



Solomon: Weakness

Compromise

Temptations

There are many reasons why people compromise. It's done out of fear, weakness, seeking acceptance, etc. Whatever the reason, it's never good to compromise the truth or our convictions. When we know something is right, we must stand firm for it.

Consequences

Solomon discovered that great loss comes from compromise. He lost respect of the people, loyalty of his nation, and the kingdom itself would be divided. It's likely Solomon never considered all of this when he turned away from the LORD.

Faithfulness

The LORD is good. He will help those that seek Him and bless those that walk in His ways. Problems come when we stop honoring the LORD. Remain faithful to God and be blessed.

Lessons for Leaders

What Will You Leave Behind?

It's not how we begin but how we finish that we will be remembered.

Solomon began well. He was the king of a mighty empire, he received wisdom from the LORD, built grand buildings, and amassed a great fortune. Unfortunately he also turned away from the LORD and left behind more burdens than blessings. The people he was called upon to lead after the LORD were discouraged due to idolatry in the land and terrible working conditions. The nation itself, which had enjoyed great peace and prosperity, was forced to deal with strife from within and threats outside the borders. King Solomon failed to maintain what he had been given.

Determine to leave places and situations better than how you found them.

Spiritual Matters

Progression into Sin

With Solomon we find that he did not turn from the LORD with one defining act but that his heart turned away from the LORD as he progressed into sin.

Partnered with the world – Solomon married foreign women who worshiped false gods.

Permitted worship of false gods – Solomon tolerated his wives worship of the false gods they brought into Israel.

Promoted worship of false gods – eventually, to please his wives, Solomon built shrines to their false gods. One was even erected on a hill outside of Jerusalem.

Participated in worship of false gods - Solomon continued to worship the LORD at the Temple but he also worshiped false gods.

Prophecy fulfilled - sadly Solomon's choices and consequences fulfilled a warning the LORD had previously given. His worldly wives turned his heart away from the LORD. (Deuteronomy 7:3-4, 17:17)

It seems Solomon never planned to devalue the LORD and exalt false gods but as his heart turned from the LORD he adopted the ways of the world. Guard your heart.