

Unit .12

Session.04

A Son Rejects Wisdom

Scripture



1 Kings 11:1-4, 9-13; 12:12-17

1 King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women 2 from the nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "You must not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn your heart away to follow their gods." To these women Solomon was deeply attached in love. 3 He had seven hundred wives who were princesses and three hundred who were concubines, and they turned his heart away. 4 When Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away to follow other gods. He was not wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord his God, as his father David had been. ... 9 The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. **10** He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the LORD had commanded. 11 Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have done this and did not keep my covenant and my statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. 12 However, I will not do it during your lifetime for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand. 13 Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David and for the sake of Jerusalem that I chose." ... 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam on the third day, as the king had ordered: "Return to me on the third day." 13 Then the king answered the people harshly. He rejected the advice the elders had given him 14 and spoke to them according to the young men's advice: "My father made your yoke heavy, but I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with barbed whips."15 The king did not listen to the people, because this turn of events came from the LORD to carry out his word, which the LORD had spoken through Ahijah the Shilonite to Jeroboam son of Nebat. 16 When all Israel saw that the king had not listened to them, the people answered him: What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. Israel, return to your tents; David, now look after your own house! So Israel went to their tents, 17 but Rehoboam reigned over the Israelites living in the cities of Judah.

His Story

Solomon disregarded God's command about having too many physical possessions. How can this serve as a warning for us? What are some physical possessions that have interfered with your walk with Christ?

Solomon also allowed personal relationships in his life to direct his affections away from God. How can we avoid similar outcomes in our own relationships?



Sin's Effects in the World

Sin does not only impact our relationship with God; it is also the root of our broken relationships with the people around us. Human sinfulness is the reason the creation groans in anticipation for redemption and deliverance from its bondage to evil powers (Rom. 8:20-22). Sin has infected and redirected the social structures of society, leading to injustice and oppression. The distorting effects of sin are visible all around us, but the good news of the gospel is that the battle against these powers will be won through the work of Christ.

Main Point

Half-hearted devotion leads to foolish choices.

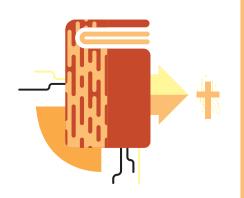
How has God "set you up for success" to follow Him?					

Solomon's foolishness blinded him to the long term effects his sin would have on those around him. Why do you think people don't usually consider the negative impact sin can have on those around them?

His Story

How have you seen your sin affect others? How have you see God's grace cover over it?

Christ Connection



Solomon was a king whose reign was marked by prosperity and peace, but in the end, Solomon's sinful compromise led to the division of the kingdom. During His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of Himself when He claimed "something greater than Solomon is here" (Luke 11:31). Whereas Solomon's sinful choices divided the kingdom, Christ's right rous submission to God established a new unity for God's people.



Head

How does Solomon's story challenge the way we think about earthly rulers?

What wisdom can we offer to others who have placed their security in earthly figures instead of in Jesus?



Heart

What does Solomon's compromise in devotion to God on account of his relationships teach us about guarding our heart?

What wisdom would you offer someone whose devotion to God is being compromised?



Hands

How does the story of Solomon challenge us to live from day to day?

What are some specific ways you live differently this week as a result?

Daily Devotions



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



What did this passage mean to its original audience?



What does this passage tell us about man?



What does this passage demand of me?





How does this passage prompt me to pray?

Day 1

1 Kings 11:1-8

God had prohibited the Israelites from intermarrying with the nations surrounding them (Deut. 7:1-4). However, this was to preserve religious, not racial, purity as is made clear by the second half of verse 2. Solomon is an extreme example that proves the rule. With seven hundred wives and three hundred concubines, his heart was literally turned in a thousand different directions.

Notice that the heart is mentioned four times in these first four verses. The writer of 1 Kings wanted to make sure we understand that Solomon suffered from a terminal heart condition: the divided heart.

Sin doesn't happen because of something external, something happening out there. It's internal, the result of something that has already happened inside. If your heart has been divided, Scripture provides the remedy for uniting it again (Ps. 86:11). Only God can bring together a divided heart.

Have you allowed your heart to become divided over time? Ask God to bring it back together again.

1 Kings 11:9-43

1 Kings 12:1-11

At the start of any large, organized marathon, thousands of people are lined up. There is energy, excitement, enthusiasm. There are costumes. It isn't uncommon to see people planning to run 26.2 miles dressed as Elvis.

That's the starting line. The finish line looks quite different. There are a lot fewer people. Far fewer costumes. And while some finish well, many more barely finish, stumbling, walking, or even crawling across that line on the pavement. But whether they sprint or crawl across and no matter what the time reads, everyone who crosses the finish line has one thing in common: they all finished. Many who start never do. The point isn't how you start; it's how you finish.

The first eleven chapters of 1 Kings detail Solomon's life and accomplishments. No king in Israel's history built more, taught more, spent more, wrote more, or married more. But for all that, his death is summed up with his burial with his fathers in the city of David. He started well—with the best of them—but he didn't finish well. May we be a people who finish strong.

What adjustments do you need to make in your race to finish well?

Rehoboam had two choices: listen to the old men who had counseled his father or listen to the young men he had grown up with. You know the rest of the story, and you know it didn't turn out well. It can be tempting to discount the previous generation and assume their ideas and perspectives are outdated. But consider these truths from God's word:

- One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts (Ps. 145:4).
- Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days (Job 12:12).
- Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old (Prov. 23:22).

Not only does it benefit us to seek wisdom from the previous generation; we ignore it at our own peril. If only he had listened! What will it take for us to listen?

From whom do you seek advice and counsel? Who do you need to seek out for advice in the future?

1 Kings 12:12-19

1 Kings 12:20-33

Verse 18 has a double meaning. On one level, "to this day" refers to the writing of 1 Kings itself, which could have been any time prior to the destruction of the temple (based on 1 Kings 8:8—that the poles to carry the ark could still be seen "to this day"). But the statement can be seen as a commentary on the future state of Israel. It was Israel who rejected Jesus (Acts 4:11). Paul would write in Romans 9:31-32 that Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness through works and not by faith. Any time we seek to be justified apart from grace, we are in rebellion against Jesus, the house of David. It continues to happen, to this day.

How are you seeking to be justified? Spiritually speaking, are you in rebellion against the house of David? Two factors contributed to Israel's apostasy. First, Jeroboam attempted to use religion in the service of politics. He reasoned that if people were required to return to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices, they wouldn't identify with Shechem as their new capital. Jeroboam missed the point of the pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It wasn't to align the people with an earthly kingdom but with a heavenly one.

Second, Jeroboam appealed to his people's desire for comfort and convenience. Instead of requiring them to visit only one place to offer sacrifices, he established two shrines—one at Dan, on the northern border of Israel, and the second at Bethel, on the southern border. He placed a golden calf in each one, repeating the same words Aaron used when he made the first golden calf at the foot of Mount Sinai (Ex. 32:4).

The problem with Jeroboam was that he saw the worship of God as a means to some other end. To him, worship of God was a means by which he could realize the end of a united people under his rule. Put simply, he made worship—and the God of that worship—a tool to bring about his purposes. Worship is never a means to an end. Worship is the end. May we remember that.

What do you need to do this week to make sure you are worshiping God with a pure heart?

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