

## Lessons from the Heartstrings of Solomon: King Solomon & the Loves of His Life

The Theme Through the Life of Solomon is Faithfulness...and the Lack Thereof...

His story is in I Kings 3-11

A Call to Faithfulness

***I Kings 2:4b.....live faithfully in My presence with all their heart and being***

God is Faithful I Kings 8:20-53; 56

### Session I

The Worship of Solomon I Kings 3:3-5; 5-8:62-66

- King Solomon's love for the Lord drew him to worship, prayer, obedience, thankfulness

Principles:

- Be faithful in worship/prayer/obedience/thankfulness of One True God
- *Worship of the LORD comes from a heart of LOVE for Him*
- Love the LORD your God with all your heart
  - ***I Kings 8:61 "Let your heart be loyal to the Lord our God.....to walk in His statutes & to keep His Ways."***
  - ***I Kings 2:4b "...walk before Me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul (ESV)"***
- ***A faithful life requires love and loyalty the One True Living God***
- A long/faithful life is a challenge. A faithful life is a challenge every day! Faithfulness depends on Who/what you love. To be faithful is to be reliable, steadfast and unwavering, dependable.
- God loves faithfulness because HE is FAITHFUL
  - *1 Kings 8:56 "Not one word has failed of all the good promises he gave"*
  - *Hebrews 10:23 "Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful;"*

**Outline:**

- A. *Worship Kings 3:3-4; I Kings 8:12-21; I Kings 8:62-66***
- B. *Obedience: I Kings 5:1-8:22 , Built temple***
- C. *Thankfulness***
- D. *Prayer: I Kings 8:22-53***

David started out good....sank low....ended good because when David sinned, he confessed repented ....

Overall, he was unusually faithful, and God viewed him as "a man after My (own) Heart, who will do all My will":

All the other Kings after David were assessed, not by their achievements.....but the degree to which they were faithful to the LORD/His covenant...as David had been.

Solomon started out great....but *I Kings 11:4 "Solomon was not faithful as his father David had been"*

What happened? The secret is in Solomon's life in I Kings. It's in the heartstrings of King Solomon .....& the loves of his life.

Word heartstring means our deepest feelings of love or compassion; the deepest emotions or affections

Loves are cultivated. Loves are not simply what you fall into or out of; your loves are nurtured. Your affections must be stirred toward the things you want your heart to embrace.

The Lord Jesus said: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind & your neighbor as yourself."

## Session II

The Wisdom of Solomon: *I Kings 3:6-28; 4:29-34; 10:1-13; Proverbs; Ecclesiastes; Song of Solomon*

- King Solomon's love of wisdom brought blessing to God's people.

Principles:

- Be faithful to gain wisdom of the LORD
- *Wisdom comes from a heart of LOVE for His WORD*
- Love His Word
  - *Proverbs 1:7 "....fools despise wisdom and instruction"*
  - *I Kings 2:6 "Act according to your wisdom....."*
- *A faithful life requires a love for God's Word*

**Outline:**

- Gift of Wisdom I Kings 3:12b...."I give you a wise/discerning mind"*
  - *I Kings 4:29 "And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure....."*
- Wisdom of Solomon: I Kings 10:23-24 "Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put into his mind"*
- Wisdom Writings of Solomon: Proverbs, Song of Solomon, Ecclesiastes*

Solomon has been the given the Kingdom by God. He was bound by oath to secure the kingdom...to thwart any and all threats to its security & govern the God's people, a task for which he knew he was inadequate. His request for wisdom was granted. The Hebrew word for understanding in v. 3:12 means hearing/listening and it implies obedience.

To be wise is to hear and obey.

The LORD is pleased to equip His people for the works He has ordained. (Ephesians 2:10)

I Kings 3 is a wonderful passage for us to pray for others: that God will give you & the one you are praying for:

- v. 3:9 a receptive heart....
- v. 3:12 a wise & understanding heart.....that you/he/she will hear/obey God's Word
- v. 3:14.....that he/she will walk in the ways of the Lord

Jesus drew some of His important lessons from little things—little flowers, little birds, little dew-drops, little children, little mustard seed. He insisted on faithfulness in littles.

Life is great because it is the aggregation of little. Just as coral reefs are made up of minute skeletons of microscopic animalcules, life is made up of minute incidents...trifling duties...small tasks. Only those who are faithful in the least....can be faithful in the whole. Ask God for wisdom to do the mundane....and be faithful in the "Littles."

- Little vices make us wicked.
- Little neglects lead to great ruin.
- Little precautions lead to great safety.
- Little wastings make great losses.
- Little savings make great gains.
- Little troubles make us miserable.
- Little virtues make us godly. --- John Colwell 1882

Wisdom is applying the knowledge/understanding/precepts in God's Word to your life today.

*"God commands that you be saved, Spirit-filled, saturated in God's Word, sanctified, submissive, suffering."*

--- John MacArthur.

