

# **“A HEART FOR GOD” LESSON 7: REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE**

**BIBLE BOOK CLUB STUDY JULY 25TH AND 29TH**



# THE CORE OF REBELLION: DELUSION

## TO CHANGE YOUR HEART, YOU MUST BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF FIRST

- IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO ADMIT ERROR, YOU WILL NOT CHANGE YOUR HEART TOWARDS GOD OR MAN.
- GOD HAS CREATED A MORAL ORDER TO THE UNIVERSE. HIS PRINCIPLES OPERATE WHETHER WE ACCEPT AND ALIGN WITH THEM OR NOT. **IN OTHER WORDS, REALITY DOES NOT CHANGE. IT'S OUR PERCEPTIONS THAT CREATE RESISTANCE, REBELLION, CONFUSION, AND SEPARATION FROM REALITY.**

## YOU MUST GET YOUR MIND & WILL IN ALIGNMENT WITH REALITY SECOND

- REPENTANCE MEANS ACCEPTING THE TRUTH OF OUR REBELLION AND RESPONDING BY TURNING BACK TO GOD'S TRUTH.
- THIS INVOLVES ACCEPTING THE TRUTH OF OUR NATURE, OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND THE TRUTH ABOUT GOD. IT MEANS RETURNING TO GOD.
- THERE IS NO LIMIT TO HOW MANY TIMES WE CAN FALL INTO REBELLION, AND NO LIMIT TO HOW MANY TIMES GOD WILL FORGIVE US AND RECEIVE US BACK.

# SELF-CONTROL VERSUS TRUST IN GOD

- **WE ARE CULTURALLY PROGRAMMED (AND SINFULLY MOTIVATED) TO PRIZE INDEPENDENCE, SELF-CONTROL, AND SELF-DETERMINATION. “WHERE THERE’S A WILL, THERE’S A WAY.” THE PROBLEM IS THAT THE “WILL” MIGHT LEAD THE “WAY” TO DESTRUCTION.**
- **HUMILITY, DEPENDENCE, AND SUBMISSION IS CONTRARY TO HUMAN NATURE AND CULTURAL TEACHING. IT DOES NOT COME NATURALLY BECAUSE OUR NATURE IS DISTORTED BY SIN.**
- **THE LONGER WE REMAIN ROOTED IN OUR REBELLION, IN PURSUING AND JUSTIFYING OUR WILL VERSUS SEEKING AND SUBMITTING TO GOD’S WILL, THE HARDER IT BECOMES TO ESCAPE THE GRIP OF SIN.**
- **AS WE SEE IN THE STORY OF KING SAUL, SUCH DISTORTED PERCEPTION FRACTURES OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD, ALIENATES THOSE CLOSEST TO US, AND ULTIMATELY LEADS US DOWN A PATH OF PAIN, DEVASTATION, AND POSSIBLY SELF-DESTRUCTION.**

# PURSUING GOD VERSUS CHASING IDOLS

- **REBELLION AGAINST GOD MEANS PLACING SOMETHING ELSE—A GOAL, A PRIZE---AS THE PURPOSE AND CENTER OF OUR LIVES, A PLACE THAT SHOULD BE RESERVED FOR GOD.**
  - **REBELLION MEANS THAT WE ARE SELF-RULED RATHER THAN GOD RULED.**
  - **REBELLION MEANS THAT WE PRIZE OUR IDEAS AND MORALS ABOVE GOD'S WILL.**
- **REBELLION MEANS LOVING SELF ABOVE LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS AS OURSELVES.**

# WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF SELF-DELUSION AND REBELLION?

**READ 1 SAMUEL 23**

- **SELF-DECEPTION RESISTS THE FACTS THAT ARE RIGHT IN FRONT OF US. IT JUSTIFIES OUR OWN OPINIONS AND PERSPECTIVES TO VINDICATE OUR CHOOSING OUR OWN PURPOSES BEFORE GOD'S WAYS.**
- **WE TALK THE GOD-TALK, BUT WE DON'T WALK THE GOD-WALK. ARE WE PRAISING GOD WITH OUR LIPS BUT NOT OUR HEARTS? ARE WE PRAYING AND SEEKING HIS GUIDANCE AND WILL?**
- **DISREGARD FOR THE WELFARE OF OTHERS.**
- **COMPARTMENTALIZING OUR "PRIVATE" MORALITY FROM OUR "PUBLIC" MORALITY. THERE SHOULD BE NO DIFFERENCE. PRIVATE SIN HAS PUBLIC CONSEQUENCES WHEN IT DISTORTS OUR THINKING AND AFFECTS OUR TREATMENT OF OTHERS.**
- **ANGER, FRUSTRATION, IRRATIONALITY, MADNESS.**
- **BEHAVIOR AND ATTITUDE THAT NEGATIVELY IMPACTS OUR DAILY LIVING AND RELATIONSHIPS.**



