A WILD HORSE NAMED ABSALOM

II Sam. 15:1-6

Introduction:

1. "Many years ago there lived a handsome and eloquent Price--named Absalom. II Sam. 15:6.

   a. Handsome (hair-cut), clever and ambitious (he wanted the crown on his head).

   b. His methods were:
      --Rode chariots through the streets.
      --Rise early to stand at the gate.
      --Gave promises.

   c. Describe the conversation at the Gate.

2. The Bible parallels our own times.

   a. Today the thankless can easily undermine.

      N.T., "The Spirit of Anti-Christ" (Absalom).

Discussion:

I. This spirit gets leverage from two facts.

   A. An imperfect world (system, government, person, weeds, bumps, faults).

   B. The critical faculty (moral equipment).
      1. Necessary function (weeds, repent).
         --Progress comes from it.
      2. But--it contains dangers.
         *It can be a subversive, disintegrating force.
         *Jesus--"Gnats & Camels"--"Motes and Beams".
         *Illustration: Two women at concern: "lovely",
         "Blew his nose". 
II. This is a good way to lose our heritage.

A. Interpersonal relationships.
   1. Happiness--
      --Illustration: Farmer's real estate ad.
      --Russel Connells "Acres of Diamonds".
      --Prodigal--"Something fine broke down".
   2. Marriages--magnify faults, minimize virtues--till love dies!
   3. Friendships--"Rich Relationships Cancelled".

B. The Heritage of a free society.
   *(What would the Pilgrim Fathers have thought of us hankering for the tyranny which they fled?)
   1. There are modern Absaloms.
      a. Russia with her "war chariots" playing up the "discontent". (1/3 of earth.
      b. American "counter-culture".
   2. There is lots about which to be discontented.
   3. It's caused by the spiritual vacuum of the western world.
      *Illustration: Disease won't spread as easily in a healthy body--So the target is the heart.

C. Our spiritual heritage in the church.
   1. Paul talked of Apostate teachers and sin in the church ("spirit of iniquity" Eph. 2:3 - and it is an institution of many faults.)
   2. But Absalom doesn't want reform; he wants destruction.
      a. Economic Absaloms.
b. Intellectual Absaloms—"reject miracle of Jesus" because they have trouble with "the law of God".
c. Freedom riding Absaloms, who accept subjective experience over what the Lord says!

3. We must deepen our appreciation.
   b. We must stay in the church and show our love by struggling to right its wrongs. (See Edge, "The Greening of the Church", pp. 18-19).
   c. We must cease gossiping and discussing church troubles.

4. Our thrust must be positive!
   a. Get out of the buildings into the market-place.
   b. Get out of theory and into practice.
   c. Out of the defensive and into the offensive.

Conclusion:

1. Hymn: "I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord."