



## **Lesson 94** Unfaithfulness

### **Introduction – The Man Who Would be King**

This week the Lord is teaching us about unfaithfulness. He is teaching us through King Solomon. Solomon was a son of King David, although he was not the oldest son. When King David was advancing in years his older son, Adonijah, exalted himself and declared that he would be the next king. David, however, chose Solomon after promising this to his wife, Bathsheba, Solomon's mother.

**1 Kings 1:33-35** *The King also said to them, "Take with you the servants of your lord, and have Solomon my son ride on my own mule, and take him down to Gihon. There let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel; and blow the horn, and say, 'Long live King Solomon!' Then you shall come up after him, and he shall come and sit on my throne, and he shall be king in my place. For I have appointed him to be ruler over Israel and Judah."*

It happened just as King David had ordered. Solomon rode down on the king's mule into Gihon where he was anointed with oil, the horn was blown, and Solomon became the king. While this was going on, Adonijah, Solomon's half brother was throwing a party to celebrate himself becoming king. He and his guests found out about Solomon becoming king while Adonijah's party was still going on. This was not the news they were all expecting. In fact the bible says:

**1 Kings 1:49** *So all the guests who were with Adonijah were afraid, and arose, and each one went his way.*

Can you imagine how fearful this must have made those guests? Talk about aligning yourself with the wrong person, but they weren't the only ones afraid, Adonijah was afraid as well. He knew he had been presumptuous.

**1 Kings 1:50** *Now Adonijah was afraid of Solomon; so he arose, and went and took hold of the horns of the altar.*

After all this occurred Adonijah basically promised Solomon that he would be loyal to him as King. But this was not to be because Adonijah had a plan. He went to David's mother and asked for the hand of Abishag in marriage. Abishag was the private nurse and comforter of King David. Adonijah knew that a marriage to Abishag would be a way of legitimizing his claim to the throne. King Solomon had him put to death that day.

King Solomon had promised Adonijah that he would not harm one hair on his head if he was loyal. King Solomon kept his word. He had not gone after Adonijah until Adonijah had shown his disloyalty once more.

## An Understanding Heart

Not long after Solomon became King, his father, King David spoke to him and he said,

**1 Kings 2:2-4** *“I go the way of all the earth; be strong, therefore, and prove yourself a man. And keep the charge of the LORD your God: to walk in His ways, to keep His statutes, His commandments, His judgments, and His testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn; that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, ‘If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,’ He said, ‘You shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.’”*

Solomon loved the Lord, consequently, there should be no problem with him walking in the Lord’s ways. After all his love for the Lord was so apparent that it moved the Lord to appear to him in a dream by night and say,

**1 Kings 3:5...** *“Ask! What shall I give you?”*

So Solomon requested,

**1 Kings 3:9** *“Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?”*

The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s request. He was pleased because Solomon had not asked for fame or wealth. He had asked instead that the Lord give him a wise and understanding heart unlike any seen before or after him. The Lord was so pleased in fact that He gave him those very things that Solomon had not asked for, like riches and honor in addition to his requested understanding heart. The Lord only made one stipulation:

**1 Kings 3:14** *“So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen you days.”*

So Solomon did indeed prosper. He was wiser than all men. The people of Israel feared him because they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice. But they also rejoiced because life was good. The Lord had given them rest on every side. They were not at war. Men of all nations and kings from over the whole earth came to hear the wisdom of Solomon. Yes, King Solomon had dominion over a vast region. There was no lack of supply in his kingdom. They were eating, drinking and rejoicing in King Solomon’s kingdom. Life was good.

Things were going well. Kings and Queens honored him. He amassed great wealth. He built a temple to the Lord. The temple his father, King David, was unable to build. And afterward He placed the Ark in the temple, followed by a prayer of dedication. Everything was working out. The bible says all the people were *joyful and glad of heart for all the good that the LORD had done for His servant David, and for Israel His people.*

## Walk Before Me in Integrity and Uprightness

And then the Lord appeared to King Solomon a second time in a dream,

**1 Kings 9:3-5** *And the LORD said to him: "I have heard your prayer and your supplication that you have made before Me; I have consecrated this house which you have built to put My name there forever, and My eyes and My heart will be there perpetually.*

*Now if you walk before Me as your father David walked, in integrity of heart and in uprightness, to do according to all that I have commanded you, and if you keep My statutes and My judgments, then I will establish the throne of your kingdom over Israel forever, as I promised David your father, saying, 'You shall not fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'*

You can see from all we discussed thus far that all was going well for King Solomon. He built more cities, he built a fleet, and in the bible it says that he surpassed all the kings of the earth in riches and wisdom. Yes, things were going well for him but King Solomon did have a weakness. It was for the ladies. He loved women! He loved many foreign women as a matter of fact. Unfortunately, he even loved ladies from the nations that the Lord said,

**1 Kings 11:2...** *"You shall not intermarry with them, nor they with you. Surely they will turn away your hearts after their gods."*

Solomon, however, clung to these ladies in love. The bible says he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines. The bible says that as he grew old,

**1 Kings 11:4-6** *For it was so, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the LORD his God, as was the heart of his father David. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and did not fully follow the LORD, as did his father David.*

## Turned Hearts

That's right, the man who was given wisdom beyond all other human beings, the man who successfully built the temple of the Lord, the man who had accomplished so much, this man, Solomon, went on in his latter years to build "high places" for these other gods! So the Lord became angry with Solomon because he had turned from the Lord. He was not faithful.

