

**“Solomon’s Foolish Quest”**  
**Bible Stories Sermon Series, Pt. 26 – 1 Kings 11:1-13**  
**February 24, 2018**

**I. The Lord’s Lavish Favor upon Solomon**

- A. God gave Solomon a name assuring him of divine love.

*2 Samuel 12:24b–25 - <sup>24</sup>...and she gave birth to a son, and he [David] named him Solomon. Now the Lord loved him <sup>25</sup> and sent word through Nathan the prophet, and he named him Jedidiah for the Lord’s sake.*

- B. The Lord appeared to Solomon, twice.

*1 Kings 9:1–3 - <sup>1</sup> Now it came about when Solomon had finished building the house of the Lord, and the king’s house, and all that Solomon desired to do, <sup>2</sup> that the Lord appeared to Solomon a second time, as He had appeared to him at Gibeon. <sup>3</sup> The Lord said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your supplication, which you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built by putting My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.*

- C. The Lord gave Solomon wisdom beyond anyone else.  
D. The Lord blessed Solomon with unimaginable wealth.  
E. God allowed Solomon to build His dwelling place, the Temple.

**II. Solomon’s Response to the Lord’s Favor**

- A. Solomon ignored the Lord’s commands regarding Kings’ horses and wives.

*Deuteronomy 17:16–17a - <sup>16</sup> “Moreover, he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor shall he cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never again return that way.’ <sup>17</sup> “He shall not multiply wives for himself, or else his heart will turn away...”*

- B. Solomon disobeyed God’s command to not marry foreign women. (1 Kings 11:1-2)  
C. Solomon worshipped foreign gods. (1 Kings 11:3-5).  
D. Solomon built houses for pagan gods. (1 Kings 11:7-8)  
E. How could all this happen to someone like Solomon?

*Ecclesiastes 1:16–18 - <sup>16</sup> I said to myself, “Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.” <sup>17</sup> And I set my mind to know wisdom and to know madness and folly; I realized that this also is striving after wind. <sup>18</sup> Because in much wisdom there is much grief, and increasing knowledge results in increasing pain.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:8–11 - <sup>8</sup> Also, I collected for myself silver and gold and the treasure of kings and provinces. I provided for myself male and female singers and the pleasures of men—many concubines. <sup>9</sup> Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. <sup>10</sup> All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. [In OTW, Solomon thought he deserved it.] <sup>11</sup> Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun.*

*Ecclesiastes 2:17* - So I hated life, for the work which had been done under the sun was grievous to me; because everything is futility and striving after wind.

- F. Solomon despaired because he made the blessings of this world his sole source of joy for a time, unlike King David and the Psalmist Asaph:

*Psalm 16:2, 11* - <sup>2</sup> I said to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good besides You...<sup>11</sup> You will make known to me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; In Your right hand there are pleasures forever."

*Psalm 73:25–26* - <sup>25</sup> Whom have I in heaven but You? And besides You, I desire nothing on earth. <sup>26</sup> My flesh and my heart may fail, But God is the strength of my heart and my inheritance forever.

### **III. Application: Our Similarity to Solomon**

- A. We too are so given to seeking our ultimate joy in *blessings* rather than in the Blesser.
- B. This can lead to despair or way worse.
- C. Thanks be to God for David's other descendant, Jesus.
- D. Christ, by His Spirit, is making us into someone who could sincerely say: