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## **The Ides Of March**

**Introduction:** We just celebrated the month of January as the “Month of Renewal and New Beginnings.” In February we celebrated the “Month of Love.” During each Wednesday night service a message was preached on the subject of love. Now we come to March. March is a month that is associated with judgment and division. This is not a pleasant thought for me since I was born in the month of March.

### **THE MEANING: “IDES” MEANS “DIVISION” OR “TO DIVIDE.”**

The Ides of March have always been considered a warning of coming judgment. *Illustration:* The soothsayer named Spurinna warned Julius Caesar that there would be danger and it would occur by the Ides of March. The Romans long believed that March was filled with “black days” and were considered unlucky days.

Since we have dealt with a “Month of Renewal” and a “Month of Love” then we should be willing to take a look at what God judges. There are certain sins in the Bible that God does not wait for the “Judgment Seat of Christ” or the “Great White Throne of Judgment.” Let us examine the coming of the Ides of March. Shakespeare said it well: “Beware of the Ides of March.”

### **FIRST: BEWARE THE IDES OF CHANGING GOD'S WORD. GENESIS 3:1-18**

The whole world moans because of the division caused by Eve playing around with the Devil and all because God's Word was taken lightly.

There is a group of people out there, some of whom are disguised as believers, who accuse those who defend the King James Bible as the only properly translated English Bible of causing division. The truth that they miss is that we are not to conform to each other but to God's Word. The division is caused by their unbelief.

*Ephesians 4:13, “till we all come in the unity of the faith.”*

*Romans 10:17, “So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.”*

### **SECOND: BEWARE OF THE IDES OF ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH. JOSHUA 7:1 - 26**

The story of Achan and the Valley of Achor has been told over and over again. Achan disobeyed a mandate from God and took that which God forbid him to have. His disobedience led to the deaths of his friends and family. You may think that it is a light thing to steal God's tithes and offerings, but the revealed will of God sheds God's light on this horrible sin and its consequences.

### **THIRD: BEWARE THE IDES OF ALLURING WOMEN. JUDGES 16: 1**

Samson had a roving eye problem. He just could not seem to keep his eyes or his hands off of the women. This cost him his testimony and his life. This horrible sin can be seen everywhere today. Family after family torn asunder by the man who smells too much perfume and dreams of being the greatest catch of the women he comes in contact with. Oh no! It is foolish, wicked pride, that makes you think that you are irresistible to women, that you are so special. The truth of the matter is that you are an idiot, just like Samson.

### **FOURTH: BEWARE OF THE IDES OF COMPROMISING WITH THE WICKED. NEHEMIAH 13:1-31**

No better story illustrates this danger as well as what God's people did with Tobiah and Sanballat after Nehemiah left to report back to the King. The two greatest enemies of God's work and God's people were Tobiah and Sanballat. Read Nehemiah 4:1-6. Yet here in the 13th chapter of Nehemiah, we have Tobiah living in the house of God and Sanballat related to God's people through marriage. Just look at how quickly God's people and God's work had been infiltrated.

It has always been one of the Devil's best tools in destroying God's work to infiltrate the work if he cannot destroy it. The idea being if you cannot destroy it from without then he will control it from within.

**Conclusion:** In each case that I have mentioned, sure judgment followed. The changing of God's Word, the stealing of God's tithe, which has been set apart, the committing of adultery and fornication, and failing to separate from the wrong crowd has always been judged harshly by God. Let us beware of the Ides of March.