

**Christ Community Covenant Church**  
**Solomon - "The King Who Had It All"**  
**Chapter 13 The Story**  
**1 Kings 1-8; 10-11; 2 Chronicles 5-7; Proverbs 1-3; 6; 20-21**

**Intro**

When Dave asked me to speak on Solomon this week he said, "Solomon was the wisest man that ever walked this earth. That being the case I think it's only fitting that we have the wisest staff person speak on his life."

He then said "And since Mike is busy we'll have to settle for you". No, I'm just kidding, Dave would never say that, well; he would say it but never mean it.

Today we are going to take a look at David's son Solomon, "The King Who Had It All" as the chapter says, although, I'd like to add, "And it didn't mean a thing". Solomon had everything any earth bound person could ask for and at the end of his life it was "all meaningless". The phrase "you can't take it with you when you go" is a good descriptor of how Solomon felt in the end.

Let's trace Solomon's roots to start out with and fill in some gaps that get left out in The Story. First, Solomon is a product of his father David's sin. You remember that David commits adultery with Bathsheba, gets her pregnant and has her husband killed so David can take Bathsheba as his wife. They lose their first child that was conceived in sin but God gives them Solomon and David promises to make him king. This is clearly a story from God's perspective as God takes the sin of a man and turns it into something good. Remember what Joseph said to his brothers when they come begging for food from the Egyptians? "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good". You will find that phrase covers much of God's story in our lives.

As King David ages he becomes close to death and knows he needs to crown his successor. One of his other sons, Adonijah, sets himself up as king. Once before, another son Absalom has tried this as well. Both are older and in Jewish law probably entitled to kingship, but this is not God's plan. It's in these two stories that we see David's true self again. As Absalom leads a crusade against his father, David remains at peace and commands the armies not to harm his son. It reminds us of how David acted towards Saul in the cave when he spared his life. David is willing to wait on God's timing; he's David again! The same is true of Adonijah. David's compassion for his son keeps him from acting in anger but it does quicken his hand to set Solomon up as the official King.

Soon after this, David dies and King Solomon's first act is to settle the score of his father. He ends up having most of the people involved in the two incidents killed and so cleanses the remnants of his father's troubles. Solomon is definitely not a king like David.

You remember from The Story the first shining moment in Solomon's kingship. When God appears to him in a dream and says "Ask whatever you wish and I will give it to you". Solomon's humble response is "I am young, give me wisdom to govern *your* people". Apparently, he has a little of his Father in him.

God grants his request and because of his humbleness promises to give Solomon "all that he hasn't asked for" including: Wealth, Popularity and Power. He is really the King Who Had It All. Now, I've prayed this prayer many times and I can assure you the whole praying for wisdom and receiving riches must have been a one time deal. Maybe it has something to do with my hidden agenda.

He shows his wisdom right away with his famous baby ruling. You'll remember this from The Story but I wonder if you read it like I did. These two women come to Solomon. Sadly, one of their babies has died in the night and they are both trying to lay claim on the one that is left. They are

fighting ruthlessly in front of the king. Here, Solomon is credited with a wise ruling, but I wonder if it was more that he just wanted these women to shut up. I mean, they are fighting and his solution is “well, let’s just cut the baby in half then and you can both share”. That’s insane! Who does that? Then obviously the real mother would rather give her child away than deal with its death. That’s when Solomon’s wisdom kicks in and he is able to award the child to the proper mother.

Solomon’s wisdom grows and grows. In fact we’ve captured some of that wisdom in Proverbs. I also think with wisdom comes a sense of humor. Have you ever read the book of Proverbs? There’s some funny stuff. I’ll show you what I mean but I’m going to read them straight from the Bible just so you know I’m not making this up.

Proverbs

16:31, this is for all the youth that make fun of my grey hair

21:9, Solomon had 300 hundred wives, all with different religions. No wonder he wrote this.

25:21-22, or in other words “Be nice to your enemies, it’ll tick them off even more!”

26:11, Yup, the word vomit is in the Bible

27:15, I’ll add, “husbands, you better not be laughing or looking at your wife right now”

31:30 there is a whole section in the end on how great wives are, I mean, with 300 chances he had to get at least one right?

### ***Obedience to the King...***

There is actually more to Proverbs than bad advice about marriage and your enemies. In fact a dominant theme of Proverbs is something that we talked about last week with Pastor Dave: Obedience through Discipline.

Proverbs

10:17

11:21

12:1

16:4

Obedience is so important to King Solomon that the discipline from disobedience is glorified. What would a King like Solomon know about disobedience? He wasn’t full of himself; there were no scandals like his father David, so how does he know?

Solomon was given specific instructions by David, and by God, that if he remained obedient then there would never cease to be a king in his line and he would always be provided for. All he had to do was obey. One of the first acts we read about with Solomon is when he marries an Egyptian woman. This act is forbidden by God’s laws to the Jewish people. They are only to marry other Jewish people. If your great father and the almighty God tell you to obey and the first thing you do is break the religious law, how wise is that?

