

## Reclamation OR Imitation

### **1 Kings 10:16-17 - NIV**

<sup>16</sup> King Solomon made two hundred large shields of hammered gold; six hundred shekels of gold went into each shield.

<sup>17</sup> He also made three hundred small shields of hammered gold, with three minas of gold in each shield. The king put them in the Palace of the Forest of Lebanon.

### **1 Kings 14:25-28 - NIV**

<sup>25</sup> In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt attacked Jerusalem.

<sup>26</sup> He carried off the treasures of the temple of the LORD and the treasures of the royal palace. He took everything, including all the gold shields Solomon had made.

<sup>27</sup> So King Rehoboam made bronze shields to replace them and assigned these to the commanders of the guard on duty at the entrance to the royal palace.

<sup>28</sup> Whenever the king went to the LORD's temple, the guards bore the shields, and afterward they returned them to the guardroom.

### **Webster's' defines these terms:**

- 1.) **RECLAMATION** – The act of bringing back, as from error, to a right or proper course; reform. A restoration, as to productivity, usefulness, or morality.
- 2.) **IMITATION** - Something derived or copied from an original. Made to resemble another, usually superior material.

Now, having said that, ***let me say this:***

**During our Christian walk, we will suffer the loss of valuable things, because that's what Satan's purpose is, to take from us!**

### **THE PURPOSE OF OUR ENEMY IS CLEARLY SET FORTH IN:**

#### **John 10:10 - NIV**

<sup>10</sup> The thief comes **only** to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have **life**, and have it to the full.

The goal of the enemy of our souls is to steal everything that God has ever given us!

Jesus said, *I have come to give you life abundantly!*

- Satan comes to steal that life from us!

**2 Timothy 1:7 - NKJV**

<sup>7</sup> For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of **power** and of **love** and of **a sound mind**.

- Satan comes to steal our peace of mind!

**Galatians 5:22-23 - NKJV**

<sup>22</sup> But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

- Satan looks for an opening to steal our **love**, our **joy**, our **peace**, our **faith!**

**Romans 14:17 - NIV**

<sup>17</sup> For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit

- And, as always, Satan desires an opportunity to steal our righteousness, our peace, our joy in the Holy Spirit!

Now, how does he do that??????

He waits until we're fighting other battles, and then he sneaks in and steals treasure from our hearts while we're not paying attention!

The devil creates confusion in our lives, and in that time of confusion, he steals our treasures!

God is not the author of confusion, Satan is!!!!

REHOBOAM WAS IN CONSTANT CONFLICT WITH HIS BROTHER, JEREBOAM.

Sometimes when we get **our focus** on battling our brothers and sisters, ***the devil has a clear shot*** into **the treasure room of our hearts**!

And, that's what happened to ***Rehoboam***.

While he was ***focused*** on everyday problems

- **Fighting** his brother
- Who he never should have been fighting
- ***The real enemy*** crept in and **stole** the golden shields that his father, Solomon had fashioned for the temple.

Let me talk about **the shields** for a minute:

- ***These golden shields*** were **symbolic of protection**. With golden shields hanging around the walls of the temple, in essence, ***Solomon was saying***:
- *I'm going to surround that part of my kingdom that was designed to entertain the presence of God with solid gold protection!*
- Now, **we know** that golden shields ***cannot protect the presence of God*** that a temple made of wood and stone cannot contain, but **it was the imagery that is so poignant here**.

**Solomon's** heart was right, he was doing this **in honor of His God**.

And, when **Shishak stole** the golden shields, he figuratively stole **the protection and covering that guarded the presence of God** in Solomon's kingdom.

**And, now, Rehoboam is in a conundrum.**

**He's on the horns of a dilemma. He needs to decide what to do.**

Should he go after **Shishak** and **recover the golden shields** and replace them in the temple?

Should he **leave the temple walls barren**?

**He comes up with a third solution, he will create imitations shields from brass.**

In other words, ***he'll put on a good show*** for the people, but ***the shields are only imitation***, a cheap copy, something designed to fool people.

Rehoboam ***doesn't*** have the ***intestinal fortitude*** to go after the real thing that has been ***stolen***, so he puts up a front to fool the people!

There is no ***reclamation*** of the real thing, only an ***imitation*** to fool others.

**LET'S LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RECLAMATION AND IMITATION.**

**David was a man after God's own heart. He was a called servant, a chosen vessel, an anointed King.**

- He was a man ***created with purpose***, destiny, and design.
- But, ***like all of us***, David got ***distracted***.
- He got wearry, got busy, ***whatever***.
- And at a time when ***Kings*** go forth to battle, ***David stayed home***.
- You know the story, that's when ***he fell into sin with Bathsheba***.

Now, here is the portrait of ***a man who is a godly man, but makes a mistake***.

- ***Not*** an evil man
- ***Just a man*** who has fallen prey to the pressures of leading a nation
- ***Trying*** to do the right thing
- ***Getting weary*** in the work.
- And, he gives into ***the lust of the flesh***.

