

2 Kings 16-17

Good evening church, it is such a joy to be here with you tonight as we continue our study of the Book of 2 Kings.

We will be in chapter 16 and 17 tonight.

If you are new to our ministry our approach is simple, as we endeavor to simply teach God's Word Simply.

On Wednesday nights we are journeying straight through the Old Testament, and on Sundays we are going through the Book of Acts verse-by-verse.

We do not go searching through the scriptures to teach our own topics and we do not skip over the difficult topics, as we go through the scriptures in this manner, we must deal with every topic as it comes.

We simply allow God speak to each week through His Word, in the way He intended it to be read and dealt with.

With that being said, let's go to the Lord in prayer, and we will get into our study tonight.

So it seems now in Judah, we have had a series of kings who just started out wonderfully in their rule, but in the end, then ended tragically, and it was a lesson for us to keep pressing on in our faith, and not to grow complacent, our enemy is a patient foe, and the devil does not care if he gets you at the beginning of your life or at the end.

Those who finish well, stay engaged in the battle, and they don't let up in this life, until Christ takes us home.

This really is the most fulfilling life, the most rewarding life, a life sold out for the cause of Christ.

This is the lesson from the kings of the Southern Kingdom.

Now, in the North in Israel, we have seen only wicked kings from the time they divided and separated themselves from the religion in Jerusalem.

And tonight, their wickedness will finally meet its ultimate doom, as for hundreds of years God has been patient with them, showing them incredible amounts of Grace, and doing all that He can to draw them back into His Blessed Will.

But they refused, and there comes a point when God's Grace is rejected so much, that God finally hands people over to their sinful desires.

He says, "If you want to go, then go."

And this is one of the most fearful kind of Judgements, when God hands us over to our own wicked will.

In Romans Paul explains this about those who reject the undeniable witness of the Truth of God...

Rom 1:24 Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, 25 who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the

creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

You see this is the fateful, but also at the same time most loving reality about our God, He does not demand anyone follow Him, He simply provided the Way, and gave humanity a choice to come through that Way, through His Son Jesus Christ.

We are all free to make out own decisions, but as the kings will show us tonight, we are not free to change the consequences of those decisions.

This goes not only for our individual faith, but also for our corporate faith.

Our own nation seems to barreling down the same path that ancient Israel did, in its rejection of our God, we would be wise to learn from the mistakes of history.

Prov. 14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation,
But sin is a reproach to any people.

So tonight, we will start in Judah, and end in Israel, but the back forth between the two kingdoms will be over after tonight's portion of scripture, because one of these two will be taken into captivity.

So verse 1 now, of chapter 16...

Ahaz Reigns in Judah(2 Chron. 28)

16:1 In the seventeenth year of Pekah the son of Remaliah, Ahaz the son of Jotham, king of Judah,

began to reign. 2 Ahaz was twenty years old when he became king, and he reigned sixteen years in Jerusalem; and he did not do what was right in the sight of the Lord his God, as his father David had done. 3 But he walked in the way of the kings of Israel; indeed he made his son pass through the fire, according to the abominations of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel. 4 And he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, on the hills, and under every green tree.

The reign of Amaziah was over, which was a better time for Judah, now Ahaz his son will take his turn.

And Ahaz will completely undo all the reforms we have seen from those that came before him, and up to this point he is the most wicked king in Judah, he will be outdone shortly by only one other Manasseh.

He does not come close to the standard of the Good kings, King David, instead he takes the nation into a perilous direction, even introducing back into the land Baal worship, and the even more mortifying worship of Molech.

He made his children pass through the fire in worship, both Baal worship and Molech worship sacrificed their children in their terrible rituals.

These would be unwanted children, and also if people wanted to make a supposed impressive offering they would sacrifice their child.

“They have found one image of Molech. A great iron image that hollow inside. The evidence is that they built the fire inside of the image, so that the image would become glowing hot, red hot, with the fire that was inside. It had very large extended arms, and they would place the little babies in the arms of the image, and burn them to death in a sacrifice to their god.”

Chuck Smith

And today, we are more civilized, but this worship of Molech the god of pleasure still exists today.

Because of the sexual immorality of our nation, and the legalization of abortion, we do not kill our children on a hot searing idol, but now in the womb, we vacuum them out of the womb piece by piece, so as not see our atrocities fully, do this in the name of convenience, and millions upon millions of our children have been killed through this worship of Molech the god of pleasure today.

