

# The Day of Replevin

**Replevin:** (*Wikipedia*) - The recovery by a person of goods unlawfully taken out of his possession, by means of a special form of legal process. Replevin is used where the party having the right of property cannot simply invoke self-help and take the property back.

**John 10:7-10 NKJV** Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. (8) **All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.** (9) *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.* (10) *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

## **“All who ever came before Me.”**

Jesus is speaking here of the Pharisees and Religious leaders. They have just had an encounter with the blind man Jesus healed on the Sabbath. The man would not denounce Jesus so they removed him from the synagogue.

### **Similarities with Institutional Christianity:**

- Believed that scripture was the word of God.
- Desired to help people live according to God’s law.
- Remained faithful to what they believed despite Greek and Roman persecution.
- Developed “fellowships” and planted places of worship (synagogues) everywhere they went. (An estimated 400 in Jerusalem alone)
- Held both the Word of God, (Torah) and the house of worship, (the Temple) as extremely sacred.
- These two things, in fact were the main foundation of their identity as a people.

### **Problems:**

- The Pharisees represent human religion. They were acting as the “gatekeepers” into the kingdom. They were claiming to represent the God that in reality they did not even know.
- The Pharisees represent human legalism. They made requirements on people in the name of God that God never required.
- The Pharisees represent human arrogance. They made themselves spiritual judge and jury in the lives of everyone else.

## **“Thieves” (Kleptes)**

Embezzler – to misappropriate what is entrusted to you for selfish reasons.

- The authority to represent God on earth was not given to the religious establishment, it was given to man in right relationship with God.
- Human Religion has always attempted to take the place of God.
- Human Religion makes claims about other people that it has no right to make.

- Human Religion judges actions and then claims to know the motives of the heart; a power and right that only God Himself possesses.

Pilferer – one who steals small quantities at a time.

### “Robbers” (Lestes)

One who steals by open force.

- The power of human religion rests in fear and intimidation.
  - Fear of punishment, damnation, or rejection.
  - Intimidation based on what others will think.
- Satan operates in the same manner.

## What Was Robbed?

### Our relationship with God.

Adam was made to walk with God intimately.

Sin robbed Him of that relationship.

The Law was given to Moses, so that Israel could be in right relationship with their God.

- **Deuteronomy 6:5-7 NKJV** *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (6) "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. (7) You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.*
- The heart of God is to know His creation and for His creation to know Him.

The religious leaders got so focused on the letter of the law that they missed the heart of the law.

- **Mark 7:6-8, 13 NKJV** *He answered and said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. (7) AND IN VAIN THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN.' (8) For laying aside the commandment of God, you hold the tradition of men-- the washing of pitchers and cups, and many other such things you do."... (13) making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."*

Jesus pointed them back to the heart of God.

- **Matthew 22:34-40 NKJV** *But when the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. (35) Then one of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him, and saying, (36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" (37) Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' (38) This is the first and great commandment. (39) And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' (40) On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."*

## Two types of persons:

**Religious: Life based on rules.**

**Righteous: Life based on relationship.**

Religious people seek to know about God.

Righteous people seek to know God.

Religious people serve God on their own terms.

Righteous people serve God on His terms.

Religious people serve God only as they understand Him.

Righteous people serve God as He reveals Himself to them.

Religious people live in bondage to the expectations of others.

Righteous people live simply to please God.

Religious people live in bondage to the expectations justice.

Righteous people live in freedom because of grace.

Religious people live according to feeling.

Righteous people live according to faith.

Religious people feel they have to perform for God.

Righteous people know God accepts them as they are.

### Poem:

*"Do this!" the law demands!*

*But gives me neither feet nor hands.*

*A better word God's grace doth bring;*

*It bids me fly and gives me wings.*

## The Replevin of Our Relationship:

**Colossians 2:13-14 NKJV** (13) *And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, (14) having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.*

**He removed our sin.**

**He forgave.**

He did not enforce the penalty of our sin.

**He wiped out the charge.**

literally, "erase"

He dismissed our charges.

**He took away the law.**

Literally "removed from our path"

He removed the basis for the charge.

**He nailed it to the cross.**

He secured it so that it would never affect us again.

*Colossians 2:15 NKJV* Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.

**He conquered our enemy.**

**He disarmed them.** (literally: to take by force)

There is no struggle.

- The issue between God and Satan has never been one of power.
- The issue has always been authority.

The enemy's right to rule rested in sin.

- Sin's power rested in the law.
- When Christ "took away" the law, He stripped the enemy of his authority and power to rule.

***1 Corinthians 15:55-57, "(55) O death, where is your sting? O grave, where is your victory?" (56) The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the Law. (57) But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. "***

**He displayed them.** (literally: made an exhibit)

He did this in a blatantly public manner.

- He paid the sacrifice publicly.
- He rent the veil in the temple publicly.
- He rose from the grave publicly.
  - **He appeared to the disciples and hundreds of believers.**

The whole universe knew and knows that Christ utterly defeated Satan and his forces.

**He delighted over them.** (literally: an acclamatory procession)

He gloated.

- In the Cross we see the suffering of God
- In the Resurrection we see the laughter of God.

In the Greek Orthodox tradition, the day after Easter was devoted to telling jokes - they felt they were imitating the cosmic joke that God pulled on Satan in the Resurrection.

**God's attitude toward Satan is "Who do you think you are!"**

## **Conclusion**

The power of this day is demonstrated in the countless lives of people who have encountered and been transformed by a living, risen Jesus!

The purpose of this day is found in the fact that God was not content to be separated from His creation.

He died and rose again to not simply to right what was wrong, but to show us that He really was who He said He was, and that He could be trusted.

The resurrection marks the day of our independence; not simply from sin and death, but from the cold, dry, passionless existence of religion; from all that would rob us of our relationship with the one who made us.

**HIMSELF**  
**by A. B. Simpson**

Once it was the blessing, Now it is the Lord;  
Once it was the feeling, Now it is His Word.  
Once His gifts I wanted, Now the Giver own;  
Once I sought for healing, Now Himself alone.

Once 'twas painful trying, Now 'tis perfect trust;  
Once a half salvation, Now the uttermost.  
Once 'twas ceaseless holding, Now He holds me fast;  
Once 'twas constant drifting, Now my anchor's cast.

Once 'twas busy planning, Now 'tis trustful prayer;  
Once 'twas anxious caring, Now He has the care.  
Once 'twas what I wanted, Now what Jesus says;  
Once 'twas constant asking, Now 'tis ceaseless praise.

Once it was my working, His it hence shall be;  
Once I tried to use Him, Now He uses me.  
Once the power I wanted, Now the Mighty One;  
Once for self I labored, Now for Him alone.

Once I hoped in Jesus, Now I know He's mine;  
Once my lamps were dying, Now they brightly shine.  
Once for death I waited, Now His coming hail;  
And my hopes are anchored, Safe within the veil.