Solomon continues in this trend of marrying foreign women. Over 300 of them! You remember the Moabites right? Ruth was a Moabite woman and their religion was the one that required child sacrifice. Solomon marries a Moabite woman, a woman who worships the worst of gods around. All these women have an affect on Solomon’s judgment. In the end he builds temples for all these different gods, offers sacrifices to them and even worships them. It’s then where God is fed up.

God claims to be a jealous God and wants our worship only to him. Solomon had everything he could ever want and still, he turns to other gods in the end. As a result, Solomon’s lineage as king is cut off.

Solomon knew about obedience and he knew about the punishment that comes with disobedience.

## ***Because of Love***

Solomon also knew a lot about love. You only have to read Song of Solomon to see just how much he knew. Now, parents of young ones, if you haven't read Song of Solomon before, it's probably not the best book to read to your kids. It carries at least a PG-13 rating. Actually, it would be good to read with them because then you could answer questions about the birds and the bees, and also, what love really is.

I think that blind obedience is worthless. What's the point of obeying? If you are Solomon maybe it's to gain wealth, power, love, wisdom, status, but how well did that work out for him? In the end he says everything was meaningless. I think it was because he forgot about Love.

Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments." John 14:15

In this command there is no guarantee that you will gain anything. In fact it's as if Jesus is saying it's a given. If you love me then you *will* keep my commandments. The opposite is also true that if you don't love Jesus you won't keep his commandments.

### ***Who is your king? Who do you Love?***

When our parents, our friends, our spouses ask us to do something we do it because we love them. We know they love us. And out of this mutual love we do what we are asked to do.

Youth, do you really love your parents? Does that love cause you to obey?

Love is a hard concept, especially for men. This whole "loving Jesus" thing where Jesus is another man feels awkward to us. I don't know that I can ever express my love as well as some of the women in my life do but I know that I am called to love. I think that today, we have a great example of love with this guy: [Power Point Slide of Tim Tebow]

Tim Tebow. One of the manliest men I know. 6' 5", 250 lbs of pure muscle, runs over the Raiders like they are children. (Sorry Jim Auslen) And have you seen his biceps? He's like the hulk ripping out of his shirt. What a man!

And yet this man clearly loves Jesus. Jake Plummer, a former Bronco who also couldn't live in Elway's shadow commented a couple weeks ago saying, "We all get that Tebow loves God, I'll like Tebow a lot better when he stops shoving it down our throats".

Tebow's response was profound saying, "You wouldn't only tell your wife that you love her once, you would continue to say it over and over. That's what my relationship with Christ is like, he is the love of my life and I will keep on saying it.

Here's a man so transformed by his love for Christ that it affects who he is, praying before, during and after games. Giving glory to God first and then to his teammates. He even has committed to saving himself for marriage, something that is very uncommon in today's generation of young people and yet commanded by God.

I'm thankful for Tim Tebow and the example he sets of how we can love God and obey in the midst of having it all. I pray that Tebow is more like David and when he does mess up, we only have to look at his passing rating to realize he's human, but I pray that when he does mess up his heart is like David's and he is truly repentant. I pray that he won't be like Saul and get caught up with himself or like Solomon and start worshipping other gods of this world.

***What are those gods in our day today that you see people worshipping?***

***The Temple isn't finished...***

One of Solomon's greatest achievements was the building of the temple. This is important because as Mike, Curt, and Dave have talked about the kingship ultimately lying with Christ, the stately temple as God's house begins to represent God's status as king in our lives.

Is your love for God great enough that you will obey and worship only God with your life? Is it enough that you will submit to God as your only king?

Solomon, after spending 7 years on the temple, spends twice as long on his own house. He then sets up temples for other gods all over the city. He has made himself a greater house than the one true God and continues to worship others.

### *Where will you worship?*

Earlier we listed the "gods" of today that people worship and I think if we are honest with ourselves and look at our lives we will realize that many of those gods have their own temples in our lives.

Maybe one of the temples that we've built in our lives look like this: [slides of Mile High, Pepsi Center, Dicks Sporting Goods Park]

Now I'm only picking on sports because I've begun to realize how much I worship these things. Worship to me is giving value to something. What is it worth to me, what do I "Worth-ship"? Sports are huge!

I love watching, playing, talking about, reading about and apparently supporting financially the cause of sports. The youth know that I am super competitive, especially when it comes to mega foursquare. At times my identity gets wrapped up in sports and my time and money goes with it. Sports are worth a lot to me and they at times become an object of worship.

This has come to my attention as I've been researching the effects of sports in Christianity. It would seem that more and more we compete with sports. Practices, camps, games, tournaments all take our time away from this body of believers. People make the justification that "Sports are similar to the church in that they help develop character". That may be true, but what type of character?