And it is obvious, that if our own nation does not reverse course on this, we will face the judgement of God as well, we are ripening for judgement today.

And both religions of Baal worship and Molech worship had these types of things.

And Ahaz sacrificed his own children.

The historian points out that these were the kinds of things that the nations before Israel committed when

God judged them and removed them and put the Jews in their place.

And now, how terrible it is that they are now practicing the same demonic worship as the pagans they disposed of.

We see too in verse 4 that Ahaz sacrificed and burned incense on the high places, which was forbidden.

Now the other kings were also guilty of this practice as well.

God desired the nation to sacrifice at the place He appointed, He commanded a centralized worship at the Temple.

But for convenience sake they built these other high places, in the place of pagan worship centers.

They were supposedly offering these sacrifices to Yahweh, but it was in opposition to God's Will.

This religion of convenience is always appalling to God.

Religion centered upon man's desires and man's comfort is not true religion.

And today we are seeing that man is always trying to accommodate man, as far as religion goes.

Today, the church has made worship entertainment driven, all designed for the comfort and draw of man.

It is built to accommodate the people.

This idea of accommodation is there to lure people to a particular brand of church.

God desires a worship that costs something, that is a sacrifice on the part of the worshipper.

Ahaz allowed this convenient religion, and was syncretistic, and had no backbone when it came to lifting Israel's God up to the sole attention of his kingdom, he allowed all worship to freely flow through the land, whatsoever a man desired in his heart, he was permitted to do, as long it was done in the name of religion.

Even the killing of children.

So next, we read, God will send His chastening, hoping to bring back this lost king...

5 Then Rezin king of Syria and Pekah the son of Remaliah, king of Israel, came up to Jerusalem to make war; and they besieged Ahaz but could not overcome him. 6 At that time Rezin king of Syria captured Elath for Syria, and drove the men of Judah from Elath. Then the Edomites went to Elath, and dwell there to this day.

7 So Ahaz sent messengers to Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, saying, "I am your servant and your son. Come up and save me from the hand of the king of Syria and from the hand of the king of Israel, who rise up against me." 8 And Ahaz took the silver and gold that was found in the house of the Lord, and in the treasuries of

the king's house, and sent it as a present to the king of Assyria. 9 So the king of Assyria heeded him; for the king of Assyria went up against Damascus and took it, carried its people captive to Kir, and killed Rezin.

Now, here we see a joined force of Syrians, and their vassal kingdom of Israel, came together and sieged Jerusalem.

The historian here of 2 King leaves out some of the details that we will see in 2 Chronicles, although the siege did not cause Jerusalem and king Ahaz to surrender, we will see that 100,000 of king Ahaz's troops were killed, and 240,000 of his citizens were taken captive.

He also lost one of his royal heirs to a mighty warrior from Ephraim, and also his second in command.

This was a terrible time, and it is unfortunate here that the chastening from God did not cause Ahaz to repent, and seek God to deliver him.

Instead, he made himself a vassal king of Assyria, and sold out to another king.

Now, in Isaiah chapters 7-9 the prophet is dealing with this king Ahaz.

And there Isaiah was pleading with the king, and explaining that God would deliver him, "if you just turn your life over to Yahweh, and turn this conflict over to Him, God will deliver you and save you."

Yet Ahaz did not listen to the prophet, and instead looked to turn to the arm of flesh.

He subjected himself to the king of Assyria.

He was not willing to submit to God.

Isaiah told the king to ask for sign from God, for which he refused.

Then Isaiah gave that wonderful Messianic Prophecy, and declared that one day an ultimate sign will be given.

Isa 7:14 Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel

Which interprets “God is with us.”

The king refuses to hear the prophet and submits the Assyrian king.

Look now at verse 10...

10 Now King Ahaz went to Damascus to meet Tiglath-Pileser king of Assyria, and saw an altar that was at Damascus; and King Ahaz sent to Urijah the priest the design of the altar and its pattern, according to all its workmanship. 11 Then Urijah the priest built an altar according to all that King Ahaz had sent from Damascus. So Urijah the priest made it before King Ahaz came back from Damascus. 12 And when the king came back from Damascus, the king saw the altar; and the king approached the altar and made offerings on it.

