

BOOK OF 2 SAMUEL
HOW HEARTS ARE STOLEN
PART 1– BY CHANGING THEIR FOCUS
2 SAMUEL 15:1-6

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Introduction

As we read **all** the Scriptures that relate to Absalom, we come to understand that David loved his son Absalom very much! Yet we see tonight that this one whom he loved so much was bent on trying to steal his own father's kingdom!

This is another chapter in a series of chapters that shows some of the events that took place after David's awful sins. We saw last week how **David's life became complicated because of the consequences of his sin!** We have seen and will continue to see the **grave consequences** that fell upon David's and his house because of his sin!

In my lifetime, I've heard three things both preached and said over and over about **sin and what it will do** and I've found them to be true:

Sin will take you farther than you wanted to go,
Sin will keep you there longer than you want to stay,
Sin will cost you far more than you wanted to pay!

Tonight though, for the sake of this study, I want you to see how **Absalom's actions here show him to be a type of Satan.** As he fulfills this type, **we will see him as he steals the hearts of men because he desired the true king's kingdom! He wanted the kingdom that belonged to King David, his father!** It is said in *verse 6* that Absalom *"stole the hearts of the men of Israel"*!

Listen to me closely, in a very similar way, **Satan wants to turn the hearts of people away from Jesus Christ too! He wants to be your King instead of King Jesus being your king!**

In these verses tonight, we will see that Absalom exhibits some of the same characteristics that Satan has exhibited in the past and still exhibits today!

Absalom was both **conniving and convincing** in his getting folks to listen to him and follow him, just as Satan has shown himself as **conniving and convincing** in getting folks to listen to him and follow him! (*e.g. Eve*)

Satan has been trying to do to the Heavenly Father what Absalom did to his earthly father! And he has been doing it ever since the fall of man in the garden of Eden! I believe we can see some parallels here:

WE SEE THAT ABSALOM STOLE HEARTS BY CHANGING PEOPLES' FOCUS—SATAN DOES THE SAME THING! (Vs. 1-4)

Absalom got the people of Israel to begin **looking to him for satisfaction and for him to solve their problems!** Do you see that here?

Listen, one of the ways Satan messes with us is by getting us to take our eyes off of Jesus and get them on other things—our things and his things! *Hebrews 12:1-2* *1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. D*

That phrase, "Looking unto Jesus" means "focusing on Jesus"!

Satan knows **what appeals to our FLESH** and so he makes every effort to **change our FOCUS** causing us to take our eyes off of our True King!

How does this happen?:

I. Absalom Used DISTRACTION To Change The People's Focus—Satan Does Too! (Vs. 1-2)

Scripture says that Absalom was a very **ATTRACTIVE** young man (*14:25*), but was also a very **CUNNING, CRAFTY** and **AMBITIOUS** young man!

Absalom **COVETED** his father's kingdom! You can mark it down, **anytime one is JEALOUS of someone else or COVETS what someone else possesses, that is of Satan.**

This was the case with Absalom!