

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

Lessons from Solomon's Life

Welcome to week 18 of our sermon series....

Chronological: A Journey Thru Scripture

I believe that this is one of the best series I have had the joy of preaching. Each week I face the challenge of making the reading applicable to our us as Jesus Followers.

Today we are going to look at King Solomon's life and see four takeaways that we can apply to our lives. Are you ready to jump in? Let's go...

Lesson #1: Wisdom is a Valuable Commodity

1 Kings 3:5–15 (NKJV) — 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" 6 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?" 10 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.

Solomon was about 20 years old when he became king. He knew he had big shoes to fill following his father, David. He also knew that he was inexperienced and needed God's divine help in ruling the nation well.

Solomon wanted to make sure that he ruled the people well; therefore, he wanted God to give him wisdom to make the right decisions.

God honored his request and gave him more wisdom than anyone before or after him, except for the Lord Jesus Christ. God also gave him what he didn't ask for, riches and honor.

What is exactly is wisdom?

First, wisdom and knowledge are not the same. Knowledge has to do with facts and information that is gained through learning or experience. There are a lot of knowledgeable people, but I wouldn't say that they are wise.

Wisdom is being able to take what one has learned and rightly apply it to life. Let me take it a step further. Godly wisdom is when we take the Word of God that has been planted in our hearts and make the right application of that Word in our life.

There are a lot of Christ Followers who are filled with knowledge about the bible but are void of wisdom.

Here is what Solomon wrote about wisdom...

***Proverbs 3:13–18 (NKJV)** — 13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, In her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.*

Wisdom is better than riches and provides happiness. We are reminded in...

***James 1:5–7 (NKJV)** — 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. 6 But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord;*

As the Father provided wisdom for Solomon, He will provide wisdom to you if you ask Him. But we must ask believing that He will grant our request and provide the wisdom that we need.

Wisdom is a Valuable Commodity and...

Lesson #2: Obedience and Wisdom are a Two-Sided Coin

1 Kings 11:1–13 (NKJV) — 1 But King Solomon loved many foreign women, as well as the daughter of Pharaoh: women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians, and Hittites—2 from the nations of whom the Lord had said to the children of Israel, “You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. 3 And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines; and his wives turned away his heart. 4 For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God, as was the heart of his father David. 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 Solomon did evil in the sight of the Lord, and did not fully follow the Lord, as did his father David. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, on the hill that is east of Jerusalem, and for Molech the abomination of the people of Ammon. 8 And he did likewise for all his foreign wives, who burned incense and sacrificed to their gods. 9 So the Lord became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the Lord God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, 10 and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the Lord had commanded. 11 Therefore the Lord said to Solomon, “Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. 12 Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. 13 However I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen.”

Solomon had more wisdom than anyone in his time and since, yet it didn't safeguard him from sin. He was still disobedient to the Lord's command because his fleshly desires overpowered him. His love affair with foreign women was not only a violation of God's law but it led him into idol worship which corrupted the nation.

Why? Because he did not obey! Obedience is a subject a lot of people like to avoid in church. When you start talking about obey God's Word, people will accuse you of legalism and I get that. All of us as humans we tend to focus on exteriors rather than interior matters of the heart.

Conformity is easier than being free in Christ.

However, that doesn't mean there aren't biblical commands to obey. As a matter of fact, Jesus said...

Luke 11:28 (NKJV) — 28 But He said, "More than that, blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Matthew 7:24–27 (NKJV) — 24 "Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: 25 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. 26 "But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: 27 and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

Let me give you a couple of examples...

We should be obedient to the Great Commission and Great Commandment.

We should be obedient to Ephesians 4:19 and watch what we say.

Obedience and Wisdom go hand in hand
Wisdom is a Valuable Commodity

And finally...

Lesson #3: Worship and Obedience are Man's All

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14 (NKJV) — 13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all. 14 For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.

- Fear God: worship, reverence, awe

Exodus 20:1–7 (NKJV) — 1 And God spoke all these words, saying: 2 "I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. 3 "You shall have no other gods before Me. 4 "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; 5 you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me, 6 but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments. 7 "You shall not take

the name of the Lord your God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.

Matthew 22:37 (NKJV) — 37 *Jesus said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’*

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) — 10 *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

- Obey God

John 14:15 (NKJV) — 15 *“If you love Me, keep My commandments.*

- Accountable to God

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV) — 10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Revelation 20:11–15 (NKJV) — 11 *Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. 12* *And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. 13* *The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. 14* *Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15* *And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.*