

# Lessons From Kings - Solomon

Solomon was Israel's third king and the last king of the united nation. He was a son of David and is known for his wisdom. In fact he wrote the wisdom packed books of the bible: Song of Solomon, Proverbs, and Ecclesiastes.

When Solomon was made king, he was young. In fact he wasn't David's oldest son, but his youngest. And David prepared him to be king by instructing him to follow the Lord.

## **1 Kings 3:3-4 (NKJV)**

And Solomon loved the Lord, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.

4 Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar.

Solomon LOVED the Lord. Church, this is the foundation. He loved the Lord. Yes his father instructed him to follow God's commands and he did...but he loved God.

He sacrificed to the Lord at the high places. Why? There was no temple of God at this time. Many of these high places had been for Baal worship and were forbidden to the Israelites except when God made a special exception...this would seem to be one of those times.

Solomon went to the great high place and offered a thousand burnt offerings on the altar. This altar was the great bronze altar. Solomon was giving his best to God. I'm going to the most special altar I know and I'm going to provide offering after offering to the Lord.

We think of Solomon as this king of great wisdom but have you ever thought about his start? It's like when you look at someone and wish you were where they are but you have no idea what it took for them to get there. Solomon's start was that he LOVED God and he desperately sought God.

Solomon would have known this verse:

## **Deuteronomy 4:29 (NKJV)**

But from there you will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul.

Jesus would later say:

## **Matthew 6:33 (NKJV)**

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

Solomon loved God and sought God. A thousand offerings. It cost him time. It cost him finances/possessions. He prioritized his seeking the Lord because of his love for the Lord.

**1 Kings 3:5 (NKJV)**

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?"

Hallelujah! Who wouldn't like God to ask them that question? "What do you want? Ask for it! I'll give it to you!"

How many of you have a list already? I might have a nervous breakdown trying to figure out the #1 thing. I'd probably try the ol "I want an infinite number of wishes" thing.

Here are some common things people might ask for:

- New job
- Dream Car
- Big House
- A Million dollars

You can probably think of a million more things. But what these things have in common, is they are a search for a happier life. They are me focused on yourself...and a love for your own life.

**Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)**

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

What it comes down to is this: "What do you love?" Solomon loved God, remember? God knew his heart and knew he loved Him before He asked what he wanted...

Now some of you wouldn't ask for those material things. You might ask for things like:\

- World peace
- Someone to be healed
- Everyone you love to be saved
- Jesus to return

And these seem like good things to ask for. But God didn't ask Solomon what do you want me to do for the world. He asked what he wanted. What did Solomon need...

**1 Kings 3:6-9 (NKJV)**

And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 Now, O Lord my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in.

8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. 9 Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

Solomon asked for wisdom...an understanding heart and discernment between good and evil.

Solomon, a child...12 years old when he became king. He was a child when he loved God. He was child when he sacrificed 1000 times to the Lord on the altar. He was a child when he was seeking God with all that he had.

And he was a child when God said "Ask! What shall I give you?"

And he was a child when he asked for wisdom.

Solomon knew that of all the things he could receive from the Lord, there was nothing greater than wisdom. But here's the catch...what he was asking for is not what our world calls wisdom...he wanted wisdom from above...he wanted God's wisdom...he wanted God's heart!

Solomon looked at the task before him...and thought..."I can't do this on my own". But you know he had the wisdom of his father David. He had the wisdom of the king's court who served David. He had people who could advise him, people who have been there and done that. But he knew that that wasn't enough to live the life that God had planned for him.

Who here looks at their life, the position they are in, and thinks like Solomon? "I can't do this on my own?"

**James 1:5 (HCSB)**

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives to all generously and without criticizing, and it will be given to him.

James plays a little trick here, "If any of you lacks wisdom"...we ALL lack wisdom. So ask God! PRAY! How many times does Jesus tell us to ask (pray). Paul tells us to pray continually, pray in everything, ask God!

Solomon asked for wisdom to lead God's people.

**1 Kings 3:10-15 (NKJV)**

The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. 13 And I have also

given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. 14 So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.”

15 Then Solomon awoke; and indeed it had been a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, offered up burnt offerings, offered peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

God saw the heart of Solomon...he didn't ask for selfish things, he asked to be able to better serve God and His people. Can I tell you this morning that God will always give you what you need to serve Him better?

There's a lie that's told in Christianity. "God won't give you more than you can handle." Jesus never said that. He said He'd send the Helper. He said the Holy Spirit will guide you to all truth, comfort, direct, convict. You NEED Him.

Do we believe that God has a purpose for us? For every single life He created?

I believe it, and I also believe that you can't fulfill that purpose on your own. It IS too much for you by yourself.

I am absolutely convinced that I am NO GOOD without Jesus! I can't do anything of worth without the Spirit's help. I don't have any words worth saying unless they come from my heart being connected to God's.

1. First, we need to find ourselves in the place where Solomon was...as a child.

We need to be a child that's dependent on his Father. Do you ever find yourself in a place where it seems like the enemy keeps ruining your plans? Can I tell you why? Because they're YOUR plans!

We need to come back to that childlike dependency. We need to be honest and say "Jesus, I need You! It's the only way I can do this. It's the only way I can live a fulfilling life."

It starts with that love for Jesus. Solomon loved the Lord. That's how his story started. When he was 12 years old.

Has your story started yet? Do you love Jesus? Have you been born again and your life been changed? Today is your day, friend!

2. We have to choose to seek His presence.

Solomon as a child, who loved God, made 1000 offerings to the Lord.

Can you imagine how much time he spent doing this? Yet we can't spend 30 minutes reading our bible and praying? I don't say that to condemn you. I don't care how much time you're spending. **But how bad do you want it?**

Solomon was seeking the Lord when he was asked what he wanted...

3. Be faithful with what God gives you.

Too often our wish is for something different, change, instead of how to serve God faithfully and effectively right where we're at.

Solomon gave up his desires to seek God's. He could have asked for all kinds of things. But he asked God for wisdom to be able to serve Him better.

And do you know that our God is faithful? Do you know He's a God of blessing?

He gave Solomon more than he asked.

**Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV)**

Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

Solomon asked for wisdom and God gave him wisdom AND riches. If you will love Jesus, seek Him, and be faithful with what He gives you...you just might find yourself overflowing with blessing!

Church, I don't know what you're facing this morning. But I do know that God's word is FULL of His promises. All His promises are yes and amen.

The promises of peace, joy, love, goodness, forgiveness, salvation, sanctification, glorification, hope, healing, heaven...these are all made possible and are fulfilled in Jesus Christ!

Have you accepted Him as Lord and Savior?

If you have, then this morning we're not going to come as beggars...but as children.

Ask for a heart devoted to Jesus. One that loves Him first and most.

Ask the Father for the wisdom to live the life He's given you.

Ask for the wisdom to lead others to Jesus.