

Scott's Thoughts

January 26, 2025



“And the Rabshakeh said to them, ‘Say to Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the great king, the king of Assyria: On what do you rest this trust of yours?’” (2 Kings 18:19, ESV)

There's nothing quite as gut-wrenching as the moment you realize something precious has been stolen from you. I was reminded of that this morning when I learned that someone stole a pickup truck from a friend. It's easy to become jaded and say that's just the way the world is, but it doesn't change the awful feeling in your stomach when you realize someone has stolen something you've worked hard for.

Though insurance can cover the monetary loss, it never truly mends the feeling of violation. Over the years, I've experienced this firsthand with the theft of my high school class ring, a skill saw, and a motorcycle. Each of these items held a special place in my heart, making their loss feel even more profound.

My high school class ring, for instance, was taken from my gym locker just weeks after I got it. Unlike many of my classmates, I worked and saved money to buy that ring. I went to the local jewelry store and ordered a custom ring that was uniquely mine. We could choose the style—round or square—the color of the gold—white or gold—and even have our initials worked into the crest of the ring. It was so special to me that I would still like to find it today. While I don't spend time brooding over the things that have been taken from me, I am grateful for what I have left.

Among the things that can be stolen from us, perhaps the greatest and most devastating is our

innocence. Innocence is that point in life where we didn't really understand right from wrong. Great damage is done when innocence is forcefully taken from someone. Forcefully taking is what Satan is all about. By deceit, he takes innocence from someone every day. Manipulation is as old as—well—the Garden of Eden. Satan works around the clock taking what is not his.

However, Jesus works around the clock restoring the innocence that has been stolen. With God's help, we can get past the violation of personal theft, reflecting His love and grace in the lives we live and the interactions we have with one another.

In the end, while theft may rob us of our belongings and innocence, our faith and resilience can help us reclaim our sense of security and trust.

“And those who know your name put their trust in you, for you, O LORD, have not forsaken those who seek you.” (Psalm 9:10, ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott