

1 SAMUEL 30:1-20

Introduction

Throughout our lives, we will find that Satan will take things from us. John 10:10 reminds us that it is his job to do so: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.”

However, when Satan rips us off, we can reclaim everything he stole when we operate as Kingdom Stewards. By definition, Kingdom Stewardship grants us the authority to serve as managers of the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to us in order to expand and maximize His kingdom.

The reclaiming of those things can happen when we follow these three steps: (1) strengthen ourselves in the Lord, (2) seek spiritual guidance, and (3) go to God for a personalized word.

During this week’s sermon, Pastor Evans reminded us of the English fairytale, *Jack and the Beanstalk*. The main character of the story, Jack, discovered that an evil giant stole valuable items from his family, which left them impoverished. Although he was only a young boy, Jack was able to recover everything from the evil giant’s home, which provided all of the necessities plus additional items his family needed.

Through faith, obedience, and proper positioning under God, we can reclaim what the enemy has stolen from us, just as Jack recovered what the giant took from his family.

Getting Started

Sometimes assuming ownership of something opens the door to give Satan entry to our lives.

Reflect on the definition of kingdom stewardship and commit to serving as a manager, not an owner.

Have you relinquished ownership to God for *everything*?

Let’s Get Personal

When we focus on the despair, frustration, and bitterness we may feel during trials and challenges, we grant the enemy permission to invade. However, Ephesians 4:27 admonishes us not to give him a foothold. Are you bitter or resentful toward someone regarding lingering hurts from your past? Remember, Satan may have caused those circumstances; not the person. Concentrate on fighting him through prayer and immersion in the Word.

When we follow David’s story in 1 Samuel, we see David immediately crying out to God when things were illegitimately taken from him, and it appeared he had nothing left. The book of Psalms recounts, through David’s pain, how we should focus on God during tough times. For the next four days, review Psalm 23, 27, 34, and 42. Allow these verses to encourage you through past and present trials. Share the encouraging thoughts you glean from Scripture with others who may be overwhelmed with fear and bitterness, experiencing despair and frustration or facing trials and uncertainty.

Renew Your Mind

David was greatly distressed because the men were talking of stoning him; each one was bitter in spirit because of his sons and daughters. But David found strength in the LORD his God.

1 Samuel 30:6
