

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON’S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON’S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

Introduction

We need to understand that **CHOICES** can have some serious and long lasting consequences in our lives!

Some CHOICES may have little to no long term effect or consequences on our lives.

Some CHOICES may have no immediate effect on our lives.

Some CHOICES may have no immediate affect, but over the long term they can affect both us and others either in a good way or in a very bad way!

We’re looking at some of King Solomon’s **CHOICES** here pretty early on in his reign. Some of those **CHOICES** were **not so good** and wound up **costing him later**. Some of those **CHOICES** were **excellent** and had a **very positive influence on his life, his nation, and others around him!**

I. BAD CHOICES—HIS ALLIANCE WITH EGYPT AND MARRIAGE TO THE DAUGHTER OF PHARAOH—3:1

*But we will see that THIS CHOICE of his, as well as his other CHOICES regarding other STRANGE WOMEN ultimately caused his heart to turn from the LORD to idolatry!
(Cf. 1 Kings 11:1-4)*

Tonight, let’s look at another of Solomon’s **CHOICES**...this next one was a:

II. GOOD CHOICE—HIS LOVE OF THE LORD—3:2-4

I just want to focus on the first part of verse 3 tonight.

Now we need to understand that Solomon was around 20 when he began to reign. I don’t know about you, but when I was 20, **I might have thought that I knew it all, but I most certainly didn’t!**

Looking back to when I was 20, **I would not have been a good candidate to reign over much at all, especially a nation!**

That is one reason why our Constitution has a minimum age for someone to become our nation’s leader! (Age 35)

Nevertheless, **Solomon was raised mostly in King David’s home (the king’s palace)** and I’m sure **he was able to watch how his Dad and Mom both lived and interacted and even how his Dad reigned over the nation of Israel that God put him over!**

You think that David’s life might have had an influence on Solomon? Of course we know it did! **We can learn from both the good and the bad that we see and experience!**

Let me remind those of us who are parents and even grandparents that we need to understand that our children and grandchildren are watching us and learning from us:

- 1. Both while they are at home and after they leave the nest!**
 - 2. Both the good that they see as well as the not so good!**
- They are watching and learning!**

The question is, what have they seen in us and what are they seeing in us? What are we teaching them? We teach both with our lips and with our lives?

What are the things they have learned and will learn from us that they will carry with them throughout their lives?

We talked a little in the Sunday evening service about our **“circle of influence”** and **how that our home and family is one of our “circles of influence”** where we have the opportunity to wield the most influence!

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON'S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

Our children and grandchildren are watching both the good and the bad in our lives! When they are adults with their own lives and their own children—What will their lives reveal about what we imparted to them through our lips and through our lives?

We have the opportunity to influence generations to come—either positively or negatively! In each of us there is good and bad that can be picked up! So, we must be careful with our lives! We must do our best to influence the next generations in a positive way!

If you blew it with your kids, hit the reset button and concentrate on NOT blowing it with your grandchildren!

So Solomon had the **influence of his parents**, David and Bathsheba! No doubt he had the **influence of his siblings and half siblings**! (And, Oh what a conglomeration and mess that mostly was! Hopefully he learned in them a lot of what NOT to be!)

Again that goes back to our **“circle of influence”**! Understand that it's **not just the parents and grandparents, but its also the brothers and sisters that can wield quite an influence (and other family)!**

So, we saw last week where his father's having multiple wives probably influenced him to do the same only to a greater degree.

Here we see one of the good **CHOICES** Solomon made early on in his reign that I believe was also influenced by his father David! He **CHOSE** to love the LORD!

A. LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND!
(Deuteronomy 6:4-14; Cf. Matthew 22:34-40)

Solomon, no doubt, would have been raised being taught **God's Law including Deuteronomy 6:4-5!**

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON'S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

In *Matthew 22:37*, The Lord Jesus Christ quoted *Deuteronomy 6:4-5*, which is known as **“The Shema.”** In Jewish circles, it is still considered the great confession of faith that even today is recited by pious Jews each morning and evening.

It is called **“The Shema”** from the first word of the confession which means **“hear.”**

Then in *Matthew 22:39*, Jesus also quoted the last part of *Leviticus 19:18* which emphasizes love for one's neighbor!

Leviticus 19:18 **“Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD.**

Jesus made love the most important thing in life, because **“love is the fulfilling of the Law” (Romans 13:8-10).**

Now, listen up! If we love God, we will experience His love within us and we will express that love both to Him and to others!

As Believers, we do not live by rules but by relationships, a loving relationship toward God that enables us to have a loving relationship with others!

LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND...

B. LOVING GOD IS A CHOICE!
Loving God is a choice that should flow out of God's great love for us! The Apostle John said it this way...
1 John 4:19 **“We love him, because he first loved us.”**

Wanting to live for God is also a choice that flows out of the choice to love God!

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON'S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

Don't say how much you love God when you show NO desire to obey Him and serve Him!

Jesus said to His twelve disciples and to us!
John 14:15—“If ye love me, keep my commandments.”

The word "keep" there means "to guard or treasure."

John 14:21 “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”

The person who truly loves the Lord will want to obey His Word! He won't just talk about obeying it, but he will strive to walk according to God's Word as best he can with the LORD's help! And it does take the LORD's help—The Holy Spirit!

C. LOVING GOD IS A CONSTRAINT!

2 Corinthians 5:14 — “For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead:”

When it says **constraineth us**, it doesn't mean it in a bad way! His love for us **constraineth us** or **compels us** to love Him and live for Him!

We could say it is our MOTIVATION!

LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND, A CHOICE, A CONSTRAINT...

Last of all...

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
CHOICES – PART 2
SOLOMON'S CHOICE TO LOVE THE LORD
1 KINGS 3:2-4

D. LOVING GOD IS A CALLING!

2 Timothy 1:9 Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began,

1 Peter 2:21 “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:”

1 Corinthians 1:9 “God is faithful, by whom ye were called unto the fellowship of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Remember how we've seen in our series on 1 John how that the word “**fellowship**” means “**partnership**”. **Partnership** with Christ means **partnering in His love!**

Conclusion

LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND, A CHOICE, A CONSTRAINT, A CALLING!

What would the LORD say about our love for Him? Is just talk? Or is it for real? Would He say that our love for Him is evident by our obedience to Him?

Solomon loved the LORD...early on. Later we will see that his love changed because of some bad choices! He chose to disobey the LORD's clear commands to him and Scripture says that “**his heart turned away after other gods: his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God!**”

Maybe you loved the LORD early on in your relationship too! But has your love for other things caused your heart not to be what it should be toward the LORD? If so, we need to get back to that first love we had with the LORD!