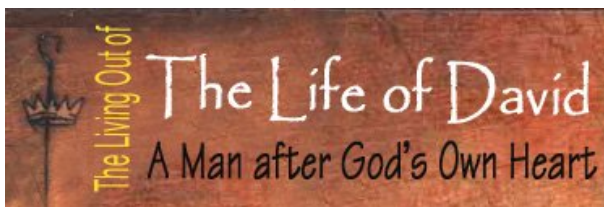




2 Samuel 15

Absalom - A Counterfeit Sunday, Jan 28th 2007



This is a Counterfeit (hold up white paper, drawn \$20 bill)

- You probably could figure that out –bad counterfeit
- Counterfeits – serious problem in US & world
 - Each year tens of millions are seized
- **I worked in banking for 10 years – w/cash– saw weekly**
- Accept a counterfeit–and will be out that amount
 - At times hard for customers to swallow
- Accept a \$20 counterfeit, out \$20
- Accept a \$100 counterfeit, out \$100
- You get picture...what counterfeit forges and you accept is what you are in stake of losing

Apply that Spiritually

- Counterfeit truth – what thought true – isn't
- Counterfeit teachers – (false) not taught, deceived
- Counterfeit Messiah?

Bible has a lot to say about such counterfeits– problem

- **Matt 24:5; 7:152 Pet 2:1-2; Acts 20:29-30; 2 Cor 11:12-15**
- **1 John 2:18** Anti Christ – replacing, instead of Christ

Problem – identifying a counterfeit

- If all counterfeits were like my drawing – no problem
- Issue is counterfeits look so close to real...
- How identify

In Banking – key to teach tellers to spot counterfeits

- Best, most effective way – know real fake sticks out!
- But when found counterfeit – often passed around to tells to look at – see – identify
- Is what I want to do today – pass around a counterfeit

Today – continuing study of life of David – 2 Sam 15

- Several things for us to see in this chapter - take two weeks on (at least)
- **Today Absalom - a counterfeit - counterfeit king**
 - Want compare David and Absalom
 - real and the counterfeit – learn from
- Not a perfect picture of all counterfeits – but definitely a good picture of one type of counterfeit

Aim

- Encourage you not to play part of Absalom
- Encourage not to follow an Absalom
- Draw you to Christ, protect from Antichrist

If I can do a good job with this...quite scary

- Will see how easy, tempting it is to follow Absalom.
- Will see that many...most do

I. Pride vs. Humility

1. First real picture we get of Absalom is hair 14:25

- a. Note his is praised...good looking, attractive
- b. Note – he bolsters that – (it will be his downfall)


2. 2nd – Note his presentation to people 15:1 entourage

- a. Point – it is all about image, not reality - PR

3. Contrast – David

a. When 1st picked – looked over – ruddy kid

b. Specifically did not draw attention to self

- i) See after Ark brought back – worshipped God in a linen garment – common man
- ii) Wife, Michal had a problem with–no pomp **2Sa 6:22** 
- iii) David said he would be even more humble

c. Notice him in this chapter v.13-18, 30

- i) Absalom in chariot – David walking....

4. Contrast with Christ

a. No form that we would desire – **Isa 53:2**

b. Tells us He is lowly – **Matt 11:29-30**

5. Problem – we still like pride

a. Hopefully you can see contrast pride & humility

b. Maybe, hopefully – you agree that pride is bad

c. Yet – we like pride personally

- i) Like to feel important, special, needed – better

d. We like to follow prideful people

- i) Stand out, head & shoulders above
- ii) Attracted to prideful people

e. Jesus spoke of those that would accept the Antichrist because of his pride – **Jn 5:43**

