

Day 58 – Apr. 19

Sin is always a twisting of God's gifts. Love twisted into lust. Peace twisted into inertia. Joy twisted into pleasure-seeking. Name a sin and it's not an original creation but a twisting of God's original good creation.

Jeroboam attempts to create a religious system for himself, basing it on the plan God made for His people. But he twists it. He establishes his new means of worship with 2 golden calves (very reminiscent of Aaron's calf at the base of Mt. Sinai). He takes the one worship center of Jerusalem and turns it into two worship centers in Bethel and Dan. He takes the Feast of Tabernacles and twists it into an "imitation". And the end result is that it all "becomes a great sin". Jeroboam is refused by God and the kingdom is ripped from his "dynasty", just like Solomon when he turned away from God.

As we pursue God and steward His good gifts, we need to be watchful that we do not allow those good gifts to be twisted in us as well. Our righteousness can quickly twist into judgementalism. Our love of God's Word can quickly become worship of a book rather than the God who revealed Himself in it. Our desire for justice can twist into a vengeful renouncing not of sin but of sinners. It is a simple thing to not see coming, and once it happens, once God's good gifts to us are twisted into sin, it is often too late for us to stop the twisting. Then all that remains is confession and repentance. But as David learned, there will still be consequences.