# WHAT ARE SOME OF THE SIGNS OF SELF-DELUSION AND REBELLION?

**READ 1 SAMUEL 24**

- **ARE WE STOPPING TO ASK GOD WHY “THINGS ARE GOING MY WAY”? ARE WE CONSIDERING THAT OUR WAY IS NOT THE PATH GOD HAS SET FOR US?**
- **ARE WE TRYING TO FUNCTION BY OUR OWN INTELLECT, OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING? OR ARE WE TURNING TO GOD FOR GUIDANCE.**
- **ARE WE LEARNING FROM OUR FAILURES? GOD GIVES US MANY CHANCES TO LEARN, ESPECIALLY WHEN WE ARE OUTSIDE HIS WILL, BUT ARE WE LISTENING FOR HIS VOICE OR WATCHING FOR HIS SIGNS? OR ARE WE SEEING ONLY WHAT WE WANT TO SEE? THE LIFE EXPERIENCE GOD GIVES US IS MEANT TO SHAPE US TO LEARN TO DISCERN WHAT IS RIGHT FROM WRONG.**
- **ARE OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH THOSE CLOSEST TO US BEING NEGATIVELY AFFECTED?**
- **DO WE DIG IN OUR HEELS WHEN SOMEONE WE LOVE TRIES TO CORRECT US? WHEN GOD’S WORD TRIES TO CORRECT US? WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT CONVICTS OUR HEART? REBELLION IS A DENIAL OF TRUTH DESPITE ALL EVIDENCE AROUND US. IT’S KNOWING GOD’S WILL BUT CHOOSING TO CENTER OUR LIVES AROUND OUR WILL.**

# WHY CHOOSING GOD'S WILL MATTERS

## GOD'S WILL CANNOT BE OVERRIDDEN

**THE WORLD IS NOT CENTERED AROUND OUR WILL. IT IS CENTERED AROUND GOD'S WILL.**

**THAT IS REALITY.**

**WE ARE FREE TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO LIVE CONSTRUCTIVELY BY ALIGNING OUR LIVES TO GOD'S LEADERSHIP OR TO LIVE BY FOLLOWING OUR IMPULSES, WHICH CAN BE DISASTROUS AND DESTRUCTIVE (AS WE SEE IN THE STORY OF SAUL).**

## REMEMBER THAT SIN SNOWBALLS

**OUR PROBLEMS MIGHT BE ROOTED IN A SINGLE SIN LIKE HATE OR ENVY. HOWEVER, FROM THERE IT CAN GROW INTO A SERIES OF BAD CHOICES, SINFUL BEHAVIORS, AND EVEN VIOLENCE. WE END UP CAUSING HARM TO OURSELVES AND TO OTHERS.**

**THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE CAN REPENT AT ANY POINT AND TURN BACK TO GOD'S WILL.**

## REMEMBER THAT YOUR CHOICES MATTER

**THOSE AROUND US SUFFER FOR OUR SINS AS MUCH AS WE DO. ANYONE WHO HAS A FRIEND OR FAMILY MEMBER ENTRENCHED IN PRIDE, GREED, HATE, ENVY, ANGER, OR OTHER SUCH BEHAVIORS HAS SEEN HOW MUCH IT CAN HARM OTHERS. THE MEDIA IS FULL OF STORIES OF THE TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH BEHAVIOR. PERSONAL SINS DO NOT STAY PERSONAL. WE CARRY THEM INTO OUR PUBLIC LIVES. WE DRAW OTHERS INTO OUR BEHAVIOR TO JUSTIFY OUR SINS. WE MAKE OTHERS THE FOCUS OF OUR SIN. THEY LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES JUST AS MUCH AS WE DO.**

# OUR TIME “IN THE WILDERNESS”

- **WHEN OUR LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE NOT AS WE WOULD HOPE OR CHOOSE, OR PERHAPS WE HAVE PRAYED AND OUR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE NOT CHANGED, CONSIDER THE STORY OF DAVID: GOD USED ALL OF DAVID’S LIFE EXPERIENCES—THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY—TO MOLD HIS MORALITY, TO DEVELOP DAVID’S TRUST OF GOD’S PROVISION, AND TO PREPARE HIM FOR HIS FUTURE ROLL AS KING. FOR EXAMPLE, HIS SKILLS DEFENDING THE FLOCK AS A SHEPHERD PREPARED DAVID FOR HIS BATTLE AGAINST GOLIATH. HIS DEEP REVERENCE OF GOD LED HIM UNDER GOD’S PROTECTION FROM SAUL’S ATTACKS. SAUL’S INSISTENCE ON OPERATING APART FROM GOD ULTIMATELY ENDED IN THE LOSS OF HIS THRONE, THE ALIENATION OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS, AND EVENTUALLY HIS DEATH.**
- **GOD MAY BE USING THE GOOD, BAD, AND UGLY IN YOUR LIFE TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR UNIQUE PLACE IN HIS PLANS AND TO HELP YOU LEARN TO TRUST IN HIM AS A GUIDE, GUARDIAN, FATHER, AND FRIEND. TURN TO HIM WITH HONEST AND OPEN-MINDEDNESS AND WAIT TO SEE WHAT HE REVEALS TO YOU WHEN YOUR HEART IS TRULY READY TO RECEIVE HIM.**



# RESOURCES FOR THIS LESSON:

- ***“A HEART FOR GOD”*, REBECCA MANLEY PIPPERT, IVP BOOKS, 1996**