



THURSDAY 05.06.10

I Kings 11:1-6

We see within the life of Solomon the temptation that plagued the entire nation of Israel throughout the Old Testament story. After being delivered from Egypt, the people led Aaron, the brother of Moses, to construct a golden calf as a “substitute god” for the people. In the writings of the prophets, Israel is often described as an “unfaithful spouse” who walks away from her first love.

- In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns that “no one can serve two masters.” In Psalm 86, the psalmist writes, “Give me an undivided heart that I might fear your name.” Solomon’s love for foreign women undermined his allegiance to God. Are there areas of your life that challenge your commitment to God?
- What is one thing you might start doing or continue to do in your life to solidify your full devotion to God?



FRIDAY 05.07.10

I Kings 12:1-11

At the time of his death, those who served with Solomon implore his son, Rehoboam, to depart from his father’s ways which had placed a “heavy yoke” on the people. When Solomon was given his father’s throne, David had carefully instructed him in the way he should lead. I Kings records no such instructions from Solomon to his own son.

- Rehoboam’s decision to increase the “yoke” on the people would eventually destroy the kingdom. Jeroboam would become king of the northern kingdom of Israel. Rehoboam would maintain control of the southern kingdom of Judah. What does this development say about the legacy of Solomon?
- With authority comes responsibility. Throughout human history, we see our tendency to forget this important truth. What responsibilities has God given to you? Today, consider how you are doing in the areas where God has given you authority.



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Series: *UNRated*
Sermon: *Richest Man Alive Has 700 Wives*
Scripture: *Proverbs 4:1-15*

Things I'd like to remember from today's sermon:



Introduction

This week we turn our attention to Solomon, the third king of Israel. David's adulterous affair with Bathsheba had resulted in the birth of a son who had died only seven days into his young life. As we read last week, this was only the first of three sons David would eventually bury in his lifetime. Following the death of this first son, David had comforted his new wife, Bathsheba, and in time, she gave birth to another son, Solomon.

Though David is often celebrated as the greatest king of Israel, it was during Solomon's reign that Israel was the most prosperous and powerful. The honor of constructing a permanent dwelling place for God among God's people would fall to this son of David, and for a period of time, Solomon would stay faithful to the careful instruction he had been given by his father. But as we will discover in our readings this week, the prominence and power established by Solomon would soon deteriorate because of his unfaithfulness to God.

As you reflect on your readings for this week, may this prayer guide you.

Lord God, we remember this week this important truth we find in your word. Every good and perfect gift comes from you. We ask that you would give to each of us the wisdom to appreciate each gift and the help we need to live our lives in gratitude to you alone. Give us a heart that loves you above all else and enable us to serve you faithfully all the days of our lives. AMEN.



TUESDAY 05. 04.10

I Kings 3:4-15

David had chosen his son Solomon to sit upon his throne following his death. In yesterday's reading, David charged his son to remain faithful to God. In today's reading, we see God affirming David's choice of Solomon as the next king.

- We might read God's invitation for Solomon to "ask for whatever you want me to give you" as a challenge to see what was really at the heart of this young king. If so, Solomon must have passed the test by asking for wisdom rather than wealth and power. In making this request, Solomon actually displays the wisdom that he seeks by recognizing that he needs God's help. If wisdom is knowing when you need help from God and others, how wise are you?
- In what area of your life are you most in need of God's wisdom and direction? Today, ask God for wisdom.



MONDAY 05.03.10

I Kings 2:1-4; 10-12

Solomon was not the oldest son of King David, but he was the one chosen to sit on his father's throne. In the verses that follow David's opening words [vs. 5-9], the king instructs Solomon on the steps he must take to solidify his new position of authority.

- David charges Solomon to "be strong" and "walk faithfully." What connection do you see between the idea of being "faithful" and being "strengthened"? Has faith strengthened you? In what way?
- David cautions his son with the notion that how Solomon chooses to "live" will be a model for all of Israel in the generations to come. How has life been modeled for you? Jesus said, "I have come that they might have life, and have it to the full." In what ways might you today embrace the "full" life modeled in Jesus' life?



WEDNESDAY 05.05.10

I Kings 8:22-30

Solomon's father, David, had dreamed of building a permanent "tent" in which God might dwell among God's people. David never achieved the peace necessary to focus his attention on this monumental construction project. That would fall to Solomon, and it would be one of Solomon's lasting legacies.

- In I King 7, we see the first signs of Solomon's faithfulness to God beginning to wane. At the end of chapter six, we read that Solomon spent seven years building this Temple. Chapter seven tell us that He spent 13 years building a palace for himself. Does your walk with God have a similar "imbalance?" In what way?
- In Solomon's words, the Temple was to provide a place for God to hear their prayers and, in turn, forgive. Do you believe that God desires to forgive? If so, what prayer might God lead you to pray to him today?