13 So he burned his burnt offering and his grain offering; and he poured his drink offering and sprinkled the blood of his peace offerings on the altar. 14 He also brought the bronze altar which was before the Lord, from the front of the temple — from between the new altar and the house of the Lord — and put it on the north side of the new altar. 15 Then King Ahaz commanded Urijah the priest, saying, "On the great new altar burn the morning burnt offering, the evening grain offering, the king's burnt sacrifice, and his grain offering, with the burnt offering of all the people of the land, their grain offering, and their drink offerings; and sprinkle on it all the blood of the burnt offering and all the blood of the sacrifice. And the bronze altar shall be for me to inquire by." 16 Thus did Urijah the priest, according to all that King Ahaz commanded.

17 And King Ahaz cut off the panels of the carts, and removed the lavers from them; and he took down the Sea from the bronze oxen that were under it, and put it on a pavement of stones. 18 Also he removed the Sabbath pavilion which they had built in the temple, and he removed the king's outer entrance from the house of the Lord, on account of the king of Assyria.

19 Now the rest of the acts of Ahaz which he did, are they not written in the book of the chronicles of the kings of Judah? 20 So Ahaz rested with his fathers, and was buried with his fathers in the City of David. Then Hezekiah his son reigned in his place.

Ahaz went to Damascus to meet with his new overlord the king of Assyria.

He was what we would call a “kiss up” today or a “bootlicker,” he came as a king to Tiglath-Pileser and took the posture of servant before him.

He wanted to impress the king of Assyria by building an altar like his in the Temple of God.

Ahaz then began to rob God’s Temple to do things according to his own liking, he even remodeled the Temple, and took from some of the Holy Temple’s most prominent features.

If you remember King Uzziah had tried to meddle with the ministry in the Temple, and tried to burn incense as priest.

The priests stood united against the civil government’s overreach.

And the Lord gave the king leprosy.

But we see here a new priest is in charge, and he does not have the same kind of backbone to stand against this secular king.

Urijah did not do anything, but only the will of his king. He should have stood against the king, these changes were not of God.

The Temple’s design was given to David from God Himself.

They did not get to change it around as they saw fit.

When the people of God capitulate to the world's demands on how worship should be, when the people of God cannot stand against secular mandates that go against God's will for His people, then they are in a terrible predicament and in decline.

Understand, Ahaz wanted to conform to his new overlord, and in turn commanded the priesthood to rearrange the worship center to the standards of his new government's gross religion.

Of course, this was done out of fear and appeasement.

I wonder if we can draw anything from this today?

We see the government now making threatening decrees against God's houses of worship, rearranging our churches, making new and controlling mandates.

It never ends well, when the people of God are manipulated by this world to conform what they think church should be.

God's Word is the ultimate authority, and God's Word dictates what will take place in His Church.

There comes a time, when the people of God need to tell civil authorities, "Stop, enough is enough, don't go any further."

It is a slippery slope today that many ministries are on, once they allow the government this unlawful right to

tell us how to worship our God, the more freedom's they will take from us.

If the church in America does not make this stand, it will be the end of the church in America, we have the witness of history.

Look at how communism makes its rise to power in a nation, and you will see that their playbook is being played out right now in our own country.

Understand, these people will not stop at mandated mask wearing, they will not stop at demanding we separate from each other, these rulers are wicked, and they want total control over your lives.

We must make a stand in the church, or all will be lost. Urijah appeases his king, and rejects the will of his God.

He replaces God's altar with a pagan altar, and remodeled according to the liking of a pagan king.

Once compromise begins, it does not take long for evil to triumph over weak people.

May this be a lesson for the church today, once we allow the world to dictate how we fellowship, the influence will quietly grow and pollute us, and eventually take it over.

Eventually Ahaz died, and was buried, but he left behind great damage some of which his godly son Hezekiah would be able to undo and repair.

It is amazing that Ahaz even had an heir to throne after sacrificing his children to pagan gods.

In the Talmud there is a tradition that his son Hezekiah, had only survived because his mother smeared his body with the blood of a salamander before his wicked father tried to sacrifice him in the flames. And according to the legend, the blood somehow prevented the fire from consuming young Hezekiah and he was spared to reign in his father's place. Dilday p. 413

But we will not get to him until next week, next we will head north again, for the last time, and spend chapter 17 in the Northern Kingdom of Israel.