- That's God's will for your life

For the myriad of decisions you make every day..... *You need wisdom. Wisdom is required for life.*

Discerning what decisions to make in life is not magical process, but rather, the consistent acquisition, processing/applying of God's Word reflecting the Heart of God

His storehouse of wisdom in His Word is enough.

Life requires wisdom! Every day!

Make wisdom a way of life applying the precepts/principles you learn from God's Word.

The love of wisdom from God's Word leads to blessing.

*Prov 2:6 "For the Lord gives wisdom: from His mouth come knowledge & understanding"*

Love God's Word! It is wisdom for your life.

We, today as believers are commanded to GO to all nations. But God's plan/purpose for Israel was that they be a people, a light shining on a hill for all the nations to notice and for THEM to COME to Jerusalem to worship.

The Lord brings people into your life so that you might give to them the truth of the LIVING GOD!

God gave Solomon a unique type of wisdom/insight to write the wisdom literature:

Ecclesiastes, Proverbs, Song of Solomon.

**Ecclesiastes:**

- looks back on a life that was long on experience, but short on lasting rewards. The world-weary tone of the writing suggests that late in life, he looked back on his folly with regret, pointing us to a better, simpler life lived in fear of the living God. (Ecclesiastes 12:13–14). Even in Solomon's desperate search for meaning and significance in life, God remained present.

**Proverbs:**

- Proverbs is full of numerous short instructions for living an effective life on earth. Proverbs concerns itself completely with instructing people in the path of wisdom. Theme: *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge"* (Prov 1:7).

**Song of Solomon:**

- Unlike the songs of his father David, God is not named nor is it quoted in the New Testament. Matthew Henry says it's an allegory or nuptial song about the love God has for His people...as a bridegroom has for His bride. God betrothed the people of Israel to Himself. He had given abundant proofs of his love to them and desired their love and faithfulness.

When faced with fear, decisions, worry, indecision, daily responsibilities, relationships....

Wisdom says: wait patiently...persevere in prayer.... consult God's Word and those in authority.....your pastor....your husband....ask more mature believers in Biblical knowledge for their Biblical input. Submit to the authorities God has placed in your life so that you live according to the wisdom of God/His Word.

God has given you every necessary Person: Himself/His Word/His people

God has called you to love HIM/His WORD/His Wisdom

Be faithful to love His Word.

### Session III

The Wealth/Wives of Solomon *I Kings 4:20-28; 10:14-11:8*

- King Solomon's Heart Failure
  - King Solomon's love of his wives *"turned his heart after other gods & his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God."* *I Kings 11:4*

#### Principles:

- Be faithful to love that which God loves.
- *Who/what you love will turn your heart to the Lord...or away*
- **A faithful life requires loving what God loves**

#### Outline:

- A. The Wives of Solomon: I Kings 11:1-8***
- B. The Wealth of Solomon: I Kings 3:13 "I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor....." I Kings 10:14-29 v. 23" Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches....."***
- C. Solomon's Heart Failure***

#### Wives:

- Solomon had tried to insulate himself/his kingdom from foreign threats by marrying wives from these various little kingdoms. But that isn't God's way. God's way was obedience to His covenant stipulations and He would protect/provide for them. His wives brought into Israel, their idolatries & Solomon accommodated each and every one.

#### Wealth:

- *I Kings 10:23-25 "Thus King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches & in wisdom. And the whole earth sought the presence of Solomon to hear his wisdom, which God had put not his mind. Every one of them brought his present: articles of silver, gold, garments, myrrh, spices, horses and mules so much year by year."*

#### Heart failure:

- The tragedy of Solomon's life: he failed to remain faithful to the LORD. God....in mercy....had warned Solomon repeatedly....*I Kings 3:14; 6:11-13; 8:25; 9:1-9* and His father David had warned him *I Kings 2:1-4*

As spectacular as his achievements were....Solomon was required to build faithfulness into his life & to lead the people to same.

God is incomparable in His fidelity. God is perfect in His faithfulness....totally trustworthy. And you and I are to be trustworthy also.

God was pleased that Solomon had obeyed His Word in every detail of the Temple. But He reminded Solomon that FAITHFULNESS to HIM was the requirement for God's presence....not the temple building itself.

