

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

Learning from Those Who Walked Before Us

LESSONS OF THE WISE AND THE RICH

1 Kings 3-11

INTRODUCTION: Apart from the Lord Jesus, who is called the wisest person in the Scriptures? While you are thinking of that, who was the richest?

If you come up with the same name, you are probably right.

His name is Jedidiah.

- Isn't that who you were thinking of?
- What name came to your mind?
- Solomon? Oh, that's the other name of Jedidiah.
- David named his second son by Bathsheba Solomon, which means "peaceable."
- God named him Jedidiah which means "beloved of the Lord."

So, we will call him Solomon, since that is the name you know the best!

- Not the first born son of David.
- David had many sons while he lived in Hebron before conquering Jerusalem.
- Solomon was David's second son by Bathsheba.
- Their first son died because of David's adultery with Bathsheba and his murder of her husband.
- We have looked at David's repentance previously.
- When their second child was born, God sent word through the prophet Nathan that God loved this child.
- Jedidiah, Solomon was chosen from all the sons of David to succeed him as King of Israel when he died.

King Solomon

- Solomon began to reign when he was 18.

- 1 Kings 3:7 translates Solomon saying to God, “I am a little child...”

1 Kings 3:7 NKJV Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in.
- But the **Hebrew word is na-ar – young man**
 - The one word in Hebrew I will never forget because that word was at the heart of my most embarrassing moment ever in Seminary.
 - Dr. Strange, my Hebrew Prof, required us to stand and read sentences in Hebrew assigned the day before, and translate them to the class.
 - I translated a passage which said “he stood in the waters of the river.”
 - **But river in Hebrew is na-har.**
 - So, I got na-ar mixed up with na-har and read aloud, “He stood in the waters of the young man.” My very stoic professor roared in laughter.
 - Within a couple of hours my gaff was spread across the campus.
 - But I was left with a big dose of humility and a permanent recollection of the two words na-ar and na-har in Hebrew.
 - I tell you na-ar means “young man.”
- So Solomon was neither a river nor a child, but an 18 yr. old young man.
- Can you imagine being made president when you were 18?
- But David chose him, and God chose him.

And Scripture says a lot about him. And remember what is written about him is for us, to teach, encourage, challenge, and warn us in our walk with the Lord here and now.

So, what can we learn from Solomon?

WE CAN BECOME WISE LIKE SOLOMON.

- Early in his reign, God appeared to Solomon in a dream.
 - The Lord asked, “What do you want Me to give you?”
 - Solomon replied, “An understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.”

- God was pleased and granted his request, making him wiser than any other man who has or will live. (3:12)
- God also granted to Solomon riches and honor, and if Solomon walked in God's ways, a long life and reign.
- God's gift of wisdom was confirmed as Solomon determined who the real mother of a child was, long before the advent of DNA testing. (3:16-28)
- Solomon's wisdom went far beyond judicial matters.
 - He was a premier naturalist and biologist. (4:33)
 - He was a writer.
 - 3,000 proverbs
 - 1,005 songs
 - Considered even by foreigners as the wisest man on the earth
- Much of the wisdom God gave to Solomon was passed on to us in those of Solomon's writings which were inspired of the Spirit of God and made to be a part of the Holy Scriptures.
 - Psalm 72 and 127
 - Many of the Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Solomon

So, how can we have wisdom like Solomon?

1. We ask for wisdom as Solomon did.

James 1:5 NKJV If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

2. Do what Solomon says.

Proverbs 9:10 NKJV "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

3. Do what Jesus says.

John 17:17 NKJV Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

WE CAN HAVE THE HEART TO OBEY GOD LIKE SOLOMON HAD AS HE CONSTRUCTED THE TEMPLE.

- Solomon was obeying the Lord's command to build the temple.

1 Kings 5:5 NKJV And behold, I propose to build a house for the name of the LORD my God, as the LORD spoke to my father David, saying, "Your son, whom I will set on your throne in your place, he shall build the house for My name."

