

Solomon: Extreme Folly

Old Testament Challenge - Week of August 22

Bible Text:

1 Kings 3, 9, 10, 11

Theme:

Solomon's life turned into a disaster at the end. We will look at four decisions he made that led him on this path: 1. He left "wiggle room" in his obedience; 2. He assumed he was "too big to fail," an exception to the rule who didn't really need to follow the same guidelines as other people; 3. He failed to deal with predisposed weaknesses; and 4. He ignored correction.

Daily Readings:

- Monday – Deuteronomy 17:14-20
- Tuesday – 1 Kings 3
- Wednesday – 1 Kings 6
- Thursday – 1 Kings 8
- Friday – 1 Kings 9
- Saturday – 1 Kings 10
- Sunday – 1 Kings 11

Bible Memory Verse:

"As for this temple you are building, if you follow my decrees, carry out my regulations and keep all my commands and obey them, I will fulfill through you the promise I gave to David your father. And I will live among the Israelites and will not abandon my people Israel." 1 Kings 6:12-13

Personal Reflection:

1. We read these words in 1 Kings 3:3, "Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the statutes of his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places." In other words, his commitment had "wiggle room." What are some of the "wiggle room" areas in your own life?

2. How do you rationalize this wiggle room?
3. Using Solomon's life as a model, what could result in your own life from downplaying the seriousness of divided loyalty?
4. Which of Solomon's four foolish decisions seems the easiest for you to stumble into?

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some of the ways that Christians are detoured from the path of wisdom?
2. Do you think most people experience a radical departure from the path of wisdom, or do they gradually drift away? Explain your answer.
3. As a group, analyze Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Make a list of the standards for a king contained in this passage. How did Solomon do on each of these?

Action Challenge:

This week, sit down with a) your family, b) a group of friends, or c) your small group and together ask the question: What are we doing to keep ourselves from walking down the same path as Solomon? What are specific steps we can take as a group to motivate each other forward in faith?