

# **OVERVIEW**

## **The Fall all of Solomon**

**Sermon Summary:** This sermon examines the life of King Solomon, focusing on his descent from a wise and God-loving ruler to one who compromised his faith. It highlights the dangers of putting hope in material possessions and compromising one's devotion to God. The message emphasizes the importance of maintaining a heart devoted to God and warns against the gradual nature of spiritual decline through small compromises.

### **Key Points:**

- Solomon's wisdom and wealth were initially gifts from God
- The Queen of Sheba's visit demonstrated Solomon's wisdom and prosperity
- Solomon's accumulation of wealth and wives went against God's instructions
- Solomon's heart turned away from God to foreign gods and idolatry
- Small compromises can lead to significant spiritual decline
- Material wealth and possessions cannot satisfy or replace a relationship with God
- The importance of regularly examining one's heart and devotion to God

### **Scripture Reference:**

- 1 Kings 9-11
- Deuteronomy 17:16-17
- Matthew 12:42
- Ecclesiastes 5:10

### **Stories:**

- The visit of the Queen of Sheba to Solomon's court
- Solomon's accumulation of gold, chariots, and exotic animals
- The analogy of getting lost while following a paper map, illustrating how small compromises lead to major spiritual deviations
- The classroom discussion about anxiety among high school seniors, highlighting that material possessions don't solve inner turmoil

## **Small Group Discussion Guide**

### **Opening Question:**

Sometimes the people we look up to have a serious failure in life that causes a fall. Is there a person that comes to mind for you? What was the root cause of their fall?

### **Opening Prayer**

#### **1. Simple Understanding:**

- What were the significant achievements and downfalls in Solomon's life as discussed in the sermon?
- How did Solomon's wisdom and wealth initially influence his reign and reputation among other nations?

#### **2. Personal Reflection:**

- In what ways can you relate to Solomon's struggle to maintain his devotion to God amidst distractions and wealth?
- Have you ever found yourself making small compromises that lead you away from your initial commitments or values?

#### **3. Critical Thinking:**

- Discuss the significance of the "if-then" statements from God to Solomon. What can we learn from these conditional promises?
- How does the example of the Queen of Sheba's visit to Solomon serve as both a testament to his wisdom and a reflection on his priorities?

#### **4. Application and Action:**

- In your own life, what practical steps can you take to ensure your hope and security are anchored in God rather than material possessions or achievements?
- How can you create accountability structures within your community to help prevent and identify compromises in your spiritual walk?

#### **5. Deeper Reflection:**

- How does the shift in Solomon's heart from loving the Lord to loving foreign women caution us about forming attachments that lead us away from God?
- Reflect on the statement "As valuable as gold is, it cannot compare with the riches of knowing and doing the will of God." How does this perspective challenge modern views on success and happiness?

### **Close in Prayer**

# Scripture Deep Dive

## Opening Question:

### Reflect on Ecclesiastes 1:2 and 1:13-14:

How do these verses relate to the theme that material wealth and personal achievements are fleeting? How can this perspective shape our approach to our own successes and resources?

## Discussion Questions:

### The Head of Solomon

#### 1. Read 1 Kings 10:6-8 and Matthew 12:42.

- What attributes of Solomon's wisdom impressed the Queen of Sheba, and how does Jesus' reference in Matthew help us understand the standard to which we are held today?

#### 2. Read 1 Kings 3:11-12 and James 1:5.

- How do these passages contrast Solomon's God-given wisdom with our invitation to seek wisdom? In what ways can wisdom be considered both a gift and a responsibility?

### The Hope of Solomon

#### 1. Read 1 Kings 10:23-25 and Deuteronomy 17:16-17.

- Identify specific ways Solomon's actions contradicted God's instructions for kings. How does this reflect the shift in his hope from God to his possessions and power?

#### 2. Read Psalm 20:7 and Ecclesiastes 5:10.

- How do these verses illustrate the futility of trusting in wealth and power? Why might monetary and physical blessings be insufficient for true contentment, according to these scriptures?

### The Heart of Solomon

#### 1. Read 1 Kings 11:1-4 and Proverbs 4:23.

- How do Solomon's relationships demonstrate a gradual turning of his heart from God? Discuss the importance of guarding one's heart in light of his example.

#### 2. Read 1 Kings 3:3 and 1 Kings 11:1.

- Compare Solomon's initial love for the Lord with his later love for foreign women. What lessons can we learn about the dangers of unchecked desires and compromised loyalties from these passages?

## **Practical Applications:**

### **1. How can we identify and address small compromises in our lives before they lead us away from our commitment to God?**

- **Suggested Answer:** Begin by regularly examining your decisions and habits through prayer and reflection, asking God for wisdom and discernment. Engage in honest conversations with trusted friends or mentors who can hold you accountable and offer guidance. Establish clear boundaries and align your daily choices with biblical principles.