- Solomon obeyed God by doing his very best in the strength and power of the Lord.
 - The temple was approximately 90 feet long, 30 feet wide and 45 feet high. It had a 15 foot porch across the front. Its interior walls and ceilings were all covered with pure gold. Three stories of rooms were built along the sides.
 - The stones used for construction were cut to size at the quarry so that the noise of rough construction would not profane the temple site.
 - Cedar brought from Lebanon by sea was used extensively to line interior walls before they were covered with gold.
 - The temple was laid out on the plan of the Tabernacle: the Holy Place was 60 by 30 feet and the Holy of Holies was 30 by 30.
 - When the temple was completed, there was no temple built to any of the false gods of this world that could compare in beauty or splendor.
- We demonstrate a heart like Solomon in those days when we serve the Lord with all that we are and have.
 - I don't see a lot of that today.
 - People attend church to worship and study God's Word
 - When it's convenient
 - When the weather is good. For some, bad weather is a genuine reason not to go to church or anywhere.
 - When there is not something they would rather do
 - Many serve God haphazardly.
 - They do not prepare.
 - They miss a lot.

- They notify at last minute or not at all.
- Instead, I see a lot of people who love, I mean really love football.
 - They don't miss a game either in person or on TV unless they are truly providentially hindered!
 - When we talk about people that are wholehearted about something, I am afraid we can find a lot more people that are wholehearted about their football team than we find people wholehearted about the Savior.
- We should worship and serve God out of overflowing love and gratitude.

Colossians 3:23 NKJV And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

Does this characterize our worship and service to the Lord?

After he built the temple, the Lord blessed Solomon exceedingly.

Jesus referred to Solomon in all his glory.

- Solomon led a period of extensive building, not only in Jerusalem but throughout Israel. His building transformed many villages to cities with notable buildings that have left remnants of their splendor even today.
- He developed worldwide trade through his friendship with Hiram of Tyre and a fleet of ships stationed in the northern end of the Gulf of Aquaba.
- Through this fleet, that went on three year trading voyages, Solomon gained gold and merchandise from Africa, Arabia, and India.
- Between the wealth left by King David and that accumulated by his trading practices, gold was in sufficient abundance that many articles for the temple were made of solid gold, and a multitude of things were gold plated.
- Life in the kingdom of Solomon was opulent in every sense of the word. After completing the temple in 7 years, Solomon spent the next 13 years building himself a new palace.

Let me read to you brief statements from 1 Kings 10 to just let you get a picture of the glory the Lord bestowed upon this man who sought the wisdom of the Lord and then wholeheartedly served Him for many years of his life.

All of these descriptions, which are not an exaggeration but are absolutely true, inspired of the Holy Spirit, come to an end with the sentence in 1 Kings 11:1.

WE CAN AVOID THE DISASTROUS MISTAKE SOLOMON MADE.

- God warned Solomon to stay faithful.

1 Kings 9:1–5 NKJV 1 And it came to pass, when Solomon had finished building the house of the LORD and the king's house, and all Solomon's desire which he wanted to do, 2 that the LORD appeared to Solomon the second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. 3 And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually. 4 Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, 5 then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

- Solomon's pagan wives turned his heart away from God.

1 Kings 11 NKJV 1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—2 from the nations of whom the LORD had said to the children of Israel, "You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods

5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods.

9 So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice,

14 Now the LORD raised up an adversary against Solomon,

- God raised up adversaries to discipline Solomon.

Dear friends, let us be warned.

- When we allow something, anything, to turn our heart from following the Lord with wholehearted devotion,
- The Lord will raise up adversaries against us.
- It is called the chastening of the Lord.

What is your passion level for Christ right now?

- Do you sing to the Lord as you once did?
- Do you pray like you used to?
- Do you love His Word as you once did?
- Do you serve Him with the same desire that He once saw in you?

Or has your passion for the Lord leveled and dropped?

Be warned by the life of Solomon, a man full of the wisdom of God, and blessed with honor, success, and riches.

But he did not end well because he chose to love and pursue other things more than God.