

Bible Recap

# Solomon's Folly

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Sermon in a Sentence: Work hard to avoid sin, and if/when you do sin God is waiting for you to repent.

Application: Solomon is a case study in a person who knew the right thing, but through a series of bad decisions ends up going in the wrong direction. What can we learn from Solomon so we don't make the same mistakes he did?

Me

I consider myself a generally intelligent person, but there are some classic blunders that I'm guessing all of us can relate to: (say "oh no")

Pouring a bowl of cereal without checking to see if you have milk

Driving to the store to get milk, and realize you forgot your wallet

Not checking for TP

Forgetting to defrost your Thanksgiving turkey

Reacting to a child's injury

**[IMAGE] Vizzini**-The most famous classic blunder is never get involved in a land war in Asia, but only slightly less well-known is this. Never go in against a Sicilian when death is on the line.

Using a tablespoon when the recipe says teaspoon (making banana bread doubled everything except the flour)

Tiffanney getting locked out of the house with a newborn

Making a pot of coffee without the pot

Leaving things on the roof of your car (coffee mug, ipad)

Tension Set: We've all made mistakes, we've had times where we weren't paying attention or misread directions and it's cost us something. Locked my keys in my car during a snowstorm.

But there are other mistakes, bigger mistakes, more serious mistakes that can cost us big time. And the worst part is that most of the time, you can see them coming a mile away.

We (Exploring the tension)

**Should have known better:**

You're angry at your spouse and you start "Harmlessly" flirting with a coworker, turns into drinks and ends in compromise.

You can't say no, so you join the committee or take on the job at work and now you're stretched thin and your family is suffering.

You start to think "If I just had \_\_\_\_\_, I would be happy". You take on more jobs, work more overtime, and your greed pushes you away from family, friends, and ultimately God.

### **I would guess that your biggest regrets in life are the result of a series of compromises.**

Last week we talked about Solomon on the mountaintop, this week we see him at the bottom

God

But before we do that, I need to take us back to the book of Deuteronomy. This is Israel right before entering the territory that Solomon would eventually rule over, as God is giving His final instructions.

### **Deuteronomy 17: 16-17 (NIV)**

**<sup>16</sup>The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, "You are not to go back that way again."** **<sup>17</sup>He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.**

- Three things to stay away from:
  - large number of horses (modern day tanks, military power), especially from Egypt
    - **1 Kings 10: 26,28 (NIV)-**  
**<sup>26</sup>Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses,**  
**<sup>28</sup>Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue**
  - Large amounts of silver and gold
    - **1 Kings 10: 21,25 (NIV)-**  
**<sup>21</sup>All King Solomon's goblets were gold, Nothing was made of silver, because silver was considered of little value in Solomon's days.**  
**<sup>25</sup>Year after year, everyone who came brought a gift—articles of silver and gold, robes, weapons and spices, and horses and mules.**
  - Must not take many wives
    - 1 Kings 11- He had 700 wives and 300 concubines. He "held fast to them in love (v2)" and he built high places so they could worship their gods, including the gods Chemosh and Molek, who were worshipped with child sacrifices

- **1 Kings 11:9 (NIV)- The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice.**
- You may have heard it said “bad company corrupts good character (1 Cor 15:33)” or as Solomon put it:  
**Proverbs 18: 24 (NIV)- One who has unreliable friends soon comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**
- **[SLIDE] Show me your friends, and I’ll show you your future**
- Your life is shaped by the people you spend the most time with.

How did the guy who said:

**Proverbs 5:7-13 (NIV) paraphrased:**

**Now then, my sons, listen to me; do not turn aside from what I say.**

**<sup>8</sup>Keep to a path far from her, do not go near the door of her house,**

**<sup>9</sup>lest you lose your honor to others and your dignity to one who is cruel,**

**<sup>10</sup>lest strangers feast on your wealth and your toil enrich the house of another.**

**<sup>11</sup>At the end of your life you will groan, when your flesh and body are spent.**

**<sup>12</sup>You will say, “How I hated discipline! How my heart spurned correction!**

**<sup>13</sup>I would not obey my teachers or turn my ear to my instructors.**

How does he end up in this position? 1 Kings 11:6 it says he did evil in the eyes of the Lord.

Ecclesiastes is an interesting book in the Bible. It was either written by Solomon or about him. If proverbs says: doing God’s things in God’s way will lead to good outcomes 95% of the time, Ecclesiastes says: “The other 5% is really bad, and it makes you want to give up altogether”

- Bad because it’s confusing. Sometimes the good are punished and the evil prosper.
- In Solomon we see that he starts doing the wrong things and God still blesses him.
  - If he had a wedding every Saturday it would take 13.5 years to marry all of his wives
  - Month after month, year after year he acquires more gold, horses, and wives. He builds more high places to worship other gods.
- And the first time you stole a candy bar and didn’t get caught, there was a rush of adrenaline and you were emboldened to do it again. (drugs, porn, lying about where you were or who you were with, skipping work). To this day I have to resist the urge to take things (especially food).

You

Where are you at in all of this? Maybe you just started your faith journey and you're still on the mountaintop. Incredible! But like we learned from Solomon the last 2 weeks, there will be valleys you have to go through.

When you do, will you humble yourself, pray, seek and turn from your wicked ways?  
Or will you end up like Solomon and never repent?

**[IMAGE] Bible Recap** - Bible reading 102: Messianic pattern. Chaos, Messianic figure, Eden, fall from grace

- Moses is locked out of the promised land, Sampson dies rescuing the people, Saul becomes demon possessed, David and Bathsheba, Solomon and all of his wives, Elijah next week will battle depression

If all of these people fell short, what separates an evil king from a man after God's own heart?

Repentance.

[Worship Team come up]

**Proverbs 28:13 (NIV)**

**Whoever conceals their sins does not prosper,  
but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy.**

**[IMAGE] Prodigal Son** - Jesus tells a story about the Prodigal Son. When he recognized his sin and returned the Father was waiting with open arms.

**1 John 1: 8-9 (NIV)**

**<sup>8</sup>If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup>If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

If you've been going down that slippery slope, God wants to catch you today.

Altar