

Series: Wisdom & Obedience, a study in 1 Kings

Sermon: Wisdom & Disobedience

Primary Text: 1 Kings 11:1-13

Discussion guide:

- Christian preacher and author Francis Chan has said, “Our greatest fear should not be of failure but of succeeding at things in life that don’t really matter.”
 - What is your reaction to this quote?
 - What are some examples of succeeding in things that don’t really matter?
- In his book “The Anxiety Opportunity” Curtis Chang says that wisdom is anchored in “the objective bedrock of all reality, God Himself”.
 - What is your reaction to this quote?
 - Explain the idea that God is the bedrock of all reality.
 - How is it that we become more authentic or real the closer we get to God?
- Read 1 Kings 11:1-13
 - Why is this such a shocking story?
 - What jumps out at you?
- Read Deuteronomy 7:3-4; 17:17 and 1 Kings 8:59-61
 - What does this bring out about Solomon’s behavior?
- Read v. 4 again
 - What is the significance of the fact that this happened in Solomon’s old age?
 - What warnings does this provide to us?
 - What excuses might Solomon have made for his behavior?
 - How do we make excuses to justify our sins or as reason we wouldn’t sin?
 - What makes such thoughts prideful?
 - What is the significance of the fact that Solomon’s wives turned his heart after other gods? (see Solomon’s words in 1 Kings 8:60)
 - Read 1 Corinthians 6:18.
 - What do you think this verse means?
 - Why/how does lust use people?
 - Why/how does lust only grow hungrier as you feed it?
 - How do we put lust to death?
 - What are other kinds of lust than sexual?
 - How do we use people in ways other than sexually?
 - What is the significance of Solomon’s heart not wholly being devoted to the Lord? (see his words in 1 Kings 8:61)
 - What does it mean for a heart to be wholly devoted to God?
 - What does the term “dual loyalty” mean and how does it apply here?
 - Read James 1:6-8

- How does dual loyalty or being double minded make us less substantial or less real?
 - How does whole hearted devotion make us more real?
- What is the significance of the last phrase of 1 Kings 11:4 – that David’s heart was wholly devoted to the Lord? (see David’s words in Psalms 51:1-4 and Psalms 86:11)
 - How could David’s heart be wholly true to God *after* Bathsheba?
 - How does this little phrase at the end of 1 Kings 11:4 give us hope?