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***Living in HisStory:Revealing the True Wonder of Who God is  
Seeking God's Heart***

***1 Kings 2:13-16, 3:3-15, Phil 2:1-11  
February 11, 2018, Adrian Moskal***

We have been going through the Sermon Series Living in History or Living in His Story; Revealing the true wonder of Who God is. That is a lengthy sermon series title but it is all of that. It is God's Story and it is important to figure out how we live in it as we as we uncover his story. It has been quite the adventure to uncover how awesome God is as we see him from the beginning through to the end. You get a far more complete picture of his character when you see it this way. It is like seeing the earth from Space rather than snapshots as you travel from place to place and only get glimpses.

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As we have went through this sermon series, we have been tracking 3 threads:

1. God is up to something
2. Satan is up to something - (destroying the shalom that God is seeking with us)
3. We, left to our own devices, without the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit, most naturally move away from God.

We can see these at work as we look at David's son Solomon. David is dying and names Solomon king as his replacement. That does not seem strange or out of the ordinary until we look at who Solomon is and what impact that has on God's story.

Let's look again at Matthew 1 as it outlines the genealogy from Abraham to Jesus including David and Solomon.

When you look at this genealogy, you see that God is up to something. Look at the people God used in 'His Story' to redeem the world. The fact that the saviour of the world is in this family line shows how amazing God is. This genealogy starts with Abraham who was revered for his faith and yet had moments of massive doubts (who wouldn't).

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***Matthew 1:2-16 (NLT)***

***<sup>2</sup> Abraham was the father of Isaac.***

***Isaac was the father of Jacob.***

***Jacob was the father of Judah and his brothers.***

***<sup>3</sup> Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah (whose mother was Tamar).***

It has women listed even though this is written into a context that is a patriarchal society where women are not thought of as equals. These women include Tamar - who had sex with her former father in law.

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***<sup>5</sup> Salmon was the father of Boaz (whose mother was Rahab).***

Rahab who was a prostitute.

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***Boaz was the father of Obed (whose mother was Ruth).***

***Obed was the father of Jesse.***

***<sup>6</sup> Jesse was the father of King David.***

This is where David enters the picture. David was the least of his family. They were lowly shepherds. David becomes a great man of the bible as God uses him and makes him into a warrior king.

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***David was the father of Solomon (whose mother was Bathsheba, the widow of Uriah).***

Solomon, the son of Bathsheba, was the least likely candidate to be God's choice as David's successor for several reasons. 1. He was younger than his brothers. 2. His mom was Bathsheba who conceived Solomon with King David while still married to another man (Uriah - one of David's generals). 3. He was the product of David's most humbling sin? Probably. This is who God chose to lead after David. This is who God chose to be king. This is the scarlet thread in this passage to see how God chose Solomon to be in The line of David/Jesus. It is most unusual and not the norm of the day. So, Solomon must have been very conscious of God's gracious hand in his life.

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***<sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.***

***Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.***

Now, none of these people, individually, are significant enough to spend much time on but if we look at how they are connected to and point to Jesus, they each become very significant.

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Just like these people, we are broken and God wants to use us in his story. He wants to grow you and love you so you can be a light and be a part of his story of redemption.

Each one of these people were important in the story because they were in the direct line of Jesus and yet they were broken people. God's greatness and awesomeness is seen more and more through the unlikely people he uses.

**(9)**

God uses unlikely people in his story to show his grace and power.

The genealogy starts with a promise God makes to Abraham that out of Abraham, God will call a people for himself. These people were to follow God and they would be His and He would be their God. Through the lineage, they stumble and bumble and yet God's will overcomes. God is the hero and it culminates in the birth of Jesus, the Messiah.

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***<sup>16</sup> Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary.  
Mary gave birth to Jesus, who is called the Messiah.***

The genealogy ends with the birth of Jesus. He is redeeming his people and that redemption is in the person and work of Jesus. Our sermon series will culminate in Jesus coming back, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. God will restore the shalom with his people. This is the result of our first thread we are looking at in the sermon series 'God is up to something.'

At the same time, Satan is at work trying to destroy the shalom God is restoring. Satan does this by deception and half truths. These lies, we are open to listening to because they feed into our natural penchant to move away from God. We move away from God because if he is on the throne, then we can't be. We generally want to control things and call the shots.