A recent study found that "those with the greatest amounts of athletic experience distinguished themselves, not by demonstrating superior sportsmanship but by displaying a much lower level of sportsmanship than those with little or no competitive experience".<sup>1</sup>

This is shown by the recurring phrase in athletics "if you aren't cheating you aren't trying hard enough" which is generally accepted by the time our youth hit high school. Anyone in this room can look at the biggest names in sports (other than Tebow) and see how their sense of morality, their character, have been corrupted. There aren't many good examples of sportsmanship anymore and yet we emphasize it for our kids and indulge in spending time and money on them ourselves. What are we hoping to accomplish?

One person, reflecting on youth sports wrote:

"Parents get their kids involved in competitive sports at a young age, hoping to give them an "edge." Why? So that they will quickly progress to the next level of youth sports as an emerging young star. Why? So that they can learn important lessons about teamwork and responsibility, so that they can become more "well-rounded," and so that they can excel at sports in their late teens. Why? So that they can have a strong college

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<sup>1</sup> Good Game pg 208

application (and perhaps play sports at the collegiate level). Why? So that they can get into a good college. Why? To get a good education. Why? To get a good job. Why? To make money. Why? So that they can have a happy and successful life: The American Dream.”<sup>2</sup>

Isn't the American Dream the ultimate temple and god we worship? Sports aren't the problem, it's they often represent in our lives in our pursuit for enough money in our 401k to retire and live a life where we can have whatever we want. We work hard and play the credit game, take promotions that require more time away from family or move us physically away all in the name of more money so we will be happy and successful.

Solomon had all of this, he lived the American Dream to perfection and yet at the end of his life, he says in Ecclesiastes “it's meaningless” and he reflects in Song of Solomon of “love” and in proverbs of the regret of not being “obedient”.

As believers we aren't designed to chase the American Dream but to love God and Obey. At any cost I believe we are supposed to develop character.

***Character: Doing the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason***

The older writers referred to this as “virtue”. In any case, character is the ability to do the right thing, at the right time, for the right reason.

The Right Thing

In order to do the right thing we must first admit that there is a “right thing”. Today's culture would have you buy into the lie that truth is relative and “everybody's different”. Truth is truth and it is found in the Bible. If you want to know what the right thing is you have to look at the Word both biblically and in the person of Christ. The truth is there written plainly if you will only look.

The Right Time

This is the hard one. Every day we are subjected to decisions in an instant that test our character.

We will cheat on the test? Will we lie to our boss about why our report is late? Because we managed our time poorly will we break the law and speed to work, school or our appointment?

To continue in my sin of sports addiction I would offer you this story.

On November 2, 1969, in the enormous Stadium in Madrid, the Real Madrid team was pitted against Sabadell in a Spanish football (that means soccer here in the states) league championship match before 80,000 rabid spectators. At the 50-minute mark and with the score tied, the Sabadell right winger received a pass, and just as he was about to shoot, the Madrid defensive back and goalkeeper collided, both falling to the ground unconscious. Facing a defenseless goal, the offense only needed to nudge the ball into the net and, in all possibility, secure the championship for his team. Yet in that instant, when the roar of the crowd, the egocentric pull of the game, and the expectations of his teammates and supporters all conspired to urge him to blast the ball into the net, the player did the unexpected. Without hesitating he kicked the ball away from the net and over the touch line, opting not to score what might have been the winning goal. In fact, his team eventually lost. He was criticized robustly for his decision and when questioned he said he “followed a natural impulse not to score under the circumstances”.

His character was so great that in an instant, when he could have taken the goal, he elected to put the care of others over himself costing his team and country the championship. Character should be so well ingrained that our reactions are instant.

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<sup>2</sup> Email from Colleague

### The Right Reason

King Saul's character failed because he loved himself too much. King David's failed because he forgot his love of God. Solomon's failed because of his love of his wives and the "American Dream" mentality to "have it all". What's your reason?

### *Obedience because of Love builds character*

When I think about someone whose love caused obedience regardless of the outcome I can't help but think of one of America's greatest love story: Twilight [slide of Edward]

Now before you judge me, hear me out. I've read the books and I am officially on team Edward and this is why.

Edward has character. He knows that because he is a vampire he is most likely condemned. Still he chooses to be "good" regardless of the outcome. He is a good person and never feeds off humans, only animals. In his relationship with Bella he is respectful to her father, treats Bella amazingly and is committed to saving sex for marriage. He has nothing to gain from this but it is the right thing, and his deep love for Bella keeps him committed. Fathers, you should desire a man of Edward's character for your daughter. You should also teach your daughters not to be like Bella with their whole life wrapped up in a boy. But that's a different sermon.  
[invite worship team back up]

*"If you love me, you will keep my commandments". ~Jesus; John 14:15*

Jesus said it best. If you truly love God you will keep God's commands and by it develop character no matter what the cost or reward.

When in Mark chapter 8 Jesus calls us to "take up our cross daily" I don't think he just meant with our quiet times in the morning and certainly not only Sunday mornings in a building.

In fact Paul tells us that as the body of Christ we are the temple now. Does the temple you've built for yourself accurately reflect your obedience through love by your character?

Or do you need Jesus to come and clear the temple of false gods you've set up inside you? I know for me, there are tables to be turned and gods to be chased away by whips.

Pray with me. [offering?]