Hoshea Reigns in Israel

17:1 In the twelfth year of Ahaz king of Judah, Hoshea the son of Elah became king of Israel in Samaria, and he reigned nine years. 2 And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not as the kings of Israel who were before him. 3 Shalmaneser king of Assyria came up against him; and Hoshea became his vassal, and paid him tribute money. 4 And the king of Assyria uncovered a conspiracy by Hoshea; for he had sent messengers to So, king of Egypt, and brought no tribute to the king of Assyria, as he had done year by year. Therefore the king of Assyria shut him up, and bound him in prison.

Here we have come to Hoshea, the last king in the long list of wicked kings in the Northern Kingdom.

Hoshea took the throne by force, by killing his predecessor Pekah.

Interestingly enough his name means “Yahweh Saves,” much like the names Hosea, Joshua, and even Jesus.

But we see like many of the kings before him, his name does not represent his life at all.

However, we see he received the best grade out of all the kings of the North.

“He did evil in the sight of the Lord, but not like the kings of Israel before him.”

We do not get the details on how he was better, he just was.

But it was too little too late, God was done dealing with the Northern Kingdom’s rebellion.

The full judgement of destruction will come forth under his rule.

The new king in Assyria, Shalmaneser was now ruling, and he had continued the assault on Israel that his father began.

Israel eventually became a vassal kingdom as well, and we see that the king of Assyria learned of a betrayal by Hoshea, as he reached out to make an alliance with So, king of Egypt.

And Shalmaneser would not put up with this kind of treachery, and he initiated a full attack and overtook him and shut him up in prison.

And this was the folly of the Jewish leaders since Abraham fled to Egypt to escape a famine and got himself and his wife in a great deal of trouble in Genesis 12.

But all throughout their history they looked to Egypt for their help.

Egypt of course is a picture of the world for the believer.

And this is the same mistake many make today within the church, instead of waiting upon the Lord and trusting in Him, they look to the world for their help and answers.

And in the end it hinders their spiritual growth, and robs the person of True Victory.

Look now at verses 5-23...

Israel Carried Captive to Assyria

5 Now the king of Assyria went throughout all the land, and went up to Samaria and besieged it for three years. 6 In the ninth year of Hoshea, the king of Assyria took Samaria and carried Israel away to Assyria, and placed them in Halah and by the Habor, the River of Gozan, and in the cities of the Medes.

7 For so it was that the children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God, who had brought them up out of the land of Egypt, from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt; and they had feared other gods, 8 and had walked in the statutes of the nations whom the Lord had cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they had made. 9 Also the children of Israel secretly did against the Lord their God things that were not right, and they built for themselves high places in all their cities, from watchtower to fortified city. 10 They set up for themselves sacred pillars and wooden images on every high hill and under every green tree. 11 There they burned incense on all the high places, like the nations whom the Lord had carried away before them; and they did wicked things to provoke the Lord to anger, 12 for they served idols, of which the Lord had said to them, "You shall not do this thing."

13 Yet the Lord testified against Israel and against Judah, by all of His prophets, every seer, saying, "Turn from your evil ways, and keep My commandments and My statutes, according to all the law which I commanded your fathers, and which I sent to you by My servants the prophets." 14 Nevertheless they would not hear, but stiffened their necks, like the necks of their fathers, who did not believe in the Lord their God. 15 And they rejected His statutes and His covenant that He had made with their fathers, and His

testimonies which He had testified against them; they followed idols, became idolaters, and went after the nations who were all around them, concerning whom the Lord had charged them that they should not do like them. 16 So they left all the commandments of the Lord their God, made for themselves a molded image and two calves, made a wooden image and worshiped all the host of heaven, and served Baal. 17 And they caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire, practiced witchcraft and soothsaying, and sold themselves to do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke Him to anger. 18 Therefore the Lord was very angry with Israel, and removed them from His sight; there was none left but the tribe of Judah alone.

19 Also Judah did not keep the commandments of the Lord their God, but walked in the statutes of Israel which they made. 20 And the Lord rejected all the descendants of Israel, afflicted them, and delivered them into the hand of plunderers, until He had cast them from His sight. 21 For He tore Israel from the house of David, and they made Jeroboam the son of Nebat king. Then Jeroboam drove Israel from following the Lord, and made them commit a great sin. 22 For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam which he did; they did not depart from them, 23 until the Lord removed Israel out of His sight, as He had said by all His servants the prophets. So Israel was carried away from their own land to Assyria, as it is to this day.

So here we have come to the end of the Northern Kingdom.

This Kingdom began after Rehoboam, Solomon's son refused to lighten his grip on the people.

