

The Root of All Kinds of Evil

"Suspicion"

(2 Samuel 10)

- Introduction:
1. This past weekend was April 1st, and most people know the significance of that day.
 2. Some people take great pleasure in taking full advantage of "April Fool's Day."
 3. Many breathe a sigh of relief when April 2nd rolls around, but many others never let down their guard and remain suspicious of nearly everyone and everything.
 4. Such an outlook on life is inconsistent with the teachings of Jesus and detrimental to our own lives.
 5. As we examine this Old Testament passage, let's examine whether we need to become less suspicious and more trusting.

I. The Foolishness Of Suspicion

- A. David's act of kindness (2 Samuel 10:1-2).
- B. The Ammonite princes' suspicion (2 Samuel 10:3).
- C. The unkindness of suspicion (2 Samuel 10:4-5).
- D. The cost of suspicion (2 Samuel 10:6-19).

II. Lessons Learned About Suspicion

- A. Not everyone has ulterior motives for kindness.
 1. Some people actually live by the "golden rule" (Matthew 7:12).
 2. David had shown kindness to Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9) and now wanted to show kindness to the Ammonites over the death of their king (2 Samuel 10).
 3. Maybe such suspicion is a reflection of our own character.
- B. Don't judge people's motives.
 1. (Matthew 7:1).
 2. (1 Corinthians 13:7).
- C. Beware taking sides with people who have suspicious natures.
 1. The Syrians lost their freedom for joining sides with the suspicious (2 Samuel 10:18-19).
 2. (Proverbs 18:17).
 3. (1 Corinthians 15:33).
 4. (John 7:24).

- Conclusion:
1. Let's stop "reading between the lines" and judging another's motives.
 2. Instead, let us act in harmony with that which leads to trust, peace, and harmony.
 3. And when tempted to judge, to draw lines, to choose sides, remember this lesson from 2 Samuel 10.