

3-Guarding the Heart

7/10/22

INTRO:

I. → Isaiah 59:15-17

15 *Truth is nowhere to be found,
and whoever shuns evil becomes a prey.*

*The Lord looked and was displeased
that there was no justice.*

16 *He saw that there was no one,
he was appalled that there was no one to intervene;*

→ *so his own arm achieved salvation for him,
and his own righteousness sustained him.*

17 *He put on righteousness as his breastplate,
and the helmet of salvation on his head;*

*he put on the garments of vengeance
and wrapped himself in zeal as in a cloak.*

II. BREASTPLATE IS WHAT GUARDS THE VITAL ORGANS

BODY:

I. Stripped of Our Righteousness

Heb (*shiryon*) breastplate; Grk (*thórax*) chest

A. Sin strips us of righteousness and leaves us unprotected.

1) Isaiah 64:6

*All of us have become like one who is unclean,
and all our **righteous acts** are like filthy rags;
we all shrivel up like a leaf,
and like the wind our sins sweep us away.*

2) JEFF BRIDGES GETTING COVID AFTER CHEMO

B. The enemy attacks us wherever we are most vulnerable.

1) **Genesis 4:7**

"If you do what is right, will you not be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, sin is crouching at your door; it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

2) Though the enemy be stronger in numbers, we may prevent him from fighting. Scheme so as to discover his plans and the likelihood of their success. Rouse him, and learn the principle of his activity or inactivity. Force him to reveal himself, so as to find out his vulnerable spots.—Sun Tzu *"The Art of War"*

3) **SHINZO ABE ASSASSINATED FROM BEHIND**

II. **Clothed in His Righteousness**

Heb (*lavash*) wrap around; Grk (*endúo*) clothed

A. Even the smallest opening can lead to our downfall.

1) **KING AHAB STRUCK BETWEEN HIS ARMOR**

2) **Isaiah 61:10**

I delight greatly in the Lord;

my soul rejoices in my God.

*For he has clothed me with garments of salvation
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness.*

2) **HEBREW LETTERS ON DARTH VADER'S CHEST PLATE**

"His deeds will not be forgiven until he merits"

B. His righteousness keep us from chasing after the flesh.

1) **Romans 13:14**

Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the flesh.

3) **THE FENTANYL EPIDEMIC**

50 x more than heroin, 100 x more than morphine

III. Living a Right Life

Heb (*tsedaqah*) righteousness, virtue: Grk (*dikaíosúne*) character

A. As long as we guard our hearts the rest will fall into place.

1) **Psalms 24:3-4**

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

Who may stand in his holy place?

The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,

who does not trust in an idol

or swear by a false god.

2) **FIST FULL OF DOLLARS—AIM FOR THE HEART**

B. He took on our sins so we could take on His righteousness.

1) **1 Peter 2:24-25**

*"He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and **live for righteousness**; "by his wounds you have been healed."*

2) **TAKING OFF YOUR GARMENTS AND PUTTING ON HIS**

OTHER SCRIPTURES:

Romans 1:17

For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.”

1 Corinthians 1:30

It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God—that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

Romans 10:3-4

Since they did not know the righteousness of God and sought to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness. 4 Christ is the culmination of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.

2 Corinthians 5:21

God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.