

## Thursday Team Night

1 Kings 10 Now when the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the Lord, she came to test him with hard questions.

The queen of Sheba came because she “heard”.

“People will come mainly because of what they hear”

- What are we known for?
- What does our google reviews look like?
- What have people previously experienced in our church that they will tell others?

1 Kings 10: <sup>3</sup> And Solomon answered all her questions; there was nothing hidden from the king that he could not explain to her. <sup>4</sup> And when the queen of Sheba had seen all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built, <sup>5</sup> the food of his table, the seating of his officials, and the attendance of his servants, their clothing, his cupbearers, and his burnt offerings that he offered at the house of the Lord, there was no more breath in her.

Think of the number of specifics captured in the queens visit. This is a picture of the ultimate first impression.

- If you go to a restaurant and they have great food, but treat you rudely, you won't return.
- If you go to a restaurant and they have great service, but their kitchen is disgusting, you won't return.
- If someone comes here and experiences a good sermon, but the mistreatment of their child, they won't come back.
- If someone comes here and has a good worship experience, but the pastor is rude to them, they won't come back.

The bible details the queens first impression:

- what she had *seen*
- the *house* he had built (in order)
- the quality of the *food*
- the *seating* of his *officials* (the order of Solomon's leaders)
- the *attendance* of his *servants* (the attentiveness of those who serve in the Kingdom)
- the *clothing* (what you wear matters) (how you present yourself matters)
- the *burnt offerings* (said another way, *their worship*)

The bible details the queen's reaction to the first impression of Solomon's kingdom:

2 Chronicles 9 (NLT) <sup>5</sup> She exclaimed to the king, “Everything I heard in my country about your achievements and wisdom is true! <sup>6</sup> I didn’t believe what was said until I arrived here and saw it with my own eyes.”

1 Kings 10:5 ...there was no more breath in her. (It took her breath away)

2 Chronicles 9 (NLT) <sup>12</sup> King Solomon gave the queen of Sheba whatever she asked for—gifts of greater value than the gifts she had given him. Then she and all her attendants returned to their own land.

- The queen of Sheba left with gifts of *greater value*
- Our guests should leaving having received something by us of greater value!
- “Well, shouldn’t that come from Jesus?”
- Yes, but more times than not, Jesus operates through us!



1. What is typically happening in the first 7-20 seconds of someone coming into your 1) presence; 2) ministry area?
2. What is typically your body language tendencies? (guarded, Intimidated, Abrasive, etc.)
3. What is your typical dress standard? (comfy, casual, wrinkles, etc.)
4. When you talk, do you talk with a smile? (worship).

Proverbs 11 <sup>30</sup> The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures (wins) souls is wise.

- “win” (נָקַח) to grasp; to cease.
- typically used in a negative context; to take a life.
- Here, in this context however, it would not mean *one who takes lives is wise*.
- Rather, it means to grasp; cease; or captivate.
- In other words, *he who captivates others is wise!*
- This is in consideration of the first line of the proverb regarding *righteous people*.
- Righteous fruit [seed will spread].

It is wisdom for righteous people to captivate others with their righteous fruit! In winning them to yourself, you [assuming the right motive] are winning them to God!

## **Big Ideas**

**First impressions is everyone's responsibility.**

-Do not assume your responsibility on someone else! (i.e., someone else will...should...).

**Receive everyone like you are receiving Jesus.**

-If Jesus came through our doors or into our area, how excited and welcoming would you be?

-Hebrews 13 Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup> Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

## **Take Aways**

1. What are some tendencies you have that you believe need to change to make a good first impression?
2. Have you ever had a negative first impression that shaped your judgement?
3. What might it look like to receive someone like you would receive Christ?