –
- **John 10:1-21**
- Theme: the contrast between the Good Shepherd and the bad shepherds of Israel (focusing on vv 1-10)
  - Shepherd was an OT picture used to describe a leader – both good and bad - of God’s people
  - Jesus is talking to the Pharisees (those who were supposed to spiritually guard or shepherd the people of Israel) had shown themselves to be corrupt
  - **CLARIFY:** anyone who uses the ministry solely as a means to personal financial gain is corrupt!
- Jesus speaks of the sheep knowing the shepherds voice (vv. 2-5)
  - The shepherd would use a distinctive call that only his sheep would recognize and they would come out of the common herd to him
  - Jesus is saying that the sheep that know His voice will come out from the law-driven Judaism (represented by the Pharisees)
- The true or good shepherd will protect his flock (vv. 7-10)
- Jesus calls Himself the gate or door (Gk: Thurah)
- Jesus is the Good Shepherd (v 11) who protects and cares for His sheep (v 9)
- The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. (10:10)
- The thief (satan) is still stealing, killing, and destroying today – his primary target is Christians
  - Jesus calls satan The thief, not just a thief
  - Word for thief in the original language is Klep-tahs
  - Kleptomania – the uncontrollable urge to steal
  - He is a compulsive liar and thief and his sights are set on you if you know Jesus Christ as your Savior
- What does he want to steal? (Not an exhaustive list)
  1. **Friends**
    - a. **Psalm 55:12-14** – an enemy can be dealt with but not a close friend who betrays
    - b. David is fleeing from Absalom because his close friend Ahithophel gave him up
    - c. Satan will use deception, corruption, and confusion to divide and isolate believers

- d. That is why it is so important to guard one another in what we say and how we resolve conflict

## 2. Family

- a. **Rom 12:18** - *If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.*
- b. This is not a command for our friends first but must start in the home
- c. Satan will use business, laziness, and a self-centeredness that makes us blind to the pain of others and the weaknesses in our relationships

## Part 2

## 3. Faith

- a. If your faith is stolen it will drive you away from God and toward the things of man; even more dangerous, yourself
- b. He will use Deceit
  - + **2 Cor 11:3** - *But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.*
  - + Paul is warning the church against false apostles and teachers just as Jesus did
  - + *If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.* (**1 John 1:9**)
  - + *Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (**John 8:31-32**)
  - + Satan is after our minds so that we will turn to and seek answers from other sources apart from Him
- c. He will use Defeat
  - + **2 Cor 4:8-9** - *We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*
  - + A failure is not final!
  - + The difference between defeat and defeatism
  - + Defeat – to be bested or conquered – circumstances may from time to time get the best of us
  - + It is not weakness or lack of faith to acknowledge when we have lost a squirmish
  - + To accept those times forces us to rely more and more on our Heavenly Father
  - + The authority of my life are not in my words they are in His
  - + *Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* (**Matt. 4:4**)
  - + Jesus is quoting **Duet. 8:3** when Moses is reminding the people how God cared for them in the wilderness
  - + Defeatism – an attitude that expects and accepts defeat as inevitable
  - + Satan wants us to accept that attitude so that we give up
  - + BUT - An apparent defeat in your life may actually be in reality a great victory (Jesus' death on the cross)

- **How do we take these things back?**
  - It takes time, and effort, and perseverance
  - It also requires that you be willing to take the first step; you initiate the process
  
- Friends and Family
  - Consider this definition: A friend is someone who understands your past, believes in your future, guards you in the present, and loves and accepts you just the way you are.
  - Are you that type of friend to others, your family, even yourself?
  - Jonathan and David as an example in **I Samuel**
  
  - The neighborhood sports or dive bar is still a place that those who don't know Jesus would rather go than come to church – why?
  - EVEN THOUGH it is an imitation of what God wants us to have with one another
    - + It dispenses drinks while the church should be giving the living water of God's love demonstrated by His people
    - + It offers escape instead of reality
    - + **BUT** it is inclusive, permissive, and welcoming
    - + People can tell their secrets and know that it won't go any further because they all have them
    - + These places don't flourish because everyone who goes in is an alcoholic
    - + It is because God placed in every human heart the desire to be known, to love, and be loved – even imitation love and acceptance
  - What are you doing with your friends and family that says you are loved, just the way you are
  - Because that is how each of us are loved by the Father
  - **Rom 5:8** - *But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*
  
- Faith
  - What is faith?
    - + **Heb 11:1** - *Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.*
    - + Faith is a choice! (ex - to sit in a chair)
    - + Understand this – the choices that we make does not alter the truth
  - **2 Cor 3:12-18** - *Therefore, since we have such a hope (faith), we are very bold. We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to prevent the Israelites from seeing the end of what was passing away. But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image (likeness) with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

- Now that you understand what the satan's plan is...
- Are you willing to go after what satan has stolen from you?
  - **I Samuel 30** is the story of David taking a situation that could not have been worse and winning a great victory
  - Because of Saul's pursuit David has been living in Ziklag in the land of the Philistines
  - For over a year he and his 600 men have been traveling and fighting with the king of Gath
  - The other Philistine leaders did not want David with them at one of the battles and sent he and his men home
  - When they arrived at Ziklag the Amalakites had raided, burned the town, and taken away their wives and children
  - They wept to the point of exhaustion
  - The men wanted to stone David but he went to God
  - They went after the Amalakites, won the victory, and brought back all that had been taken
  - **What was the turning point?**
  - David and his men chose to get up, stop wallowing in their anguish and bitterness, and go after what had been taken from them
  - They had to choose to stop crying and being bitter about what had happened, get up, and go after what had been taken
- What will happen when you do this?
- I believe that God will give you the victory just as He did Dave
  - If you go in His strength and with a right heart
  - Not to exact revenge or prove yourself right
  - But in love with a heart to restore
- I can also tell you this...
  - Absolutely nothing will happen if you do not make the decision to take back what has been stolen from you.
  - No guarantee how long it will take or the way it will happen but...
  - "Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God" – Corrie Ten Boom