

I Kings 3-4 –7 July 2022

“The Price Of Establishing The Kingdom”

Introduction

- *I & II Kings demonstrate that a king's allegiance to God's Law is the key to success & protection
- *The 1st half of I Kings depicts the reign of Solomon
- *The 2nd half of I Kings begins the divided kingdom
- *Chap 1-2 we saw the purging of the sinful men from the kingdom by bold actions of godly people
- *Now that should be a given that God cannot establish Solomon's kingdom or any kingdom w/ sin in the camp
- *But what's the true price of establishing God's kingdom in your life?
- *It's all about ourselves decreasing and Jesus Christ increasing – Putting away self will & wanting the will of God to be done
- *Let's see 3 keys to establishing the Kingdom of God in our lives – as Solomon here establishes**

1st key to establishing the kingdom is to pass the test of our heart & purpose (Chap 3:1-15)

Read Chap 3:1-3

1. Things are off to a rocky start & need improved
 - a. Worship hasn't been set up properly yet
 - b. Still relying on political marriages instead of relying on God for protection & prosperity
2. Marrying her may have made good political sense, but not spiritual sense
 - a. Marrying foreign wives WILL tear your heart away from God
 - b. Solomon thinks he can handle a little sin in the ways of the world...problem is, it will grow
 - c. I Kin 11:4 says when he was old his wives turned his heart away from God
3. Nothing can pull a man's heart away from God like a woman who isn't serving God
 - a. Read Neh 13:25-27: Allure of woman (Prov 7)
 - b. Just ask Adam

Read Vs 4-5

1. He's seen as a worshipper, but of what quality?
2. Why does God ask questions?
 - a. Cain, where is your brother?
 - b. He asks so we'll know what's in our hearts
3. God leads us thru circumstances, whether good or bad, for us to learn of ourselves
 - a. Matt 13: thorns/good, stony/bad
 - b. Read Deut 8:2 – He already knows us

Read Vs 6

1. “You’ve shown mercy & kept your promises”
2. What else could you ask for!

Read Vs 7-9

1. Read II Cor 13:4-5 – See our own weakness, but Christ's power can be might thru us
2. He had the humility to see he was as a child in experience & needs wisdom
3. He knew wisdom's what's needed for the purpose God gave him – What's your purpose?

Read Vs 10-12

1. He didn't ask for a thing selfish or a thing that would harm another but a thing to help others
2. To pass the test of your heart, ask yourself, "How is my calling & purpose to help others?"

Read Vs 13-15

1. God doesn't test us to catch us in a sin
 - a. He's challenging us to think spiritually
 - i. Read Mat 6:31-33 – seek the spiritual 1st
 - b. He wants to grow in relationship w/ Himself
 - c. He wants to grace and bless us
 - i. Read Eph 3:20 – He's able to do BIG things
2. Now the challenge is, 'don't allow the graces & spiritual gifts of God to separate you from God'
 - a. Don't become independent b/c of them
 - i. Prov 30:8 – poverty nor riches
 - b. Don't use them for fleshly gains
 - i. Read Eze 28:3-5 – Material is to be uses to further spiritual gains

2nd key to establishing the kingdom is to gain wisdom from & reliance on God (Chap 3:16-28)

Read Chap 3:16-22

1. Scenario is set: There are times when only God & the people involved knows who's being truthful

Read Vs 23

1. Notice he checks for understanding 1st, no rush

Read Vs 24-26

1. The empathy of a real mother is drawn out

Read Vs 27

1. He never intended to kill an innocent; it was a method to drawn out the heart of the real mother
 - a. Like, God never wanted Abe to kill Isaac
 - b. God often pushes us to the edge to see if we trust Him more than the things closest to us
2. Read Dan 2:20-23 – God makes you wise beyond your own knowledge of a situation

Read Vs 28

1. This display of great wisdom shows that God keeps His promises in a very tangible way
 - a. When God says that He makes us new creatures & that they can know us by our fruits, this means that there will be tangible proof that His Word has come true in our lives
2. Rely on God to such an extent that He does way more thru you than you could do on your own

3rd key to establishing the kingdom is that everyone sacrifices their part (Chap 4)

Read Chap 4:1-6

1. His 11 Princes – Akin to a presidential cabinet

Read Vs 7-19

1. His 12 Officers – Each area (or tribe) got to serve the king for one month per year
2. This was taken away from their own people

Read Vs 20-28

1. All of this peace & prosperity has been brought to them by the blood sacrifice of David's men
 - a. Sacrifice of warfare & labor of building
2. Notice the good mixed with the sinful
 - a. Vs 20 – multiplying people – good
 - b. Vs 21 - multiplying relationships – good
 - c. Vs 22-23 - multiplying provision – good
 - d. Vs 24 - multiplying influence – good
 - e. Vs 25 - multiplying safety – good
 - f. Vs 26 - multiplying horses – *bad*
 - i. Deut 17:16 – no wives, horses, gold
 - ii. Horse was the animal of war
 - iii. Rely on God for defense

Read Vs 29-34

1. He was given great wisdom to judge, to write songs & proverbs, to study botany & zoology
 - a. Matt 6:29-34 – Jesus spoke of Solomon in all his glory
2. Our gifts are for benefit of the whole body
3. Read Gal 6:4-5 – Each one has a sacrifice to offer

Conclusion

So Solomon is inheriting a kingdom, much like we're inheriting the very Kingdom of God

1. We need to pass the test of our heart & find purpose

- a. God will test us, so we can know ourselves
- b. We need to demonstrate the same humility that Solomon did
- c. Are we other's centered or self-centered?
- d. Jesus passed the test at Satan's temptation

2. We need wisdom from God & to rely on Him

- a. God will give us more than we can handle...by ourselves, proving we need Him
- b. Jesus relied on God's wisdom in the Garden

3. We each need to sacrifice our part

- a. Entrance to Solomon's kingdom was conditioned on sacrifice of armies & great men
- b. Entrance to God's Kingdom conditioned on the sacrifice of One Man Jesus Christ
- c. Now it's our honor to sacrifice this life to pursue Him and His Kingdom