**2 – Humility of Solomon**

*1 Kings 3:5-9; Isaiah 66:2*

***There was only One Who was without fault – Jesus. Unlike our study on the “Mind of Christ,” the following studies highlight an admirable characteristic of the subject of study. The Bible reveals the good, bad, and ugly. When we commend the characteristic of the particular character at hand, we are only suggesting that specific characteristic be imitated, not all that the character himself did.***

* **1 Kings 11:1-2, 9-11** – Solomon, despite his humility we are highlighting in this lesson, ultimately became displeasing to God.
  + Even his father – David, a man after God’s own heart – was not without sin. The Holy Spirit did not neglect to reveal his faults. The truth is entire, not in part.

**God’s Test Question – (v. 5)**

* God had promised David that he would have sons on the throne of Israel as long as they continued to follow God – **2:4**
  + Thus God tested Solomon by asking him what he wanted God to give him.
  + The sacrifices Solomon made to God (**cf. 3:4**) were an obvious petition to God as we see immediately following God appeared in a dream.
  + ***How was this a test?***
    - **Matthew 6:19-21** – As king of Israel, Solomon’s greatest desire should be to serve God. He would not become a good king by riches, but by God’s favor and guidance. *(Did he want attention from man and earthly pleasure, or favor from God?)*
    - ***“For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34).***

**Solomon’s Request – (v. 6-9)**

* At this time, Solomon’s heart was in the right place. He wanted to be a good king in God’s eyes, not just to the people and surrounding cities.
* He counted wisdom far more precious than physical possessions.
  + He wrote proverbs about the value and importance of wisdom – **Proverbs 3:13-18.**

**Solomon’s Humility in his Request – (v. 6-9)**

* **(v. 6-7)** – He attributed his reign as king to God’s continued lovingkindness toward David, for David ***“walked before [God] in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with [Him]” (v. 6).***
  + **2 Samuel 7:12-16** – God appoints authorities for His purposes. This Solomon at least understood in the sense that he did not merit his kingship, but God gave it to him.
  + Contrast with Adonijah – **1 Kings 1:5** – Adonijah was Solomon’s older brother. As such, according to normal tradition, the kingdom would belong to him.
    - However, God said Solomon would take the throne after David. Adonijah usurped the throne by rebelling against God’s plan and making himself king.
    - His attempt ultimately failed, but he eventually tried it again – **2:15**.
      * This he said in deception hoping to usurp the kingship once again. It proved futile.
  + Solomon displayed the understanding of the way God worked. 🡪
    - Always choosing one, never one earning.
      * Isaac over Ishmael – **cf. Genesis 21:8-13; Romans 9:6-9**
      * Jacob over Esau – **cf. Genesis 27; Romans 9:10-13**
      * Joseph over his brothers – **cf. Genesis 37**
      * ***Children of Promise over Children of Flesh – cf. Romans 9:6-9***
        + We need to recognize our salvation is from God’s lovingkindness and mercy rather than our merit – **Ephesians 2:8-10**
* **(v. 7)** – We cannot direct our own steps! Without God’s guidance we cannot point the right direction.
  + ***“I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in” (v. 7).***
  + **Isaiah 55:8-9** – Humility before God by acknowledging His transcendent ways.
  + **Jeremiah 10:23** – Humility before God by acknowledging our need for His guidance.
    - ***“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path” (Psalm 119:105)***.
* **(v. 8-9)** – Solomon recognized the immense gravity in his responsibility to lead, *not his people*, but ***God’s people*** – a great nation chosen by Him, for Him, and cared for according to His mercy and love.
  + The great significance of the kingdom of Israel established by God made Solomon feel small.
  + He felt need for guidance. The people looked up to him, and would count on him to steer them in the right direction.
  + The church is the pillar and ground of the truth – **1 Timothy 3:15** – This is a great responsibility that is greater than each of us.
    - We must contend for the faith – **Jude 3**.
    - Teachers and preachers must show integrity in the truth – **2 Timothy 4:1-5; James 3:1; Titus 2:7.**
* **God rewards the humble, and exalts them (lifts them up) – (v. 10-14)**
  + This God did for the obvious reason of carrying out His intended purpose. This is not evidence to an abundance of physical riches to those who humble themselves before God.
  + Yet this does display God’s reaction to such people.
  + ***“But on this one will I look: on him who is poor and of a contrite spirit, and who trembles at My word” (Isaiah 66:2)***
  + ***“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted” (Matthew 5:3-4).***
  + ***“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6)***
  + ***“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (James 4:10).***
  + ***“Let the lowly brother glory in his exaltation, but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away” (James 1:9-10).***
  + Pharisee and the tax collector – **Luke 18:9-14**