



Solomon: Warrant

Fulfilling Your Calling

Those that Did

David - it took some prodding from others, but in the end David did the right thing and had Solomon anointed as King of Israel. He finished his reign as king on a good note.

Nathan - he remained loyal to the king and to the LORD'S ways. The prophet neither acted out of line nor assumed power that did not belong to him, but he did ensure that all was done correctly. When necessary, he provided motivation for David to act correctly.

Solomon - he received good advice from his father David and applied it. The young king made some tough, but necessary decisions, that would prove to be a blessing for the nation. He was challenged to be a man and fulfilled it.

Benaiah - the son of a priest, this military leader proved to be loyal to both David and Solomon. Instead of following Adonijah, like other prominent men, he remained faithful to the leadership the LORD put in place. This loyalty earned him the respect of Solomon and a great promotion.

Bathsheba - this woman, often only remembered for her adultery, rose to the occasion and courageously reminded king David what he promised to do. She wanted to see the will of the LORD carried out.

Those that Did Not

Adonijah - he assumed authority not granted him and pursued a position the LORD meant for someone else. Adonijah saw an opportunity to get what he wanted. The problem, it was not what the LORD wanted for Adonijah or the nation, so he failed.

Joab - he was a military hero that often acted out of self-interest. With Adonijah's pursuit of the throne, Joab determined to be in the middle of things, so as not be left out when the dust settled. As usual he did what was best for Joab, but this time he lost his life in the process.

Abiathar - the priest David protected repaid the king with treachery. Why he acted in such a way is unknown. Perhaps it was personal or maybe like Joab he saw an opportunity to protect himself. Either way the priest was humiliated and sent home in disgrace.

Jonathan - the son of Abiathar and once a faithful messenger for David, he chose to be a spy for Adonijah. Likely due to his father's influence. In the end, he was on the losing side.

Lessons for Leaders

Do Right Instead of Following the Crowd

Joab and Abiathar both chose to ally with Adonijah instead of supporting Solomon. It was clear David intended Solomon to be king, yet they followed the charismatic and popular man instead of the one chosen by the LORD. It was a mistake that ruined both their lives. In a world that will pull you all different directions, it's always best to do what is right.

Keep your Word

A sure way to lose the respect of others is to go back on your promises. Liars are untrustworthy. David promised Bathsheba that their son Solomon would be the next king. This was made known but the public ceremony had yet to occur. Meaning, people wondered if David meant what he said. Eventually David was pressed to make a decision, and to his credit, he kept his word. Solomon was anointed king and the nation was blessed. If one cannot keep their word, they cannot be trusted.

Be Forgiving and Firm

Forgiving - Solomon showed mercy to Adonijah and Shimei, permitting both men to live and offering them an opportunity to do right. People make mistakes and with a second chance they might act correctly. Be willing to forgive people.

Firm - Conditions were clearly given, understood, and agreed to by Adonijah and Shimei. After each deliberately disobeyed the king, Solomon handed out the deserved punishment. He did not act in vengeance but as a just king carrying out the law. What these men discovered is that their continued disobedience was not tolerated. Be firm in your decisions, directions, and determinations.

Facts for Families

In this lesson we're reminded of two things children need, whether they are young or old. Direction so they do right and discipline when they are wrong.

Direction

Solomon was a young and inexperienced man when he was crowned king of Israel. He would have to grow up fast in order to lead the powerful and prosperous nation that was handed off to him. David knew the troubles his son would face as king and the threats to his kingdom, so he encouraged Solomon to walk with the LORD and advised him concerning troubling matters and men. It was good advice. Solomon listened, followed the direction, and was blessed. David cared for Solomon, so he offered good direction.

Discipline

Adonijah was never told no. He did as he pleased and David said nothing at all. By not discouraging Adonijah, David encouraged him. What likely began as harmless attention seeking eventually led to Adonijah planning a public takeover of the kingdom. Because he became popular he presumed he could be king. Adonijah was forgiven of this mistake but later he attempted to claim a portion of the throne in a another way. It seems that since he was never told no, he figured he could eventually get what he wanted. Sadly, he lost his life in the process. David must of cared for Adonijah, but not enough to discourage him from the trouble he rapidly ran towards.

Children require both direction and discipline.