**1 Kings 11:9-13** *So the LORD became angry with Solomon, because his heart had turned from the LORD God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice, and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods; but he did not keep what the LORD had commanded. Therefore the LORD said to Solomon, "Because you have done this, and have not kept My covenant and My statutes, which I have commanded you, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to your servant. Nevertheless I will not do it in your days, for the sake of your father David; I will tear it out of the hand of your son. However, I will not tear away the whole kingdom; I will give one tribe to your son for the sake of my servant David, and for the sake of Jerusalem which I have chosen."*

So you see Solomon was found guilty of being unfaithful to the Lord. His kingdom was divided because of this. This is how there came to be two kingdoms, the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah. He disregarded the first commandment of having no other gods.

**Exodus 20:3** *"You shall have no other gods before Me."*

In addition to this he also disregarded the dreams he had had from the Lord. He forgot all this because of self. Yes, the ladies did entice him but he did not have to go after them. Solomon

was unfaithful. He angered the Lord. Our faithfulness is just as important today. The Lord continues to speak to us regarding this.

06/27/12 CN - Follow My path, be faithful, obey Me, do all I say, and keep doing this for Me.

06/28/12 DP - I AM molding My own in My image taking that which is not Me and destroying.

07/01/12 DP - Stay focused, diligent, obedient to My commands that it may be well with you and you prosper. Keep Me first I must be first above/beyond everything else.

07/03/12 CN - Come to Me and all My ways, be faithful, be truthful, tell others what I AM doing for them...also the truth, obey Me, and do these things for Me.

Thus far we have learned that Solomon in spite of all he had experienced did not keep the commandments of the Lord. No, King Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD. He allowed his love of women to distract him. We, too, have allowed ourselves to become distracted from the Lord at one time or another haven't we?

07/03/12 CT Meeting: Come before Me with a clean spirit. Do not come distracted or half-hearted. No come to Me wholeheartedly. Embrace Me.

This story of distractions versus faithfulness is not new, no there are other stories in the Old Testament about unfaithfulness to the Lord. We are told of Jeroboam, Nadab and Baasha, who were all unfaithful to the Lord as well. They did evil in the sight of the Lord. And they, like Solomon, had to face the consequences of their evil ways.

## The Unfaithful

I believe the Lord used these stories, this week, to teach us about unfaithfulness. He used these stories to teach us about our relationship with Him. Let me explain, Solomon was unfaithful to the Lord and his kingdom was divided (into Israel and Judah) as a result of his unfaithfulness. Nadab, a King of Israel after Solomon, was unfaithful to the Lord as well. Nadab lost his life. Many others were unfaithful also, like Jeroboam, Baasha and Zimri. All these people faced the consequences for their unfaithfulness. Likewise, when we are unfaithful to the Lord, we will lose out just as they did. We may not lose out in the same manner but we will still lose out.

06/27/12 BN - Listen to Me and be obedient and I will show you how. Be diligent, stay strong, resist Satan, walk towards ME. Stay disciplined...without discipline there is lawlessness, and without laws and rules you will lose track of Me. That is why I give you boundaries.

King Solomon was distracted from the Lord by his many wives. The Lord has cautioned us from being distracted as well. He wants us to come to Him wholeheartedly and He wants us to stay disciplined. I think now's a good time for us to look at what Jesus has taught us about unfaithfulness.

**Matthew 7:21-23** *"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'"*

At first glance these verses may not seem like they are about unfaithfulness. However, from the Take His Heart website we have learned that 48% of believers will never make it into

heaven. This is because they have never learned the legal way to enter through the narrow gate. They practiced lawlessness. As much as it seems these 48% wanted to be pleasing to the Lord, as much as it seems that they wanted to be doing what was right, they were still practicing lawlessness. They were still being unfaithful to what He has established even though they did not realize it, even though it was out of ignorance. They still had to depart from him.

But the place where Jesus' teaching about unfaithfulness really hit me the most was when He was actually teaching about divorce.

