

Critical Condition: Vital Signs

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1 KINGS 11:1-13

This Week's Core

Competency:

Worship- I worship God for who he is and what he has done for me.

Come, let us shout joyfully to the LORD, shout triumphantly to the rock of our salvation! Let us enter His presence with thanksgiving; let us shout triumphantly to Him in song. For the LORD is a great God, a great King above all gods. The depths of the earth are in His hand, and the mountain peaks are His. The sea is His; He made it. His hands formed the dry land. Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. (Psalm 95:1-7)

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.

Introduction

Little things, over time, can have a very large impact. Consider that a single termite is approximately 1/8 - 1/2 inch in length. There is nothing about the appearance of this small insect that would arouse concern or alarm. Yet, each year, termites cause billions of dollars in damages. A single male and female termite with reproductive capability can start a colony. The queen is blessed with long life and the ability to lay millions of eggs annually. Because termites have the ability to burrow deeply into unprotected wooden structures, the destruction caused by termite infestation can easily go unnoticed for years. By the time visible damage is present, the internal damage is extensive. Unchecked, termites can eat away at key parts of the supporting structure of a building causing the building to collapse from within.

The fall of a once mighty believer does not often take place overnight or in a single instance. More often it is the result of choices and inaction over a very long period of time. This is certainly the case with King Solomon. God gave him everything that he needed for unparalleled success and fulfillment. He had wisdom, respect, and material blessings from God. In spite of a good start, Solomon started down a path of disobedience that led him deeper and deeper into sin. The slow infestation and proliferation of sin began to eat away at Solomon's devotion to God. Initially, the changes were difficult to detect and the consequences, were not immediately visible. However, his disobedience began to destroy his commitment to the Lord and numb his spiritual sensitivity. Eventually, Solomon became so acclimated to sin that he turned from God and engaged in brazen idolatry, worshipping the detestable god's of his foreign wives and concubines.

This Week

This week, ask God to reveal areas of compromise, tolerance or indifference to sin that you have allowed to creep into your life. Confess your sins to the Lord. Ask Him to give you Godly sorrow that leads to true repentance.

① EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read 1 Kings 11:1-13

1 King Solomon loved many foreign women in addition to Pharaoh's daughter: Moabite,

Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women

2 from the nations that the LORD had told the Israelites about, "Do not intermarry with them, and they must not intermarry with you, because they will turn you away from Me to their gods."

Solomon was deeply attached to these women and loved them.

3 He had 700 wives who were princesses and 300 concubines, and they turned his heart away from the LORD.

4 When Solomon was old, his wives seduced him to follow other gods. He was not completely devoted to Yahweh his God, as his father David had been.

5 Solomon followed Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites.

6 Solomon did what was evil in the LORD's sight, and unlike his father David, he did not completely follow Yahweh.

7 At that time, Solomon built a high place for Chemosh, the detestable idol of Moab, and for

Milcom, the detestable idol of the Ammonites, on the hill across from Jerusalem.

8 He did the same for all his foreign wives, who were burning incense and offering sacrifices to their gods.

9 The LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned away from Yahweh, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.

10 He had commanded him about this, so that he would not follow other gods, but Solomon did not do what the LORD had commanded.

11 Then the LORD said to Solomon, "Since you have done this and did not keep My covenant and My statutes, which I commanded you, I will tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant.

12 However, I will not do it during your lifetime because of your father David; I will tear it out of your son's hand.

13 Yet I will not tear the entire kingdom away from him. I will give one tribe to your son because of my servant David and because of Jerusalem that I chose."

② EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. The Lord appeared to Solomon twice. Please summarize what God said and how Solomon responded.

a) 1Kings 3:5-15

b) 1Kings 9:1-9

2. Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20; 1Kings 3:1; 1Kings 10:23-29. How Did Solomon violate God's instructions?

