**Solomon Drifts**

**Introduction**

Solomon was king of Israel from 971-931 B.C. He was chosen by God to rule in the place of his father (1 Chron. 28:5-7). Solomon’s reign was marked by:

* Wisdom from God (1 Kgs 3:28; 4:29-34; 5:7, 12; 10:4, 6-8, 23-24)
* Building the temple (1 Kgs 6-8)
* Wrote three (3) Biblical books: Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.

Sadly, the story of Solomon does not end like we might expect. As he ages, he drifts from the Lord and serves as a warning. Nehemiah says the nation should have learned from Solomon’s mistake (Neh 13:25-27).

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

Solomon was a man blessed with great wisdom so how could a man with such wisdom drift from the Lord?

**1. Cause of Solomon’s drift**

Solomon’s departure from God was not intellectual… He did not suddenly begin to doubt the existence of God or have a crisis of faith like some stories that happen today. His wives caused him to drift away from the Lord. God warned Israel that intermarriage with the nations would cause them to be unfaithful to the Lord (Ex 34:12-16; Dt 7:3; Josh 23:12-13).

* Solomon held fast to these in love (11:2; Heb. *dâbaq*)
* Supposed to hold fast to the Lord (Dt 10:20; 11:22; 13:4; 30:20; Josh 22:5; 23:8)
* Joshua 23:8 vs Joshua 23:12-13

Our relationships shape our hearts!

* 11:2: God’s warning!
* 11:3: Wives turned his heart away from Lord
* 11:4: Wives turned his heart away from Lord
* 11:9: His heart was turned away

This is true in marriage, but it is true in every relationship that we have! This is why, in Proverbs Solomon warns his son about the types of friends he has, who he does business with, and who he will marry. Those we love and spend time with have a way of shaping our heart. Solomon had a great spiritual example in his father David (11:4, 6), but his wives influenced him more than his father.

**2. Half-hearted devotion**

* 11:4: His heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord
* 11:6: He did not follow the Lord fully
* 11:9: God is not pleased
* Dt 4:29; 6:5; 10:29; 11:13; 30:6; Josh 22:5; 1 Sam 7:3; 12:20, 24; 2 Kgs 23:2; Ps 119:10, 58; Jer 29:13: God wants the whole heart
* 1 Chron 28:9: Charge to Solomon
* Dt 13:3: God will test Israel to see if they love Him with whole heart

***Solomon reminds us that God wants our entire heart.*** Solomon’s drift from God was not that abandoned God completely but that he was not fully devoted to Him. It seems like many today want God in their life but are not wholly devoted (I am sure this is not a new thing). Most people do not want to abandon God completely, but we often do not want to make Him the King of our life. Solomon reminds us that only wholehearted devotion is acceptable to God.

Half hearted living for the Lord leads to evil and detestable actions. Compromise always leads to more compromise.

* 11:5-7

**3. Lacking wisdom**

Solomon’s wisdom is highlighted through so many of these stories (3:28; 4:29-34; 5:7, 12; 10:4, 6-8, 23-24) and we generally say something to the effect of, “He was the wisest man who ever lived.” The sad reality is that he failed to apply godly wisdom to the situation with his wives. He disobeyed the command of the Lord (11:2).

We can be blessed with Godly wisdom but if we fail to apply to it to our lives then it will do us little good. Applying Godly wisdom probably will probably mean some type of discomfort or disappointment. But wisdom realizes that short term disappointment is much better than long term consequences.

**4. Purpose of God’s instructions**

Solomon ignores God’s commands about intermarriage and idolatry (two warnings God gave him personally; 11:9). God is not trying to deprive Solomon of enjoyment, but God’s warnings are meant to keep up on the right path. If we disregard don’t expect to experience God’s peace. Peace is removed in 11:14-40 because Solomon choses to disobey. God promises the believer a peace that the world does not understand (Phil 4:7). We want God’s blessings and peace without having to obey God, but if we experience the consequences then we want to blame God.

* Popular: God wants me to be prosperous
* Popular: God wants me to be happy
* True: God wants me to be faithful