

Solomon – The Beginning and the End

Part 2 - The foolishness of a King! 1 Kings 11:1-13

In a marathon race all runners start well but some give up immediately, others quit in the middle of the race and some near the end. It's not enough to begin well; we must finish well. As we saw last week, King Solomon began his reign very well but things ended badly. If we are not careful the same can happen to any of us.

In 2 Chronicles 1:7 we read that the Lord came to Solomon in a dream and asked him: **What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!** Contrary to what most people would do, he asks for wisdom and knowledge to guide the people. In 1 Kings 3:10-14 we read that the Lord was pleased with his request: **So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom...and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for, riches and fame!... 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."** The blessings had God-given conditions.

Solomon had everything to be successful but he ended up defeated because he mishandled God's blessings. As Christians we have God's favor, but that is no guarantee that we will finish well. God can give you wealth, wisdom, power, but you have to handle those things under his guidance. And if we don't do it we'll lose it all as it happened with Solomon. Let's look at his mistakes:

First Mistake **1. He mishandled the wisdom that God gave him.** 1 Kings 4:29 says that **God gave Solomon exceptional wisdom and intelligence. He was wiser than anyone else and his fame spread throughout all the neighboring nations.** For a while he was wise but, as happens with many people, wisdom, fame and money got into his head and he became foolish.

In 1 Kings 11:3-4 we read that: **He had 700 wives and 300 concubines...and they turn his heart away from the Lord. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord.** He not only married women who didn't love God but he ended up following their idols. He didn't lead them to follow God and consequently they turned him away from God. **Either you take the people with you towards God or they will take you with them away from God.**

We are fools when we let people or things to lead us away from the Lord. God's gifts won't keep us from God's things. **If you believe that a job, a business opportunity, a friendship and so on, is a gift from God then that thing, that person will draw you near to Him and not the opposite. If that's not what is happening, then that's not a gift from God or you are mishandling what He gave you and something must change.**

1 Corinthians 15:33 says that **bad friends will ruin good habits.** Bad relationships will lead us away from God as it happened with Solomon. When we welcome in our lives people and things that we shouldn't, this can mean disaster and destruction. Let us be wise and stay away from people and things that bring harm to our relationship with God.

Second mistake: **2. He mishandled the wealth that God gave him.** In Mathew 6:24 Jesus said: **No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you**

will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money. God blessed Solomon with so much that when the Queen of Sheba saw his wealth she was amazed. But this blessing became a problem because Solomon began to trust in his wealth instead of God. He even began to abuse his power by getting more money from the people through taxes. Money is a wonderful servant but a terrible master, the more we have the more we want and the less we share. Greed

a. When God blesses us financially it is never with the intention for money to separate us from Him or the things of His kingdom. He wants us to enjoy it and invest in His kingdom. (brasuca)

b. That's why every Christian should give in proportion to God's blessings in their lives. 1 Corinthians 16:1-2 says: You should follow the same procedure I gave to the churches in Galatia. On the first day of each week, you should each put aside a portion of the money you have earned. The Bible never asks us to give what we don't have but to give in proportion of what we have received, therefore, if God blessed you, there is no excuse for not giving. If we are not willing to obey then that means that money is more important than his commandment.

In Matthew 25:19,21 Christ taught that one day we're going to give God an account not only of what we did with the talents and gifts He gave us but also what we did with our wealth. Eccl. 12:13-14 Therefore, don't mishandle the wealth that God gives you, if you manage your finances in right way more will be given to you.

Third mistake **3. He mishandled his relationship with God.** 1 Kings 9:4-9 4 "As for you, if you will follow me with integrity and godliness...and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, will establish your royal throne over Israel forever. But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey the commands and decrees I have given you, and if you serve and worship other gods, 7 then I will uproot Israel from this land that I have given them... All who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God ...and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them, that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them. God couldn't be clearer about what He expected from Solomon and his people and what would happen if they were not faithful.

Initially Solomon walked with the Lord, built the temple and dedicated it to God. But he soon forgot what he knew because he disobeyed and began to follow other gods. He ended up paying a huge price and the same will happen to us if we make the same mistakes.

In Matthew 4:10 Jesus said: Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only. This is a command and we must decide if we are going to serve God or not, and pay the price. There is a price to pay to follow and there is a bigger price not to follow. We can never be neutral. God will not accept second place in your life. Do not compromise your walk with the Lord as Solomon did.

Second mistake **4. He mishandled his testimony.** In Solomon's old age, his wives turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God... Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians...he built a shrine for each of his foreign wives, so all of them could burn incense and offer sacrifices to their own gods. The Lord God of Israel had appeared to Solomon two times and warned him not to worship foreign gods. But Solomon disobeyed and did it anyway. This made the Lord very angry. 1 Kings

11:4-10 He not only worshiped other gods but made it possible for others to do the same by building pagan altars. [It's amazing what we'll do when we are not fully committed to the Lord.](#)

Solomon set a bad example to the world and to his family. Instead of influencing others for good, they influenced him for evil. It is terrible when our testimony is a stumbling block for others because we are sinning against Christ and we'll pay a price for our actions.

Don't forget that the world and your family are watching if you practice what you preach. You have the responsibility to give a testimony that honors God. Before making decisions or doing anything, ask yourself what kind of testimony you'll be giving to others. Would you feel proud if your kids and friends followed your example? If it is not the case, you have to change.

Solomon lost his testimony and God did what he promised: [The Lord said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants.](#) 1 Kings 11:11 God took the kingdom from him. Solomon is an example to us all, when we mishandle our testimony we can expect trouble. He will not allow us to live in lies and hypocrisy!

Conclusion

1. Solomon's problem was not ignorance but rebellion. He knew what was right but he didn't do it and James 4:17 says: [it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.](#) Are we being rebellious?

2. The most important thing in life is God and not being successful or prosperous. Take care of your relationship with the Lord and everything else things will fall in place. In Luke 12:15 Christ Commanded: [Beware! Guard against every kind of greed. Life is not measured by how much you own. Life is not measured by how much you have, but how much you give. Is not measured by how much you have achieved but what you're becoming.](#)

3. What kind of witness is your life giving? Does it please God? Would you want your family and friends to follow your example? What are you becoming? Can people see Christ in you or on the contrary, your example robs them the desire to seek God? If that's the case something must change!

4. Are we giving God what belongs to Him? Are we giving proportionally to what he has given us?

5. Life is a marathon. It's not enough to begin well but you ought to finish well. Our prayer should be: [Lord, help me finish the race well. Help me not to compromise my faith and love for you. Help me to give a good testimony before the world, the Church and my family; that my life might encourage others to seek you. Help me to stay close to the cross of Christ, who died for me there. In Jesus name. Amen!](#)