The Story 13: "The King Who Had It All"

March 8, 2026

1 Kings 3, 9, 11

Big Idea: Drifting from God comes at a cost; guard your heart more than your own success.

Setup

Solomon is believed to be the wisest and richest king to ever live. He recognized his own inexperience as he took the throne after his father, David. When God offered him *anything* he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom. God was pleased with Solomon's attitude, granted the request, and gave him even more along with a reminder to remain true. Solomon ruled well. He was respected around the world. But despite the wisdom and respect, his dedication to God began to slip. We learn from Solomon that a strong start does not guarantee a strong finish. Compromise comes with cost.

1. **Early concern (1 Kings 3:1-3).** Following David's death, Solomon became king. Two things show Solomon's potential to have issues. First, he made a political move and married an Egyptian princess despite instructions from God to avoid this (Deuteronomy 7). He also participated in pagan-like worship practices left-over from the time of the judges.

2. **Strong Start (1 Kings 3:7-9).** Despite the issues, Solomon's attitude towards God was strong. He asked for wisdom instead of many other things he could have asked for from God. His heart was in the right place and he pleased God.

3. **A Reminder (1 Kings 9:4-7).** Solomon had finished building the temple and had a strong kingdom. God offered him a warning and reminder to remain faithful. Failure in this regard would be a big-time problem!

4. **A Problem (1 Kings 11:1-4).** Chapter 10 begins to detail progression of Solomon's compromise. By chapter 11, he had blown several instructions from God out of the water. They weren't even close. His heart being divided had been the warning and became the problem. What was once a peaceful and strong nation faded into division and crisis.

Lower Story vs. Upper Story: In the lower story, Solomon appeared to be "crushing it." He was successful in every way a man could want to be by all human understanding. He had power. He had influence. He had wealth. In the upper story, God was not concerned with Solomon's fame. Building peace in His nation that relied on Him, building Himself a dwelling place, and foreshadowing a greater King was God's motive. The temple was a preview. Wisdom was a glimpse. Peace was temporary. Human accomplishment is not the same as wholehearted obedience.

Solomon accumulated wealth. Jesus emptied Himself.
Solomon built a temple. Jesus became the temple.
Solomon ruled for 40 years. Jesus reigns eternal.

Family Night – Read Matthew 22:37-40

- **Elementary School:** Ask, "What kind of things do we sometimes love more than God? Is there anything keeping you from loving God or others as much as you should? Is it easier to obey when you really care about what God thinks?"
- **Middle / High School:** Ask, "Why do we get distracted from loving God as much as we should? What are the things that distract you and how do you think your life would be different if you were to prioritize obeying God?"

Prayer: "God, we want our hearts to be faithful to you completely. Help us not get distracted and drift from You. Amen"

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)
Velocity: Meets on Wednesdays here at the church.
Gravity: Today in Both Services

Today's Songs
How Good It Is……Chris Tomlin
Gratitude……Brandon Lake
Open the Eyes of My Heart……Michael Smith

Clean-Up Day
Clean up outside for Easter on March 28th. Asking any men who can help to meet us here at the church at 8am.

Kenya Mission Trip 2026
Trip is June 4-14. If you are interested, please attend the meeting on March 15 between the services.

Wandering to Jerusalem
Wondering to Jerusalem is for Easter like Wondering to Bethlehem was for Christmas. The family event is Wednesday, March 18. Sign up in KidsJAM.

Baptism
Next Baptism is March 29th. Use the Communication Card to let us know if you are interested or have questions.