What do we want out of life? What do you seek? What will make you happy? To be loved, to be known, to belong, financial security, comfort, pleasure, health, and long life are all things that most everyone seeks at one time or another; christian or non christian.

There is a truism that goes something like this: If you want to see what is important to someone, check his cheque book and his time log.

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What is important to you is reflected in what you spend your time and your money on.

Think about where your money is spent. Think about how you spend each part of your day.

If God is on the throne in your life, then it may turn out differently than you think it should.

Has anyone here not experienced financial hardships in their life (over the age of 25)? Yes, pretty much everyone.

Did you know in 2016: 10.4 billion dollars was spent in Canada on lotteries. What are they selling? Hope of an affluent life, an easy life, something for nothing, etc.

Many years ago, there was a time when I was younger and money was tight. We were working a lot. There was more money going out than coming in and I would dream about winning the lottery. Praying for financial freedom. I could rationalize everything I asked God for. And let me tell you I was good at it. In my head I could make deals with God, that if he gave me a lottery win, I would give so much to the church. Look at how faithful I am. It was all really holy....Not!!

What was I doing? I was putting myself on the throne in place of God. In those times, I was happy with God as long as he did what I wanted. I was treating him like a genie. When I prayed, I was making a wish and asking him to grant it. I might have dressed it up with some spiritual words but it is just not the way God works.

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It takes humility to trust God with your life.

**(13)**

***Jeremiah 29:11***

***<sup>11</sup> For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.***

God is not a genie where we rub a lamp and he grants our wishes. It is so much better than that. God wants the best for us. He wants to have a relationship with you, he wants to help you grow and to be the best you that you can be. Because of his perfection and holiness, he is able to determine what is better for me and what is not. I would never choose pain or suffering and yet sometimes these are things that we must walk through. We are going to look at what frame of mind we need to have to get to know God. What can we do to forge a relationship with Jesus?

Last week, Pastor Jeff shared where Solomon ended up. Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines, he had extravagant excesses and he stumbled to put God first.

I am going to share about his early days of the monarchy and some positive things that happened regarding Solomon.

Let's look at 1 Kings 2 and 3 and look at Adonijah and Solomon. They are both sons of King David. At this point David is quite ill and is not really able to function effectively as king. These 2 sons approached things from different perspectives.

Adonijah saw weakness in David and he leapt at the chance to seize power and control of the kingdom. God had promised David that Solomon would be king. Adonijah was the oldest and was a 'pretty good choice'. After Adonijah convinced others to support him, he declared himself king and threw a party. As we have seen, God always keeps his promises and Adonijah is thwarted and Solomon is named king. We get a picture of Adonijah's heart in a conversation he has with Solomon's mother, Bathsheba after he is denied from being king.

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**1 Kings 2: 13-17 (NLT)**

***One day Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, came to see Bathsheba, Solomon's mother. "Have you come with peaceful intentions?" she asked him.***

***"Yes," he said, "I come in peace. <sup>14</sup> In fact, I have a favor to ask of you." "What is it?" she asked.***

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***<sup>15</sup> He replied, "As you know, the kingdom was rightfully mine; all Israel wanted me to be the next king. But the tables were turned, and the kingdom went to my brother instead; for that is the way the Lord wanted it. <sup>16</sup> So now I have just one favor to ask of you. Please don't turn me down."***

***"What is it?" she asked.***

***<sup>17</sup> He replied, "Speak to King Solomon on my behalf, for I know he will do anything you request. Ask him to let me marry Abishag, the girl from Shunem."***

Where is his heart? Where is God in his life? It is pretty evident, that Adonijah was all about himself.

***<sup>15</sup> He replied, "As you know, the kingdom was rightfully mine; all Israel wanted me to be the next king.*** You can hear the jealousy and regret and self serving tone of his voice. He overestimates the situation when he says All of Israel wanted me to be king. And I think it gets worse when he says:

***But the tables were turned, and the kingdom went to my brother instead; for that is the way the Lord wanted it.***

If you have a healthy fear and love for God, and are seeking him, that last statement makes no sense. Adonijah isn't concerned with the people's welfare. He isn't concerned with what God cares about obviously. He only wants to the throne and the power that comes with it. He wants to call the shots.

