

LifeGroup Discussion Questions

1 Kings 2:1-9

September 20, 2020

Overview:

1 Kings 2:1-9 records some of the last commands of King David. He is commanding Solomon, who will soon be king, about character and staying committed to God. Wouldn't it be nice if we could just command godly character into our kids? King David is giving a command which Solomon cannot obey out of sheer determination. This command required a commitment from Solomon's heart not just his head. This might have given peace to David in his dying moments, but it did little to affect Solomon's life. For children, commands do not replace a life of being invested in and loved.

Let us take a look at facts about King Solomon's life and see if he followed King David's last command. King Solomon got off to a great start. In 1 Kings 3:4-9 God told Solomon to ask for whatever he wanted. Instead of asking for power and riches Solomon asked for wisdom. Because Solomon asked for wisdom instead of riches God granted him both riches and power as well. Solomon went from being a king in a small nation to becoming known in other countries for his wisdom (1 Kings 4:34). During Solomon's reign all of Israel ate and drank and were happy (1 Kings 4:20). He spoke over 3000 proverbs and wrote over 1005 songs (1 Kings 4:32). Solomon organized all of Israel and the people prospered. The beginning of Solomon's reign would have made David very proud.

Solomon built the temple to God in Jerusalem. It took around 7 years and over 100,000 servants working daily for Solomon to build God's temple. In contrast it took the same servants and 13 years for Solomon to build his own palace. "Covered in gold" is a repeated phrase describing the buildings Solomon built. Gold was so plentiful that silver was almost worthless (1 Kings 10:14). He was collecting around 25 tons of gold a year. Solomon also collected chariots and horses. A compromise Solomon made was spending more time, energy, and effort on his own house than he did on God's temple. A second compromise was building his military strength. He was supposed to depend on God for his protection.

One of the biggest compromises Solomon made was in the area of foreign women. This went directly against God's command about not intermarrying with foreigners. Solomon had 700 wives who were princesses of other nations and 300 concubines. During this time political marriages were made to keep peace. Just like collecting chariots Solomon collected political wives to ensure the protection of all he had. This was another example of him not trusting God. Gradually over time Solomon's wives drew his heart away from God. 1 Kings 11:4-8 reads: ⁴For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart

was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods." Solomon not only fell away from God he started worshipping the false gods of his wives.

What happened to King David's last command to Solomon? What happened to Solomon's renowned wisdom? Solomon summarized his life in Ecclesiastes 2:9-11 which states: "⁹ So I became great and surpassed all who were before me in Jerusalem. Also my wisdom remained with me. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ 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." Solomon was the last king to rule over a united Israel. He fell so far that the kingdom was divided after his death. Compromises in your commitment to God will eventually erode your entire relationship with Him. Ultimately you cannot command obedience, faithfulness, or love. It takes more than a final command from King David to guide Solomon.

Is there anything we can learn about raising our own children? Character and faithfulness is established over time and not given in a command. Children will learn more by watching the example of their parents than they will by direct instruction. One example of this is the importance of church in people's lives. Believing parents want their children to have a heart for God, and yet everything from sports to just being tired takes precedence over church. The best thing parents can do for their kids is to keep God number one in their own lives. This will help the kids grow a love for God that cannot be developed by mere instruction.

Bible Study:

1. If you could start over on raising your kids what would you do?
2. What parenting advice would you give to first time parents?
3. Why do you think the wisest man who ever lived fell away from God?
4. What principles can we learn from King David's final command in 1 Kings 2:1-4? What did David view as important?
5. How do you raise Christ-centered, Bible believing children?