



Chosen & Struggling PT. I | 1 Kings | Mark Allen | 1.4.26

The Wisdom and Compromise of Solomon

Opening Prayer

Opening Prayer: Begin by thanking God for His Word and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion.

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: If God appeared to you in a dream tonight and said, "Ask what you wish me to give you," what would you ask for and why?

Sermon Overview (5 Minutes)

This message explores Solomon's reign as king of Israel, focusing on his request for wisdom and his eventual downfall through compromise. Despite being the wisest man who ever lived, Solomon made critical mistakes—starting with forming an alliance with Egypt (representing bondage) and ending with his heart turning away from God through his many foreign wives and their gods. The sermon challenges us to examine our own lives for areas of compromise and to live in complete dependence on God.

Key Scripture Passages

1 Kings 3:1-15 - Solomon's alliance with Egypt and his request for wisdom

1 Kings 11:1-10 - Solomon's downfall through compromise

Proverbs 4:23-27 - Guarding your heart

Hebrews 5:14 - Spiritual maturity and discernment

1 Corinthians 2:16 - We have the mind of Christ

Discussion Questions:

Understanding the Message

1. **The High Places:** Solomon worshiped the right God (Yahweh) in the wrong place (the high places). How is it possible to do "the right thing in the wrong place" in our modern Christian lives? What are some examples?
2. **First Compromise:** Solomon's first recorded decision was forming an alliance with Pharaoh (Egypt/bondage) before he even asked God for wisdom. Why is this significant? What does it teach us about the importance of our first decisions?
3. **Judging Others vs. Judging Ourselves:** Solomon asked for wisdom to judge God's people but failed to judge his own life. Why is it easier to see faults in others than in ourselves? How does this apply to your life?

Personal Reflection

4. **Dependence on God:** Pastor Mark emphasized two marks of good kingdom reign: (1) Dependence on God and (2) Wisdom. On a scale of 1-10, how dependent on God are you in your daily decisions? What would increase that number?
5. **Areas of Compromise:** Solomon's small compromises led to major consequences for generations. What are some "small compromises" that Christians commonly make today? Are there any in your own life?
6. **Training the Next Generation:** Pastor Mark pointed out that David's children didn't know "how to go out and come in" because David failed to train them. If you have children (or influence young people), what specific steps are you taking to train them in godly wisdom?

Going Deeper

7. **The Mind of Christ:** 1 Corinthians 2:16 says we have "the mind of Christ." What does this mean practically? How can we better "tap into" the mind of Christ in our daily lives?

8. **Drawing Lines:** Pastor Mark emphasized the importance of setting clear boundaries ("lines") that we won't cross. What are some non-negotiable lines you've drawn in your life regarding your faith? Are there any you need to establish?
 9. **Modern Idols:** Solomon built high places for foreign gods. What are the modern equivalents of "high places" or "foreign gods" that compete for our worship today? (Consider: career, money, sports, social media, entertainment, etc.)
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Key Takeaways

✓ **Small compromises lead to major consequences** - Solomon's initial alliance with Egypt set the pattern for his later downfall

✓ **We need both dependence on God and wisdom** - These are the two marks of godly kingdom reign

✓ **We have the mind of Christ** - As believers with the Holy Spirit dwelling in us, we have access to God's wisdom

✓ **Guard your heart with all diligence** - Proverbs 4:23 reminds us that from our heart flows the springs of life

✓ **Train up the next generation** - We cannot expect children to know right from wrong without intentional training

✓ **Judge yourself before judging others** - Solomon could judge everyone else but failed to judge his own life

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Daily Dependence Prayer Each morning this week, before making any decisions, pray: "God, I don't know how to do this. I need your wisdom and direction today." Journal about how this changes your day.

Option 2: Identify and Address Compromise Identify one area of compromise in your life (something where you're trying to have "one hand in the world and one hand with God"). Create a specific action plan to address it and share it with an accountability partner.

Option 3: Bible Reading Commitment If you're not already reading God's Word daily, commit to a Bible reading plan for 2026. Options mentioned in the sermon:

Read through the Bible in a year

The Shred (Bible in 30 days)

Try a new translation to gain fresh insights

Option 4: Family Boundaries If you have children, sit down with your spouse (or a trusted friend if single) and identify 2-3 non-negotiable spiritual boundaries for your family. Write them down and communicate them clearly.

Option 5: Heart Examination Spend 30 minutes in prayer this week specifically asking God: "Lord, show me areas where my heart is turning away from you. Where am I compromising?" Write down what He reveals and take one action step toward repentance.

Prayer Focus

Pray together for:

- **Wisdom and discernment** to know the difference between good and evil in our daily decisions
- **Strength to resist compromise** in the small things that lead to bigger failures
- **Hearts fully devoted to God** without divided loyalties
- **The next generation** - that we would faithfully train children and young people in godly wisdom
- **Anyone struggling with addiction or areas of bondage** - that 2026 would be a year of freedom
- **Total dependence on God** in every area of life

Closing Thought

"Watch over your heart with all diligence, for from it flows the springs of life." – Proverbs 4:23

The year 2026 can be a year of blessing, but only if we do not compromise. Let's commit together to put God first in every area of our lives, to seek His wisdom daily, and to live in complete dependence on Him.

For further study:

- Read 1 Kings chapters 1-11 this week to get the full story of Solomon
 - Study Proverbs 1-9 (Solomon's wisdom literature)
 - Reflect on Jesus' teaching about divided hearts in Matthew 6:24
 - Read James 1:5-8 about asking God for wisdom
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Leader Notes

- Be prepared for honest conversations about compromise - create a safe, judgment-free environment
- Have tissues available - this topic may bring up areas of conviction
- Be ready to connect people who need additional prayer or accountability
- Consider having the group text each other their "Option" choice for accountability throughout the week
- Follow up next week by asking how people did with their practical application choice