**(16)**

If we put ourselves first, seeking God's Heart/Will is impossible

The girl in question was a concubine of David's. In fact it was David's last concubine. Before this request, Solomon had spared Adonijah because he had pledged allegiance to Solomon. Now with the request to marry one of the royal concubines, Adonijah lost his life.

We are now going to look at how Solomon approached God and Solomon's relationship with him. Pay careful attention to Solomon's posture and demeanour in his interaction with God.

**(17)**

***1 Kings 3:3-15***

***Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. <sup>4</sup> The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. <sup>5</sup> That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, "What do you want? Ask, and I will give it to you!"***

Solomon saw the relationship his father David had with God and he sought to have the same relationship. He followed the law. He obeyed God. These local places of worship were leftover from the Canaanites and once the temple is built, Israelites will take their sacrifices to the temple. Solomon is taking an offering to the Lord of 1000 burnt offerings. He is seeking to have a close relationship with God and to put him first and God responded to him in a dream that night.

**(18)**

***<sup>6</sup> Solomon replied, "You showed great and faithful love to your servant my father, David, because he was honest and true and faithful to you. And you have continued to show this great and faithful love to him today by giving him a son to sit on his throne.***

Look at the words in verse 6. He talks of the relationship between David and God and how each was faithful. Solomon also recognizes David as a servant of God. David was his dad and a warrior king and yet it was evident that he was a humble, servant of God.

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***<sup>7</sup> "Now, O Lord my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn't know his way around,<sup>8</sup> And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted!—This draws us to the covenant God made with Abraham as he promised him that his descendants would be too many to count. <sup>9</sup> Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?"***

Solomon could have asked for anything, and yet he recognizes God made him King. Listen to his humility as he describes himself as a 'little child'. Solomon was young and inexperienced in governmental affairs. Solomon declares Israel as God's chosen people (humility). He asks for wisdom so that he can govern God's people because the task is too large for him alone. He is sharing his need of God to accomplish this massive mission that God has given him. Solomon asked for wisdom not for himself but to govern God's people.

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***<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. <sup>11</sup> So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies—<sup>12</sup> I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! <sup>13</sup> And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! <sup>14</sup> And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."***

When our heart lines up with God's, that is when our prayers get answered. When our heart yearns for the same things that God's heart yearns for, that is the sweet spot. God also reminds him that he needs to continue to follow God and obey God's ways.

The NT backs this up as well. We see this in 1John.

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***1 John 5:13-15 <sup>13</sup>***

***I have written this to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know you have eternal life. <sup>14</sup> And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. <sup>15</sup> And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for.***

When our heart lines up with God's, then we see our prayer life come alive.

And, the final verse of our passage:

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***15 Then Solomon woke up and realized it had been a dream. He returned to Jerusalem and stood before the Ark of the Lord's Covenant, where he sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he invited all his officials to a great banquet.***

Solomon wakes up from this dream and goes to spend time with God, humbles himself and then gives thanks (sacrifices) and celebrates with God's people about the Lord's faithfulness. This is an amazingly simple section but yet so profound.

This is God's desire for us.

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God wants to chip away at our hard hearts and replace it with one that is soft and obedient.

***Ezekiel 11:19-20 19 And I will give them singleness of heart and put a new spirit within them. I will take away their stony, stubborn heart and give them a tender, responsive heart, 20 so they will obey my decrees and regulations. Then they will truly be my people, and I will be their God.***

He wants to grow/change us for our good.

Yes, God wants the best for you and he wants to have a truly deep and meaningful relationship with you. When we look at the world today, the pace has never been faster and our lives I doubt have ever been busier. Technology, two parent working homes, single-parent homes, consumerism, materialism, affluence, year round competitive kids sports, and self centred focus of marketing all contribute to this frantic pace of life we all live.

I have shared the story of how I started following Jesus after I started coming to CRBC. I was saved here and I am not going to retell that story but I do want to reflect on what impact it has had on me.

When we started coming to CRBC, people invested in me. The people who were committed to CRBC gave financially to make sure that the gospel was shared, the pastor who led me to the Lord was paid, the people who led the growth groups were trained here, etc, etc, etc.