**Matthew 5:31-32** *"Furthermore it has been said, 'Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a certificate of divorce.' But I say to you that whoever divorces his wife for any reason except sexual immorality (unfaithfulness) causes her to commit adultery; and whoever marries a woman who is divorced commits adultery.*

What Jesus was saying in the above verses is that divorce is acceptable on the grounds of unfaithfulness. I believe the Lord helped me to see that metaphorically speaking, our unfaithfulness to him would be cause for a divorce as well. This becomes more evident when we put it together with what The Lord has taught us about unfaithfulness in the Old Testament:

**Jeremiah 3:1-10** [ADONAI] says: *"If a man divorces his wife, and she leaves him and marries another man, then if the first one marries her again, that land will be completely defiled. But you prostituted yourself to many lovers, yet you want to return to me?" says ADONAI. "Raise your eyes to the bare hills, take a look: where have you not had sex? You sat by the roadsides waiting for them like a nomad in the desert. You have defiled the land with your prostitution and wickedness. For this reason the showers have been withheld, there has been no rain in the spring; still you maintain a whore's brazen look and refuse to be ashamed. Didn't you just now cry to me, 'My father, you are my friend from my youth'? [thinking,] 'He won't bear a grudge forever, will he? He wouldn't maintain it right to the end.' You say this, but you keep doing evil things, you just do whatever you want." In the days of Yoshiyahu the king, ADONAI asked me, "Have you seen the things that backsliding Isra'el has been doing? She goes up on every bare hill and under every green tree and prostitutes herself there. I said that after she had done all these things, she would return to me; but she hasn't returned. Meanwhile, her unfaithful sister Y'hudah has been watching. I saw that even though backsliding Isra'el had committed adultery, so that I had sent her away and given her a divorce document, unfaithful Y'hudah her sister was not moved to fear - instead she too went and prostituted herself. The ease with which Isra'el prostituted herself defiled the land, as she committed adultery with stones and with logs. Yet in spite of all this, her unfaithful sister Y'hudah has not returned to me wholeheartedly; she only makes a pretense of it," said ADONAI.*

We, like Solomon, will become separated from the Lord (divorced) if we practice unfaithfulness. If you recall both Solomon and Nadab were unfaithful to the Lord. Solomon went after the gods of his pagan wives and Nadab made his own gods, calves of gold, just as his father Jeroboam had done. As we learned previously there were consequences for their actions. We will have consequences for our actions as well. Remember the 48% were unfaithful to what the Lord had established. The consequences for them are dire. Therefore, we should seek after the Lord's will in all that we do so that we do not have to experience the consequences of unfaithfulness. We must want to be faithful to Him and then pursue it.

This week the Lord also said this,

07/02/12 BT - If you want the job you can't have a personal life. The job is not for everybody. Some will not want to be married to Me, the reward is great, the price is dear. Devotion to Me is personal. It's not 9 to 5, its 24/7.

06/30/12 MVA - Follow My guidance in all. I AM bringing things together. Much to be accomplished. Stay focused. Flow chart is guidance road map. Course corrections are located in flow chart. Continually update. This keeps course corrections current. Daily instructions are located in flow chart. Golden path located in flow chart. Important guidance located in flow chart. Make flow chart a priority to seek more understanding. I AM your guidance and understanding. Flow chart has answers. Stay single focus on your God Jesus.

07/01/12 MVA - Seek your God Jesus in all.

07/02/12 MVA - Look to your God Jesus for all guidance, not only for the big things but the small minute by minute choices and decisions of the day. I AM always available, looking to give guidance in all. The more you seek Me Jesus and My will the closer you walk with your God Jesus.

07/03/12 BT - Seek Me first before you go on your way. Wait for your answer. It may not always be what you want to hear. That's the hard part. Your will must die. But the beauty that comes from following after My Will, obedience to My command, will eclipse any sorrow with a joy unknown to man.

07/03/12 MVA - My agenda is what is important. I show you My path. Adjustments are made you need only follow your God Jesus.

07/03/12 CT - Come before Me with a clean spirit. Do not come distracted or half-hearted. No come to Me wholeheartedly. Embrace Me. Be Pleasing to Me. Seek Me out just as a young girl seeks out him who gave that first kiss. Remember I AM the one who never leaves you. I AM the one whose love for you is eternal. Seek Me and you will be seeking out happiness. Seek Me and you will be seeking out peace and fulfillment. In other words, all that is good. Amen!

## Summation

Before Solomon became distracted he was obedient unto the Lord and he received much because of his obedience. The Lord does not change. You will receive much for your obedience as well.

06/28/12 DP - Obedience without self I will reward.

06/29/12 FJ - Honor and respect Me and you shall live.

07/01/12 DP - Stay focused, diligent, obedient to My commands that it may be well with you and you will prosper. Keep Me first, I must be first above/beyond everything else.

07/04/12 MVA - I AM leading and guiding you into My ways. Seek Me Jesus always first. Plan and purpose I reveal. Piece by piece ever increasing picture of My Kingdom. Establishing truths building on each. Stay focused in Me and My priorities and you will do well always.

Our God, The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob does not lie. You will be blessed through obedience unto Him. Be faithful. Keep His Commandments that it may we well with you.

May the Lord Bless You and Keep You,  
Cindy