

Lessons for Finishing Well

Sunday September 6, 2020
Series: 1 Kings – Lessons from the Journey

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.”
Deuteronomy 6:4–5 ESV

Will I Honor God Throughout My Life?

Solomon Turns from the LORD

11 Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, ² from the nations concerning which the LORD had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.” Solomon clung to these in love. ³ He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. ⁴ For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. ⁵ For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. ⁶ So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the LORD and did not wholly follow the LORD, as David his father had done. ⁷ Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. ⁸ And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods.

The LORD Raises Adversaries

⁹ And the LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice ¹⁰ and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods. But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.

“When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, he taught me and said to me, “Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.”
Proverbs 4:3–4 ESV

“behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.”
1 Kings 3:12 ESV

“Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.”
1 Corinthians 10:12 ESV

“Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,”
1 Peter 5:5–6 ESV

“My Obedience is a matter of choosing God’s way not my own!”

Three Lessons for Finishing Well

1. I Must Take God's Word Seriously (1 Kings 11:1)

"When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose..."
Deuteronomy 17:14–15 ESV

"Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the LORD has said to you, 'You shall never return that way again.' And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold."
Deuteronomy 17:16–17 ESV

Security— Many Horses

Pleasure— Many Wives

Wealth— Excessive Gold and Silver

"And when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, he shall write for himself in a book a copy of this law, approved by the Levitical priests."
Deuteronomy 17:18 ESV (Also Deuteronomy 17:19-20)

2. Embrace My Vulnerability to Sin (1 Kings 11:2-3)

"When you come to the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you possess it and dwell in it and then say, 'I will set a king over me, like all the nations that are around me,' you may indeed set a king over you whom the LORD your God will choose..."
Deuteronomy 17:14–15 ESV

3. Give Attention to the Small Things (1 Kings 11:4-8)

My Failure is the result of a life of small compromises.

*"Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay,
and cost you more than you want to pay. —"*
- R. Zaccharias

Will I Honor God Throughout My Life? (1 Kings 11:9-10)

*"And [Jesus] said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart
and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment.
And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'"*
Matthew 22:37–39 ESV