

# WHAT'S IMPORTANT IN THE KINGDOM?

TEXT: 1 Kings 5-8

INTRODUCTION: What is important to you? Our text tells us what was important to Solomon.

1 Kgs 4:34 And men of all nations, from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom, came to hear the wisdom of Solomon.

We should all come sit at the feet of Solomon tonight and hear about what is really important.

## I. WORSHIPPING THE ALMIGHTY IS IMPORTANT.

- A. As soon as was possible, Solomon began to build the temple.
- B. Arranging materials: cedar, cypress, stone
- C. 7 years of construction
- D. At the dedication, Solomon fell to his knees and stretched out his hands toward heaven.

1 Kgs 8:23 and he said: "LORD God of Israel, *there is no God in heaven above or on earth below like You, who keep Your covenant and mercy with Your servants who walk before You with all their hearts.*"

Questions to consider

- 1. Where is worship on your priority list?
- 2. How much trouble are you willing to go to in order to worship God?
- 3. How much time is worship worth?
- 4. How willing are you to prostrate yourself in order to exalt God?

## II. GIVING GOD THE BEST IS IMPORTANT.

- A. Solomon gave his best to the Lord in the building of the temple.

Questions to consider

What do you give to the Lord from the financial resources He has entrusted to you?

What do you give to the Lord from the time He has entrusted to you?

**What do you give to the Lord from the abilities He has entrusted to you?**

**What do you give to the Lord from the strength and energy He has entrusted to you?**

### **III. LIVING IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD IS IMPORTANT.**

#### **A. By obeying the Lord.**

1 Kgs 8:25 Therefore, LORD God of Israel, now keep what You promised Your servant David my father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man sit before Me on the throne of Israel, only if your sons take heed to their way, that they walk before Me as you have walked before Me.'

#### **B. By seeking forgiveness when we sin.**

1 Kgs 8:27-30 <sup>27</sup> "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain You. How much less this temple which I have built! <sup>28</sup> Yet regard the prayer of Your servant and his supplication, O LORD my God, and listen to the cry and the prayer which Your servant is praying before You today: <sup>29</sup> that Your eyes may be open toward this temple night and day, toward the place of which You said, 'My name shall be there,' that You may hear the prayer which Your servant makes toward this place. <sup>30</sup> And may You hear the supplication of Your servant and of Your people Israel, when they pray toward this place. Hear in heaven Your dwelling place; and when You hear, forgive.

#### **C. By living for God's purpose for our lives.**

1 Kgs 8:59-60 <sup>59</sup> And may these words of mine, with which I have made supplication before the LORD, be near the LORD our God day and night, that He may maintain the cause of His servant and the cause of His people Israel, as each day may require, <sup>60</sup> that all the peoples of the earth may know that the LORD is God; *there is no other.*

A man who habitually slept in as long as he could every morning awoke one day even later than usual. Looking at the clock, he bolted out of bed, dashed cold water on his face, quickly ran his razor over it, made a hasty pass with his comb through his hair, gulped down a glass of milk, grabbed his briefcase, gave his wife a "Dagwood" kiss as he ran out the door, and raced to catch the bus. He barely got on it as it began to pull away. Dropping a coin in the meter, he lurched down the aisle toward a seat. Suddenly he looked around and breathlessly blurted out, "By the way, where's this bus going?"

Do you know where your bus is going?