II. Politics vs. Authentic

1. **Politics –know what I mean–not bashing all politicians**
2. **1st – It is Deceptive, manipulative 15:1-6**
 - a. Not real...but saying what people want to hear
3. **2nd – It is People focused** their needs (deceptively)
 - a. Ultimately only seeking to use people for their end
4. **3rd – It is Positive to a Fault**
 - a. Mark of false teaching – saying “peace, peace”
5. **4th – Capitalizes on, creates discontent**
 - a. Becomes motive, becomes aim
6. **Contrast...what is right**
 - a. **1st – it is real – call to be real – not hypocrite**
 - i) No secrets, hidden agendas or inside secrets
 - ii) Jesus was this – **John 18:20** 🖥
 - iii) Calls us to be real, His work in us is real
 - b. **2nd – it is God focused 1st, then people** (commandments)
 - i) Notice David in **v.32** – worshipping
 - ii) Huge today, in church – people focused
 - A. Real fellowship – is God focused **1 Jn 1:3**
 - c. **3rd – God word to us is true...exposing, light**
 - i) Calls to preach truth in contrast to – **2 Tim 4:2-4**
 - d. **4th – God’s ways are w/contentment, hearing Him**
 - i) God calls us to contentment – **Paul, Job**
 - ii) Maybe too far–wonder if God ever uses discontent.
 - A. Why bad – me focused
 - B. Call you to not let such guide you – churches
7. **Problem – like, we still fall for politics!**

III. Conspiracy, Plan vs. Following

1. On this–least sure of total picture – true for me...others?
2. As look at Absalom – see conspiracy v.7-13
 - a. We see a clear plan to accomplish ends
 - i) 4 years of politics, spies, invite 200, Ahitophel
 - b. In Conspiracy – ends justify means
3. Contrast – notice David in this chapter v.19-23
 - a. Responding – leading people in response
 - b. Note words to Ittai – “I know not where” – Like it
 - i) Abraham **Heb 11:8; Prov 16:9**
 - ii) Israel in wilderness – following cloud
4. Again say carefully – but plans scare me
 - a. Many today have plans, objectives, means – clear
 - b. Maybe God guides some that way- doubts
 - i) See so often God just calls us to follow
 - ii) Peter asking about John – you follow me
 - iii) Disciples asking about end – Acts 1
 - c. For me – He does not give me plans
 - i) **Speak honestly – no idea what God is doing**
 - ii) **This is a ride, a journey – following God**
 - iii) **Church – may grow, may shrink**
5. Kind of a balance to this – not wrong to be wise
 - a. David sets Zadok's sons, Hushai to help – not plan, wise
 - b. Called to be wise as serpents, harmless as doves
6. Problem again – we like plans, gravitate to
 - a. Personally – so much easier – create form
 - b. Churches – we like clear plans
 - c. Wonder about Antichrist – if give clear answers

IV. Power vs. Serving

1. Notice what Absalom is doing

- a. Seeking power – seeking to be king, make himself
- b. v.1 provided himself
- c. v.2 rose early – diligently
- d. v.6 stole hearts (took for self...wrongly)

2. Contrast David

- a. **Never made himself king – God called, made**
- b. **He did not strive to make happen**
 - i) Didn't kill Saul – even when he could have
- c. **He doesn't strive to keep self king**
 - i) Doesn't seek to kill Absalom now...latter
- d. **Notice his heart in v.25-26**
 - i) Heart of surrender – whatever God has

3. Jesus calls us away from power, seeking it

- a. Not to be seeking position, power – serving

4. Bible calls us not to strive – but abide, receive


- a. If you strive to attain, have to strive to maintain
- b. Absalom strives to get, to keep
- c. David didn't strive to get or to keep

Conclusion

Counterfeits – scary thing

- The counterfeit you accept – is what you lose

Problem – God’s people like counterfeits

- **Jer 5:30-31** 
- Numbers are not always right

Today – call you not to be an Absalom

Today – call you not to follow and Absalom

Today – call you not accept an Absalom as Lord

To many that day – seemed like David was over

- Seemed like Absalom was rising star
- All soon would be over....so it will today
- That David crossed the brook Kidron
 - But he and those with him would reign
- **1000 years later - Jesus would cross same Kidron**
 - Walk over to Gethsemane–rejected by men
 - Curse a fig tree to represent sorry - weep
 - Go to the cross – victorious
- **Today – you can chose an Absalom or Jesus**
 - Call you to the real King