

Self-Inflicted Wounds 1 Kings 11

INTRODUCTION

For the month of June, we interrupt our series on **Ephesians** so we can focus our attention on the lives of 3 men in the Old Testament. **We begin this morning with King Solomon.** Please turn in your Bible to **1 Kings 11**

Here's my today's **main point**: *when we compromise our relationship with God, we set in motion a course of events that destroys what we value and incurs the judgment of God.*

Not many people in the history of humanity started so well and ended as badly as King Solomon. Initially, his heart was fully devoted to the Lord, and he accomplished great deeds for Israel, but he turned his heart away from the Lord, worshipped idols, and watched his kingdom fracture before his death. It has been **said** that **Saul** had no heart for God, **David** had a whole heart for God and **Solomon** had a half-heart for God. **Let's see what we can learn from this half-hearted king!**

In the opening chapters of 1 Kings,

I. Solomon becomes _____ (I Kings 1-2)

When David had become old and his health was beginning to fail, he called for his wife Bathsheba and promised her that Solomon would be the next king over Israel. He also had the foresight to have Solomon publically anointed by Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet so that the people of the kingdom would see and accept the transition of power.

In the next chapters we see,

II. Solomon's _____ (I Kings 3-4)

Not long after Solomon became King of Israel, the Lord appeared to him during the middle of the night in a dream and said, *"Ask what I shall give you."* (3:5)

If God appeared to you during the night and told you to ask him for anything, what would you ask for?

In the next few chapters, we read about,

III. Solomon's _____ and _____ (I Kings 5-8)

It had always been David's goal to build a proper temple in Jerusalem for worshipping the Lord, but that privilege was withheld from by the Lord and given to his son, Solomon. When the Lord blessed Solomon with an extended period of rest when there was no war or disaster in Israel, **Solomon set his heart on fulfilling his dad's dream of building a temple for the Lord.**

Even though Solomon did a great thing by building the temple in Jerusalem, here is where we see him begin to follow in his father's footsteps by allowing some pride, selfishness, and ego creep into his soul. It took him twice as long to build his house as it did the Lord's house. His heart became more focused on himself than the Lord.

The next couple of chapters introduce us to...

IV. Solomon's _____ (I Kings 9-10)

Once Solomon's great architectural goals were accomplished, **he turned his heart toward accumulating wealth. Not only did he receive extravagant gifts from foreign royalty who came to hear his wisdom and see his buildings, but he also became quite skilled in international trade.** He received revenues from merchants and traders and all of the Arabian kings and governors of the land. (10:15) He accumulated articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons, spices, horses, mules, livestock, chariots, and lumber. (10:25) It was said that while Solomon was on the throne, silver was as common as stones in Jerusalem. (10:27)

When Solomon fixed his heart on accumulating wealth, he took his focus off the Lord. By monetary standards, Solomon had become the Bill Gates of his time...no, the Elon Musk of his time. He was the wealthiest man in the world. **But by spiritual standards, his heart was forsaking the Lord.** This led him toward idolatry, which would eventually tear his kingdom apart.

The next chapter...presents us with...

V. Solomon's _____ (I Kings 11)

Please note...

A. Solomon's _____: _____ (11:1-8)

What was Solomon's sin that incurred the Lord's anger & judgment? Greed? Wealth? Women? Lust? Power? Forced labor? Extravagance? Exploitation? Oppression?

The heart of the problem was a problem of the heart!

Please note that the prominence of the word *'heart'* in vv. 2-4. **The word appears 5 times in these verses.** For us, we tend to equate *'heart'* with feelings or emotions exclusively, not so in the Bible. **The Bible does not separate that head (mind) from the heart; rather the head is in the heart.** The *'heart'* refers to the thinking center of the person; the core of our being...mind, emotions and desires, including the person's affections. **Therefore, we are dealing with the internal and the invisible. This is what makes it so difficult to diagnose.** Long before there's infidelity, there's a shift of the heart away from God. The shift...the drift is subtle and gradual.

Small compromises lead to big problems, especially when we disregard God's word. While we can control our sinful choices, we cannot control the consequences. **The only way that Solomon could sustain his immoral lifestyle was to shrink his view of God.**

B. God's _____: _____ (11:9-10)

Although God is always gracious, He will not allow His people to continue to sin. **God was not an indifferent observer as the king led the nation into spiritual rebellion. God has no rivals and doesn't allow or tolerate any rival and expects complete devotion from His people.**

How did He express His displeasure...His anger?

C. God's _____: _____ will end
& _____ arise (11:11-43)

God is the great promise-keeper, right? He had promised blessings and curses. The nation...the king chose disobedience and incurred the curses. Solomon dies and shortly thereafter the monarchy ends...a divided kingdom emerges...a divided kingdom that continues the downward spiral of disobedience resulting in destruction and exile.

CONCLUSION

What can we take with us this morning? **With Solomon's death, one of the book's major characters leaves the story. Again, what can we learn from this half-hearted king? What can we learn from the wisest and most foolish king?**

Here are some truths and principles for our lives:

1. Our _____ is the most important thing about us.
2. There is no _____ for a heart that is _____ and _____ to God.
3. Great sins _____ from small compromises.

4. The _____ of any believer into a lifestyle of sin never occurs without _____.
5. Making wise decisions today does not _____ wise decisions will be made tomorrow.
6. Because He is a God who _____ His people, He will not allow His people to _____ in sin.
7. God is _____ to His promises of grace, in spite of the _____ of His people.
8. The time to walk with God is not yesterday, not tomorrow, nor one day; the time to walk with God is _____.

One Bible commentator writes: *"May our allegiance always be sincere to Jesus Christ, the One "greater than Solomon", who died for us, who lives for us and one day will come for us."* (Wiersbe, Be Responsible - 1 Kings, p. 106)