*I Kings 9:6-7 "But if you turn aside from following me, you or your children, and do not keep my commandments and my statutes that I have set before you, but go and serve other gods and worship them, then I will cut off Israel from the land that I have given them, and the house that I have consecrated for my name I will cast out of my sight, and Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples."*

*I Kings 2:1-4 "When David was close to death, he told Solomon his son: "I am about to die. Be strong and become a man! Do the job the Lord your God has assigned you by following his instructions and obeying his rules, commandments, regulations, and laws as written in the law of Moses. Then you will succeed in all you do and seek to accomplish, and the Lord will fulfill his promise to me, 'If your descendants watch their step and live faithfully in my presence with all their heart and being, then,' He promised, 'you will not fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.'"*

But it is in this area of life that Solomon has failed. God's instructions for the kings is found in:

*Deut 17:14-20 "When you enter the land which the Lord your God gives you, and you possess it and live in it, and you say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations who are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the Lord your God chooses, one from among your countrymen you shall set as king over yourselves; you may not put a foreigner over yourselves who is not your countryman. Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the Lord has said to you, 'You shall never again return that way.' He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away; nor shall he greatly increase silver and gold for himself. "Now it shall come about when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself a copy of this law on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. It shall be with him and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, by carefully observing all the words of this law and these statutes, 20 that his heart may not be lifted up above his countrymen and that he may not turn aside from the commandment, to the right or the left, so that he and his sons may continue long in his kingdom in the midst of Israel."*

These commands were designed to prevent the king: from trusting in military might or wealth; following foreign gods; and from a failure to keep the law/statutes of the Lord.

Solomon violated

- *v. 11:6,9,10 "Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not follow the Lord fully, as David his father had done. The Lord was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel..... He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the Lord had commanded."*

Disobedience would bring discipline and in I Kings 11:14-40 God raised adversaries against Solomon's kingdom

Of course, there was a way out of God's punishment/judgment: confession/repentance.

God ALWAYS offers mercy, grace, forgiveness to the one who recognizes offense against God & confesses.... turns from that offense.... and turns to Christ Jesus

Solomon could have done that. God's people could have done that

But because they didn't repent of their rejection of God's Word, v. 11:31, the kingdom will divide.

**Principle:** The prophecies of God always come true.

- The tragedy is he failed to remain faithful to God because (in his own words): *"Ecclesiastes 2:8, 10-11 "I amassed silver and gold for myself, and the treasure of kings and provinces. I acquired . . . a harem as well..... the delights of the heart of man....And whatever my eyes desired I did not keep from them. I kept my heart from no pleasure, for my heart found pleasure in all my toil, and this was my reward for all my toil. Then I considered all that my hands had done and the toil I had expended in doing it, and behold, all was vanity and a striving after wind, and there was nothing to be gained under the sun."*

Lust of the eyes, lust of the flesh, pride of life.....that was his downfall.... The loves of his heart.

We are called/commanded to: Love what God loves.

What does He love?

- He loves the praise of a believing heart.
- He loves a thankful heart.
- He loves the obedience of His people to His Word.
- The Lord loves His servants who intercede for His people like Solomon who prayed v. 8:21-53; blessed them in v. 8:54-61
- He loves that which brings Him the glory He alone deserves.
- He loves the traits of the character of God in Christ Jesus. He loves faithfulness....as He is faithful.
- He loves the fruit of the Holy Spirit because those are traits of the character of God in Christ
  - God loves HIS SON.....His WORD....His CHARACTER....His PEOPLE

Be faithful in your love for Christ Jesus/His Word/His people

*Deuteronomy 7:9* "Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations,"

Be faithful to cultivate love for that which God loves.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart/being.... now and to the end

Age & experience SHOULD make us wiser & godlier.... But that doesn't always happen, so Solomon says:

*Prov. 4:23* "Keep your heart w/all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life"

OR: your heart/your life can be unfaithful to that which God loves.

The Scripture alone gives you knowledge of the Most High, so that you learn to love what He loves.

Every thought, motive, action is ultimately dictated by what we love.... what you love/desire/cultivate/nurture matters...

Augustine said: "life change flows....not from the acts of the will....but the loves of the heart"

If you are faithful, you are trustworthy, dependable, reliable, a promise keeper.....That's what God is. That's what we saw modeled by Lord Jesus.

We know what He loves..... that which reflects His character/Who He is.... character that is like Lord Jesus Christ. CULTIVATE LOVE for what God loves: A heart after His.... A faithful life.... stable/trustworthy/ steadfast.

LOVE the ONE Who brought you into this life by His creative power....

Love the One Who BOUGHT you with His own blood

Love HIS WORD/Wisdom..... Love His people

Questions for discussion:

1. Where are you struggling?  
What hinders you from being faithful to the Lord and His call on your life?  
Do you crave more money than your husband provides?  
Do you love your free time more than serving in the body of Christ?  
Do you love yourself more than you love your husband/children/family/the lost? Your marriage vows?  
What about doing the laundry? Keeping your house in order? Being faithful in the little things?
2. What are some lessons we can learn from the loves of Solomon's heart?
  - Be faithful to the tasks God gives you.
  - Be CONTENT with what God provides: through your husband.... from your savings/retirement accounts....
  - Guard your heart against idolatry, loving ONLY that which God Loves.
  - Be steadfast/reliable/dependable....be faithful as God is faithful ....in a faithless generation
  - Love God's Word/wisdom for life
3. What are the loves of your heart?
4. What attributes of God are prominent in I Kings 3-11?
5. What would God have you cultivate in your life?