Civil war took place, and the Kingdom was divided between the Kingdom of Israel in the North, and Judah in the South.

The first king of the Northern Tribes was Jeroboam, and he immediately led the people's hearts away from God.

He established two altars, one in the north and one in the south, with golden calves, where the people committed apostasy in their worship to them.

Each king that came after him were wicked, and there was not a long dynasty among them, the North was riddled with conspiracies and overthrows, the longest rule being the dynasty of Jehu, with four generations.

The Kingdom has lasted now only for about 250 years.

The Southern Kingdom was able to keep one dynasty all the way through, with the decedents of David.

But there were times it too almost lost this reality, and Judah in verse 13 is even included in this rebuke, but they will be able to remain for a while longer before they too are taken into captivity.

And the historian here lists all the reasons God had allowed the Northern Kingdom to receive such a sentence.

Verse 7 summarizes that they children of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God.

This word sin, means to miss the mark, they had turned away from their God and His Ways.

At first it was a little sin, they made the golden calves for the people to worship, but at least they retained the Name of Yahweh.

But it missed the mark, God's mark was **Ex 20:4-6 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image — any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments.**

It was a compromise, and this is the thing with sin, many little compromises lead to greater compromises.

They were taken off now, to a foreign land to live, and as we will see others were brought in to settle in Israel.

There compromises led them to captivity, then we read now starting in verse 24...

Assyria Resettles Samaria

24 Then the king of Assyria brought people from Babylon, Cuthah, Ava, Hamath, and from Sepharvaim, and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel; and they took possession of Samaria and dwelt in its cities. 25 And it was so, at the beginning of their dwelling there, that they did not fear the Lord; therefore the Lord sent lions among them, which killed some of them. 26 So they spoke to the king of Assyria, saying, "The nations whom you have removed and placed in the cities of Samaria do not know the rituals of the God of the land; therefore He has sent lions among them, and indeed, they are killing them because they do not know the rituals of the God of the land." 27 Then the king of Assyria commanded, saying, "Send there one of the priests whom you brought from there; let him go and dwell there, and let him teach them the rituals of the God of the land." 28 Then one of the priests whom they had carried away from Samaria came and dwelt in Bethel, and taught them how they should fear the Lord.

29 However every nation continued to make gods of its own, and put them in the shrines on the high places which the Samaritans had made, every nation in the cities where they dwelt. 30 The men of Babylon made Succoth Benoth, the men of Cuth made Nergal, the men of Hamath made Ashima, 31 and the Avites made Nibhaz and Tartak; and the Sepharvites burned their

children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim. 32 So they feared the Lord, and from every class they appointed for themselves priests of the high places, who sacrificed for them in the shrines of the high places. 33 They feared the Lord, yet served their own gods — according to the rituals of the nations from among whom they were carried away.

34 To this day they continue practicing the former rituals; they do not fear the Lord, nor do they follow their statutes or their ordinances, or the law and commandment which the Lord had commanded the children of Jacob, whom He named Israel, 35 with whom the Lord had made a covenant and charged them, saying: "You shall not fear other gods, nor bow down to them nor serve them nor sacrifice to them; 36 but the Lord, who brought you up from the land of Egypt with great power and an outstretched arm, Him you shall fear, Him you shall worship, and to Him you shall offer sacrifice. 37 And the statutes, the ordinances, the law, and the commandment which He wrote for you, you shall be careful to observe forever; you shall not fear other gods. 38 And the covenant that I have made with you, you shall not forget, nor shall you fear other gods. 39 But the Lord your God you shall fear; and He will deliver you from the hand of all your enemies." 40 However they did not obey, but they followed their former rituals. 41 So these nations feared the Lord, yet served their carved images; also

their children and their children's children have continued doing as their fathers did, even to this day.

Like we mentioned last time, the Assyrians would disperse the people groups that they conquered to demoralize them, in order to control the population.

Here we see there was confusion, the lions had moved in because of the depopulation of Israel, and this is where we see now the people of the region referred to as Samaritans for the first time, they are a mixed race of Jews, and remember by the time Jesus comes to minister on this earth, the Samaritans and the Full-blooded Jews hated each other.

Not only were the Samaritans mixed blooded, but they developed a mixed religion.

They fear God, but they did not give Him the only place in their hearts and minds.

They were much like our culture today, you can believe what you want, as long as you are sincere, sure there is a God above, but He is there to make you happy, kind of thing.