### **2. In what practical ways can we ensure that our security and hope remain grounded in God rather than in material wealth or status?**

- **Suggested Answer:** Prioritize your relationship with God through regular prayer, worship, and studying scripture to understand His will. Cultivate gratitude by acknowledging God's provision in your life and focusing on serving others. Evaluate your financial habits and ensure they reflect reliance on God and are aligned with principles of stewardship and generosity.

### **3. Reflect on a recent decision you made based on worldly wisdom rather than godly wisdom. How can you approach similar situations differently in the future?**

- **Suggested Answer:** Reflect on the motive and outcome of the decision, seeking discernment on how it aligns with God's guidelines. In the future, invite God's guidance into your decision-making process through prayer and consulting scripture. Seek counsel from spiritually mature individuals who can offer biblical perspectives and wisdom.

### **5. How can we create opportunities in our daily interactions to lead others to give testimony to the Lord, similar to the Queen of Sheba's encounter with Solomon?**

- **Suggested Answer:** Exhibit Christ-like love, humility, and integrity in your interactions, showing the fruit of the Spirit in everyday actions. Share personal testimonies of God's work in your life during conversations and be open to discussing your faith naturally. Look for moments to serve others selflessly, reflecting God's love and inviting curiosity about your source of strength and hope.

## **5 Day Devotional**

### **Day 1: The Wisdom of God**

**Reading:** 1 Kings 9:11-28, Proverbs 2:1-11

**Devotional:** Solomon's request for wisdom reminds us that true wisdom comes from God. In a world that often values wealth, power, and status, Solomon chose to ask for understanding to lead God's people. Today, reflect on the areas of your life where you need God's wisdom. Are you seeking His guidance in your decisions, relationships, and daily walk? Remember that James 1:5 encourages us to ask God for wisdom, assuring us He gives generously to all who ask. Take time to pray, asking God to fill you with His wisdom and discernment, so that like Solomon, you can honor Him in your choices and actions.

### **Day 2: The Danger of Compromise**

**Reading:** 1 Kings 10:1-29, Proverbs 4:23-27

**Devotional:** Solomon's fall from grace serves as a sobering reminder of the danger of compromise. Despite his God-given wisdom, Solomon allowed his heart to be turned away from full devotion to the Lord. This gradual drift began with small compromises that eventually led to idolatry. Examine your own life today. Are there areas where you've begun to compromise your faith or values? Remember Proverbs 4:23, which warns us to guard our hearts above all else. Ask God to reveal any areas of compromise in your life, and seek His strength to realign your heart fully with His will.

### **Day 3: True Satisfaction in God**

**Reading:** 1 Kings 11:1-28, Matthew 6:19-21

**Devotional:** Solomon's pursuit of wealth, pleasure, and achievements ultimately left him feeling empty. His conclusion in Ecclesiastes that all is "meaningless" without God resonates even in our modern world. Consider your own pursuits and sources of satisfaction. Are you finding true fulfillment in your relationship with God, or are you chasing after things that will ultimately leave you unsatisfied? Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6 to store up treasures in heaven rather than on earth. Today, focus on cultivating your relationship with God as your primary source of joy and satisfaction. Pray for a heart that finds its deepest contentment in knowing and serving Him.

### **Day 4: The Importance of Obedience**

**Reading:** 1 Kings 11:29-43, John 14:15-21

**Devotional:** God's conditional promises to Solomon highlight the importance of obedience in our walk with Him. While God's love is unconditional, many of His blessings are tied to our faithfulness and obedience. Reflect on areas in your life where God is calling you to greater obedience. Are there commands you've been neglecting or rationalizing away? Jesus tells us in John 14 that if we love Him, we will keep His commands. Today, ask the Holy Spirit to empower you to walk in obedience, not out of duty, but as an expression of your love for God and in response to His great love for you.

### **Day 5: Leaving a Legacy of Faith**

**Reading:** 1 Kings 2:1-4, 2 Timothy 4:6-8

**Devotional:** As David prepared to pass the kingdom to Solomon, he emphasized the importance of walking faithfully with God. Despite Solomon's eventual failings, this legacy of faith continued through generations, ultimately leading to Jesus Christ. Consider your own legacy. How are you passing on your faith to those around you - your children, friends, or colleagues? Paul's words in 2 Timothy remind us of the importance of finishing our race well. Pray today for God's grace to help you remain faithful to the end, leaving a legacy that points others to Christ long after you're gone. Ask Him to use your life as a testament to His faithfulness and love.