



POETS PROPHETS AND KINGS

Small Group Questions

Part 4: A Wise Old Fool

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Read

1 Kings 3:3, 9:4–9, and 11:1–2; Ecclesiastes 2:4–11, and 4:13; Galatians 6:7–8; 2 Corinthians 6:14–15

Reflect

When he was young, Solomon was steadfast in his faith. In a dream, God appeared to him, saying, “Ask what I should give you?” To serve the nation of Israel well, Solomon asked for discernment and wisdom. Yet over the years, his gift created a platform that his character didn’t sustain. Little by little, his priorities changed and he chose not to follow God’s commands, which created fine-lined cracks in the foundation of his faith. Eventually he lost his way, and had to live with the knowledge that the kingdom would be torn from his son because of him. How can we benefit from the wisdom of Solomon without making the same mistakes?

Pastor Greg Surratt gives us several insights into what led to Solomon’s downfall. Which of the following areas might cause you to stumble?

1. He mismanaged his charisma.
 - a. He made unwise exceptions.
 - i. Can you think of some unwise exceptions you’ve made?
 1. What impact did making these exceptions have on you and those close to you?
 - ii. Do you tend to think rules apply more to others, and are more “guidelines” for you?
 - b. He failed to heed warnings.
 - i. When someone corrects you about a sensitive area, how do you respond? And why?
 - ii. What clear warnings from God have you experienced?
 1. In what form did the warning come? A dream, a passage in the Bible that jumped out at you? From another person? Other?
 - iii. Have you ever paid for not heeding a warning?
 1. Looking back, can you track the path of choices that led to trouble?
 - iv. What are you no longer doing that you need to take up again? Read the Bible? Pray and spend quality time with your family? Be part of a small group? Serve?
2. Misguided priorities.
 - a. If God would grant you anything right now, what would you ask for? Do you trust yourself to ask for the right things?
 - b. Are you measuring happiness according to the world’s scorecard of a good job, paycheck, house, car, and cool toys? Try to identify what might be out of place.
3. Misplaced his affections.
 - a. How have your closest relationships shaped your life, both for good and bad?

Rather than use a world’s scorecard, consider a relationship scorecard:

- i. Do you have a growing relationship with Jesus?
- ii. Do you have a close relationship with your family?
- iii. Do you have a loving relationship with the church?

Respond

We can learn from our mistakes, and finish well. What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?