But the real god here is pleasure, and comforts, possessions, and selfishness.

This acknowledgement of God, and today Jesus, even a reverence, is not enough, He desires to be the master passion of your life.

So the Northern Kingdom is wiped out, and this was tragic, it did not have to be this way, they only needed to turn to their God who over and over again tried to reach them, through the prophets and His Word, but they were stiff-necked and rebellious.

They thought they were missing out, living for God, the world to them offered such a more thrilling option, but it led ultimately to their captivity.

So why is the study of Kings and Chronicles important for us today to read?

Because we are Israel and Judah, they show us the journey of faith, and the consequences of our choices whether good or bad.

They show us how compromise gets us...

It was a compromise that led to captivity, and this is the thing with sin, many little compromises lead to greater compromises.

Sure, at first it seemed harmless to sacrifice to the idols.

But look what it eventually led too, they soon began to worship like the heathen nations God had disposed the land of, even sacrificing of their children.

This is happens to a group of people under the full control of the devil, the scriptures say of him, that he has come to rob, kill and destroy.

And this is what sin does, it destroys your life, but it always starts it with those little compromises.

I remember in High School, being so shy, I could not talk to those pretty girls, or engage really in any social life.

My sophomore year, the football coaches brought me up to varsity to play with the older classmen.

After our first home game, I had played pretty decently, so the older guys finally took me in, and invited me to a party.

I lied to my dad to go, and that night I drank alcohol for the first time, and I will tell you, it was such a liberating experience, all the sudden I was not so shy, I was bold, even courageous, I was able to talk to those girls that I could never say a word too before.

It was night of excitement, and this new feeling of courage, and I did things I would never normally do.

Of course, I woke up the next morning, feeling the after effects of sin, but I began to think about the morality of my parents, and the strictness of their Christian ways.

How could something that helped me become something I always wanted to be, be so bad?

And sin was fun at first, and I thought I could control it at first, it was just a little Pot and some drinks with friends, but that is how Satan gets you, by my Senior

year, my friends and I could not go a day without doing something to alter our reality.

I graduated High School an full blown alcoholic, and it was not long after I was out on my own, that alcohol and weed were just not enough anymore, so I began to experiment, and use other things.

Alcohol destroyed my first marriage, and I knew I had problems, and I wanted to be free of its control, but I did not turn the God of my father, who would have helped permanently.

I remember when I was introduced to Meth, it too was exhilarating at first, it helped with my drinking problem, in fact I thought I was cured, because as long as I had that little baggy of dope I did not drink.

But it was trading one poison for an even greater poison.

And this is what Satan does, drags you along through these little compromises, and soon you are enslaved by him.

A couple days ago, I encountered a man out here in the streets, who was naked and out of his mind.

I tried to give him clothes, but the drugs that he was on controlled every movement of his body, and his mind was so scrambled, that he could not even function or communicate.

Listen, that came from little compromises over time; that was not the start for him.

You do set out one day and say, “today I am going to be a drug addict, and so out of my mind, that I will be lost on the street naked, and not able to do a thing about it.”

He started out this life, someone’s baby, he was someone’s little child, and over the course of years, through little compromises that was where he is now.

The whole ordeal hit me, I prayed so fervently for my own children, because I know the little compromises in their lives can have life altering ramifications.

I did not intend to get where I got in my own addictions, and yet this is what little compromises become.

Now, Jesus said that He came to this world for a purpose, **John 10:10**

I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.

Jesus can eliminate those things in your life that are controlling you, the sins that came about from little compromises.

Sure you never meant to be where you are right now, maybe you are realizing that you cannot live like this any longer.

Jesus is the answer, Jesus is the Way... “How do you know this?” you may be wondering...

Well, I have been there, I fought God’s Way for many years, and when I finally humbled myself, and came to Him on His terms, I found forgiveness, this wonderful Grace, and not only that He gave me power over the sin that controlled my life.

At first, I remember thinking, “am I really free, how can this be, will this last?”

Well, 16 years now, and Christ is still working in my life, as long as I am with Him, He is with me.

Tonight, if you are controlled by your sins, your compromises have led you to things and to places you never thought you would be, come to Him tonight, and find the Freedom and Rest that you are seeking.

It is tiresome to live in bondage, in captivity, God offers you a better way, there will be men up here during this last song who want to pray for you, come up, and pray with them, and receive tonight all that God would give you, a New Life, become a New Creation in Jesus.

Let’s pray...