



Text: 1 Kings 3:5-14 , 1 Kings 11:1-13

The Plain Truth

A stolen identity is _____ by completely _____ with _____.

Four Identity Thieves

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

June 18 & 19, 2016

Gladiators

Personal Study • Week of June 19

It would be scary to wake up and not know who you are. We take for granted things like spouse, family, jobs, friends, and *life* itself. But often our reaction to the twists and turns of life's journey – unforeseen challenges, selfish pursuits, dark seasons, difficult circumstances, deep regrets, severed relationships, or even success – can cause us to forget who we are. It usually doesn't happen overnight, but if our soul is not anchored in the One who gives us breath, it is possible to one day look in the mirror, and not recognize the person staring back at us.

Solomon's true identity was in the Lord when his mother "became pregnant and gave birth to a son, and David named him Solomon. The LORD loved the child and sent word through Nathan the prophet that they should name him Jedidiah (which means 'beloved of the LORD'), as the LORD had commanded" (2 Samuel 12:24-25). God loved Solomon and appeared to him twice. At Gibeon the Lord invited Solomon to ask for anything. God was so pleased with Solomon's request for wisdom that He graciously gave Solomon "an understanding heart" plus so much more.

Read 1 Kings 3:5-14

1. Solomon's prayer was rightly aligned with God's will. Even his initial request reveals a Spirit of Wisdom already pursuing this young man's heart. Who is "Wisdom itself", according to 1 Corinthians 1:30?

"Wisdom itself" speaks God's truth to us. Read Proverbs 8:17-21 and write at least three things Wisdom (Christ) promises those who search for wisdom?

There was no king like Solomon in the earlier years of his reign. "The people of Judah and Israel were as numerous as the sand on the seashore. They were very contented, with plenty to eat and drink... Solomon's dominion extended over all the kingdoms west of the Euphrates River, from Tiphah to Gaza. And there was peace on all his borders. During the lifetime of Solomon, all Judah and Israel lived in peace and safety. And from Dan in the north to Beersheba in the south, each family had its own home and garden" (1 Kings 4:20, 24-25). But in his old age, Solomon turned away from God and the kingdom began to unravel.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

2. In the space below (or in the margin) outline Solomon's downward spiral. Now in your mind, go back to a time when you were an innocent child loved by the Lord (the days of your true identity). Retrace the steps that led you away from the Lord. Name and confess it.

Now reclaim your true identity – the real you that "is hidden with Christ in God" – as you give Him praise, and close by reading **Colossians 3:1-11**.