Now, he's sitting in the royal throne room, probably ***eaten up with guilt, cranky, out of sorts***, and suddenly busting thru the gold leaf doors comes a skinny old prophet, ***fire in his eyes***, bony finger pointing in the King's direction.

The guards make a move toward him, but the King says, ***"WAIT!" I need to hear what he has to say.***

And as ***the old prophet*** begins to preach, ***conviction falls*** on King David, and this is what he says:

## Psalm 51:1-13 – NKJV - A Prayer of Repentance

**To the Chief Musician. A Psalm of David when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.**

**51** Have mercy upon me, O God, According to Your lovingkindness;  
According to the multitude of Your tender mercies, Blot out my transgressions.  
<sup>2</sup> Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, And cleanse me from my sin.  
<sup>3</sup> **For I acknowledge my transgressions, And my sin is always before me.**  
<sup>4</sup> Against You, You only, have I sinned, And done *this* evil in Your sight—  
That You may be found just when You speak, *And* blameless when You judge.  
<sup>5</sup> Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.  
<sup>6</sup> Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden *part* You will  
make me to know wisdom.  
<sup>7</sup> Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than  
snow.  
<sup>8</sup> Make me hear joy and gladness, *That* the bones You have broken may rejoice.  
<sup>9</sup> Hide Your face from my sins, And blot out all my iniquities.  
<sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God, And renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
<sup>11</sup> Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from  
me.  
<sup>12</sup> **Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,** And uphold me *by Your* generous  
Spirit.  
<sup>13</sup> *Then* I will teach transgressors Your ways, And sinners shall be converted to  
You.

This is a wonderful example of **RECLAMATION**.

David said, "**I've lost something valuable, I've lost that protection around my heart, I've lost that wholeness that I had with my God, AND I WANT IT BACK!**"

And David went after what had been **stolen by his sin**.

He asked God to replace his:

- **Broken heart with a clean one!**
- **Wrong spirit with a right spirit!**
- **Heaviness with rejoicing!**

▪ ***Sin with salvation!***

And then he finished it by saying: “**RESTORE UNTO ME THE JOY OF YOUR SALVATION!**”

**Now, on the other hand, let's look at Saul.**

After Saul was instructed to kill all of the Amelekites, he decided to spare Agag, the king.

When he returned, ***Samuel faced him with his sin***, this is how Saul responded:

**1 Samuel 15:30 - NIV**

<sup>30</sup>Saul replied, “I have sinned. But please honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel; come back with me, so that I may worship the LORD your God.”

**Here's the difference in David and Saul.**

**David cried out to God and asked forgiveness and restoration.**

**Saul admitted to Samuel that he'd sinned, but never repented!**

**He never cried out to God, but this is what he said:**

- Samuel, I know I've sinned, but will you do me a favor?
- Go worship with me for the sake of the people.
- I don't want them to know anything is wrong.
- Let's put on a show -
- I can't risk losing face with the people.

**How sad**, when he could have **repented and reclaimed** what **he'd lost**, **he chose to put on a front, create an imitation** for the sake of the people around him.

And, the **final judgment** pronounced on Saul that day was this:

This day has ***God rejected you*** from being **King over Israel!**

## CLOSE

**RECLAMATION CREATED A CLEAN HEART, IMITATION DREW THE WRATH AND REJECTION OF GOD.**

**HERE IS ONE OF THE WARNINGS FOR THE LAST DAY**

**What People Will Be Like in the Last Day's -**

**2 Timothy 3:1-5 NIV**

**3** But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. <sup>2</sup> ***People will be lovers of themselves***, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, rash, conceited, ***lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—*** <sup>5</sup> ***having a form of godliness but denying its power.*** Have nothing to do with such people.

Christians who have a form of godliness, but **deny the power** thereof.

Christians who at one time were on fire, having the power of the Holy Spirit, the presence of God in their lives, but have gotten a bit sidetracked.

- Now, there is no power, there is only a pose.
- There is no function, there is only form.
- There is no sincerity, there is only scheming.
- There is no morality, only deception.

**NO RECLAMATION OF POWER, ONLY IMITATION.**

In early days, furniture makers advertised their furniture as “***Sincere***”, because sincere means “***without wax***”.

Sometimes, less ethical furniture makers would buy wood with knots, and when making the furniture, they would fill the knotholes with wax before painting the furniture.

The problem was, **when the furniture would get close to the fireplace**, the wax would melt and run out.

So, the furniture makers who wanted to advertise their furniture as the real thing advertised it as **SINCERE**.

**Are you sincere today?**

**When placed by the fire, are you real, or will the imitation filler become evident?**

**The difference in gold and brass is basically, gold won't tarnish, but brass will in time.**

**We may fool others for a while, but soon the truth will come out.**

**The imitation gets tarnished, melts, runs out.....but, ***the real thing*** will stand the test of time!**

If you've **lost the real thing** this morning, this is a great time to **get it back**.