3. Write down or circle all of the phrases that reveal the condition of Solomon's heart.

4. The author of this passage contrasts David's attitude with Solomon's attitude (see verse 4, 6, 12, 13), this is instructive. Please answer the following questions about David and Solomon.
 - a) How are David and Solomon related? (Please include information such as who is Solomon's mother, and any pertinent circumstances. If needed, refer to 2 Samuel 11:1- 12:25 for details)

 - b) Compare David's and Solomon's sins. Why did Solomon's sins disqualify him, but David's sins did not?

 - c) Consider that David is described as having a heart that is fully devoted to God. What does God's treatment of both men's sin teach you about God's heart?

5. If God gave Solomon wisdom, why did Solomon so foolishly ignore God's warning?

6. What sin in your life might you be excusing or tolerating? What practical action will you take to eliminate it

7. In what ways (if any) are your friends influencing you to compromise? How might you learn from Solomon's mistakes?

8. How have you allowed your heart to wander from God? Who or what has diverted your affection away from God?

9. What steps could you take so that the Lord might be able to say that your heart, like David's, is completely devoted to God?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW...

Write about how God wants you to FEEL...

Write about what God wants you to DO...

Sermon Notes

30 CORE Competencies

10 Core Beliefs

Trinity *2 Corinthians 13:14*

I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Salvation by Grace *Ephesians 2:8-9* I believe a person comes into a right relationship with God by His grace, through faith in Jesus Christ.

Authority of the Bible *2 Timothy 3:16-17*

I believe the Bible is the Word of God and has the right to command my belief and action.

Personal God *Psalms 121:1-2*

I believe God is involved in and cares about my daily life.

Identity in Christ *John 1:12*

I believe I am significant because of my position as a child of God.

Church *Ephesians 4:15-16*

I believe the church is God's primary way to accomplish His purposes on earth today.

Humanity *John 3:16*

I believe all people are loved by God and need Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Compassion *Psalms 82:3-4*

I believe God calls all Christians to show compassion to those in need.

Eternity *John 14:1-4*

I believe there is a heaven and a hell and that Jesus Christ is returning to judge the earth and to establish His eternal kingdom.

Stewardship *1 Timothy 6:17-19*

I believe that everything I am or own belongs to God.

10 Core Practices

Worship *Psalms 95:1-7*

I worship God for who He is and what He has done for me.

Prayer *Psalms 66:16-20*

I pray to God to know Him, to lay my request before Him and to find direction for my daily life.

Bible Study *Hebrews 4:12*

I read the Bible to know God, the truth, and to find direction for my daily life.

Single-mindedness *Matthew 6:33* I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

Spiritual Gifts *Romans 12:4-6*

I know and use my spiritual gifts to accomplish God's purposes.

Biblical Community *Acts 2:44-47*

I live life with other Christians to accomplish God's purposes in the world.

Giving Away My Time *Colossians 3:17*

I give away my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Money *2 Corinthians 8:7*

I give away my money to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Faith *Ephesians 6:19-20*

I give away my faith to fulfill God's purposes.

Giving Away My Life *Romans 12:1*

I give away my life to fulfill God's purposes.

10 Core Virtues

Joy *John 15:11*

I have inner contentment and purpose in spite of my circumstances.

Peace *Philippians 4:6-7*

I am free from anxiety because things are right between God, me, and others.

Faithfulness *Proverbs 3:3-4*

I demonstrate loyalty in my relationships with others in response to God's loyalty to me.

Self-Control *Titus 2:11-13*

I have the power, through Christ, to control myself.

Humility *Philippians 2:3, 4*

I choose to esteem others above myself.

Love *1 John 4:10-12*

I sacrificially and unconditionally love and forgive others.

Patience *Proverbs 14:29*

I endure patiently under the unavoidable pressures of life.

Kindness/Goodness *1 Thess. 5:15*

I choose to do the right things in my relationships with others.

Gentleness *Philippians 4:5*

I am thoughtful, considerate and calm in dealing with others.

Hope *Hebrews 6:19-20*

I can cope with the hardships of life and with death because of the hope I have in Jesus Christ