

The Man Who Had It All

SERMON 9

TEXT: 1 Kings 10-11

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Encourage use of the reading guide on the Life of Solomon as we walk through this study.
 - Baptisms – June 10, contact Daniel for more information.
 - Final regular week of regular Life Group meetings – the week of June 3 (This week!).
 - Review any plans for your groups to stay connected this summer!
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LEADING OFF...

1. What are some subjects (Hobbies?) in which you passionately pursue knowledge?

BIG IDEA: Wisdom seeks truth, foolishness seeks celebration.

This text provides a contrast between the Queen of Sheba and Solomon. The Queen is in pursuit of truth, which is ultimately a demonstration of wisdom while Solomon demonstrates self exaltation and pride.

For discussion, walk through the text and draw out in each passage how wisdom and the pursuit of truth is demonstrated and how foolishness is demonstrated.

Read 1 Kings 10:1-2

1. How does the Queen demonstrate wisdom in these verses? **Read 1 Kings 10:3-5**
2. Solomon is able to provide satisfying answers for the queen. However, in addition to Solomon's wisdom, what does the Queen notice about Solomon (and his palace)? **Read 1 Kings 10:6-9**
3. Who does the Queen praise in this passage?
4. How does the Queen view Solomon?

Application and Review:

1. The Queen is not afraid to seek God for answers to the big questions in life. What are the big questions in life that you struggle with? How can we help each other take these questions to God?
2. In humility, we must realize that when God uses us in other's lives, we are simply conduits and messengers. Are you tempted to think more of yourself spiritually than simply being a messenger of the gospel? Are there current people or situations that God has brought to your mind where he would have you be a conduit or messenger of the gospel? Share?

Read 1 Kings 10:10-13

5. What do the Queen's gifts represent in this passage?
6. What do Solomon's gifts in response to the Queen's represent?
7. How does Solomon view his riches later in life?
8. Are you tempted to view gifts from God in your life as your own earned possessions? Discuss.
9. Does our current culture encourage or discourage pride? How? Where do you struggle? How can we help each other?

Review 1 Kings 11:1-8

10. What does Solomon's marriages represent?
11. What leads to Solomon's collapse?
12. Is Solomon's collapse the result of one fatal act or the sum of multiple smaller acts?
13. Are there any small compromises you are currently making (or are tempted to make) which you should repent of? Reflect and share privately with a brother or sister in Christ. Generally, how can we protect each other as a community of faith?



Going Deeper: Self-Analysis for Pride

Indicators we are prideful:

1. We only show or talk about our wins (humility results in confession and honesty - pride builds a facade)
2. We believe that God's command to pursue holiness applies to others but not us (Usually this means we are quick to find fault with others but we are slow to repent or apologize - because it messes with the facade - this is what has happened with Solomon - this is the impulse that when something comes up in a sermon that is hard hitting and you look at the person next to you - like "I hope you're hearing this...mhhhm.....I know you need this..." No - look at me...you need this. I need this.)
3. You protect whatever keeps giving you what you want or what feeds your pride.

Spend time reflecting on these questions and prayerfully consider areas in which you may demonstrate pride. Reflect and share with the group or privately with a brother or sister in Christ.

Wrapping Up...

1. **Share with each other how you plan to continue to grow in your faith in the summer months. How will you stay connected in community?**
2. **Share Redeemer's summer community dates and encourage participation with the group:**

June 20- Summer EQUIP and Worship Night

June 24-Connect cookout for singles, college students, and young professionals.

July 18-Churchwide Cookout

August 4-Churchwide Service Project