Also, the people who disciplined me stopped what they were doing and spent time with me. They answered my questions. They loved on Kerri and me with their time, hospitality and friendship. They sacrificed to build relationship with me.

Therefore others came before me selflessly and sacrificially, so I might hear the good news. They sacrificed time, treasure and talent for it. They put others interests ahead of their own so I might hear the gospel.

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It is impossible to seek God's heart if you can't submit yourself to God and humble yourself.

Adonijah couldn't do it. David was known as a man after God's own heart. He was a humble servant of God. At the beginning of Solomon's rule, Solomon followed David in this path.

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Key Point: To Seek God's Heart We Must Humble Ourselves First. We must be Selfless...Not Selfish

We need to come to God with the right posture and demeanour. He wants to do a work in our hearts and lives but we must partner with him in this and that means coming with a humble heart.

God's covenant with Israel was that he would be their God and they would be his people. To be his people they have to be a humble people who follow God and point the way to God.

I am going to end with a section of Philippians that I think sums it up well. Paul shares in this passage about Jesus' humility and what it means for us. Let these words sink in and ask yourself what is Jesus saying to you in this passage.

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#### ***Philippians 2:1-11 (NLT)***

***So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, <sup>2</sup> complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.***

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***<sup>4</sup> Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. <sup>5</sup> Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in***

***Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup> who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, <sup>7</sup> but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. <sup>8</sup> And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.***

**(28)**

***<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup> so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.***

Let's pray.

**Living in HisStory: Revealing the True Wonder of Who God Is**  
**Seeking God's Heart**  
**1 Kings 2,3 Phil 2:1-11**  
**Week of February 11, 2018**

**Objective of this study:** To find the right posture to follow Jesus.

[Remember, the main goal of each Growth Group is to allow God's Word to change your heart so that others would see Jesus in you and be likewise changed to be like him. [He wants to change the world through us]

**Worship (5 – 10 minutes)**

1. Sing a song or two of praise and thanksgiving to God.
2. Spend five minutes in silence asking God to prepare your heart for how he wants to speak to you.
3. After the five minutes have someone interrupt the silence and read **Psalm 131** meditatively to the group. Pause after each phrase letting God speak to you. **Did anything “jump out at you”?**

**Welcome (5 minutes)**

Who is your biggest inspiration and for what reason?

[It's really important when doing this study that we each think about ourselves specifically and ways we need to grow, not how Christians in general need to grow. Do the hard work of letting the Holy Spirit speak to your heart.]

**Word/Work (60-90 minutes)**

1. What stood out from the sermon?
2. Read 1 Kings 2:13-25
  - a. What is the context in this passage?
  - b. Why would Adonijah ask to marry Abishag?
  - c. What is Adonijah's state of mind? What is his posture when he asks Bathsheba for this favor?
  
3. 1 Kings 3:1-15
  - a. What is the context of this section? How strong is Israel's military at this point?
  - b. Contrast Solomon's posture toward God and his father David's posture toward God?
  - c. What is the importance of verse 9? What does this say about Solomon?
  - d. What was God's response to Solomon's request and why? What does this say about God?

- e. What did Solomon do after he woke and why?
  
- 4. Read Philippians 2:1-11. What stands out to you from this passage?
- 5. In what areas of your life is your posture toward Jesus not of a servant? What areas of your life are you on the throne instead of Jesus? Is there areas where Jesus is asking you to sacrifice that you have been unable to at this point in your life?

### **Prayer**

- 1. Spend some time in prayer. Start by worshipping God for who he is and what he has done. Focus on being grateful. Pray about the things you discussed in the study.
  
- 2. Here are some things you can pray about for the church:
  - A. Praise God that he met all our needs financially last year.
  - B. That, as a church, we would actively and purposefully engage in the mission of Jesus in Campbell River.
  - C. Our church board and staff as they lead us to live out the mission of Jesus
  - D. River Kids ministry as they reach out to kids in our community.
  - E. **Our missionary of the month:** Aaron and Julie Gole at Camp Homewood
  - F. **Our missionary of the week:**
  - G. **Local CR church:**