

January 8, 2017

Connection—Solomon

Proverbs 3:1-7

As David died, he appointed Solomon to serve as king in his stead. David learned, no matter how gifted you are, dependence on God and loving Him first is the highest calling. Temptation combined with power and wealth can lead to devastating foolishness. We are created to love and faithfully serve the Lord. To remain steadfast in our walk with God, we need to live humbly surrendered lives—to the Lord and to each other—in the community of faith. **1 Kings 2:1-4**

Every life is a limitation on my life. Those closest to me limit me most. Children, spouses, parents are limitations. These limitations aren't minor inconveniences; they're major and unavoidable conditions in the all-demanding exercise of being human. Given our propensity for wanting to live not as humans but as gods, it's quite inevitable we occasionally fantasize an end to limitations as freedom for the sovereign self. But it never works out that way. Those who take a firm and prayerful stand against the removal of limits know what they're doing: ridding ourselves of inconvenient lives that seem to interfere with our living results not in more life for us, but less - E. Peterson (1997)

If people want to claim the promise of 2 Chronicles 7, they must fulfill the same conditions as Israel. First, fall down; adopt the humble posture of a slave or suppliant before a king. Then they have to "plead". Usually people plead with a judge on the basis of being in the right. Here, they are not in the right and they acknowledge that fact. They are in trouble because of the wrong they have done, not because of wrong done to them. They are pleading for pardon, not justice; the kind of forgiveness that only a can can grant, the pardon that ignores their deserving execution for their wrongdoing - John Goldingay (2011).

Next week: A Kingdom Torn in Two. **Jeroboam / Rehoboam**

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THE STORY

FINDING YOUR STORY IN GOD'S STORY

David gave good instruction to his son.

1 Kings 2:1-4

God gave His blessing and the gift of wisdom.

2 Chronicles 7:1-3; 1 Kings 3:11-14

Solomon was committed to God. 1 Kings 8:56-61

Solomon shared his wisdom. Proverbs 3:1-7

Even with great wisdom, Solomon was foolish.

No one sets out to be unfaithful.

How can we grow in wisdom?

What helps us remain steadfast to God?

Who will you encourage to be faithful?

Who speaks godly wisdom into your life?

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