Singapore Bible College Room 1307 Matthew Lyle

15-Apr-2021 Message 1 of 1

ESV 15 Minutes

**Pagan Wives of Solomon**

***1 Kings 11:1-8 (ESV)***

**Topic:** Idolatry

**Subject:** What happens when you continue to disobey God?

**Complement:** You follow sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster.

**Purpose:** The listeners will… identify and avoid dangers that lead to idolatry.

**Meditation:** Ecclesiastes 12:13. The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.

**Reading:** 1 Kings 11:1-4 ESV

**Song:** What is the best closing song you know that will reinforce your main idea?

**Benediction:** What verse in today’s passage (or a cross reference) is best for silent reflection?

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| Intro:  1: Arouse interest by a question | Lee Kuan Yew, Aung San Suu Kyi, the former King of Thailand (King Bhumibol Adulyadej), Abraham Lincoln, all prominent national figures with impeccable reputations, stand in stark contrast to King Solomon. |
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| (continued) | The stark contrast is because of Solomon’s downfall, recorded for all the world to see in 1 Kings chapter 11, which is where our passage will be found today. |
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| T to need | Anyone can tell you that Solomon was a wise man. The Bible tells us that because he asked for wisdom to rule God’s people, God gave him “a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.” Solomon was the wisest person ever. |
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| 2: Raise Need | So then, if the wisest person ever can turn away from God, should you worry about falling away from God? |
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| 3: Subject | Today, we will look at 1 Kings 11:1-8 and see . . . What happens when you continue to disobey God? |
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| 4: Bkgd | Go ahead and turn to 1 Kings 11:1-8 while I give you a quick background. After inheriting the kingdom, initially serving God faithfully, and building the temple, Solomon begins to make some bad choices. These choices, were being disobedient to God. |
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| 5: Preview | Our text, 1 Kings 11:1-8, will show us two things that happen when you continue to disobey God. |
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| T to MP1 | (The first thing that happens when you continue to disobey God is) |
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| MP1 | You follow sinful things that turn you away God. |
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| Restatement | When you make a habit of doing things pleasing to man not God, you end walking away from God. |
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| T to vs 1 | How does Solomon go from asking for and being granted wisdom that makes him the wisest man ever to walking away from God? |
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| 8:1 | Verse 1 tells us that “Now King Solomon loved many foreign women, along with the daughter of Pharaoh: Moabite, Ammonite, Edomite, Sidonian, and Hittite women, |
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| EXPL nations | As you can see on a map, the foreign women are from the various nations surrounding Israel. Pharaoh’s daughter was from Egypt, to the south. Moab, Amon, Edom to the east, Sidon and the Hittites to the north. These first marriages were likely for political purposes, to create alliances. |
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| EXPL collecting | But Solomon liked collecting things. In the previous chapter, Solomon collected horses. The Bible says he had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen. That means he had a lot of horses. Even though horses and chariots don’t really work that well in the hill country, like where Jerusalem is. So, Solomon didn’t need the horses and chariots. |
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| T to vs 2 | Is there anything wrong with collecting horses, or collecting wives? How can you know if what you are doing is not pleasing to God? The answer is simple. You read God’s word. And continuing in God’s word looking in verse 2, which continues the sentence from verse 1, Solomon loved many women: |
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| 8:2a | . . . from the nations concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not  enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.”  ---concerning which the Lord had said to the people of Israel, “You shall not  Solomon clung to these in love. |
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| EXPL judgment | Solomon is being judged. In verse 1, the author has stated what Solomon did (having many wives) and he stated the rule, or law, or standard to which he is being judged. |
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| EXPL judgment Deut 17 | And the standard to which he is being judged is found in Deuteronomy chapter 17 which are laws concerning Israel’s Kings. Deuteronomy 17:16-17 tells us “Only he must not acquire many horses for himself or cause the people to return to Egypt in order to acquire many horses, since the Lord has said to you, ‘You shall never return that way again.’ 17 And he shall not acquire many wives for himself, lest his heart turn away, nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold.” |
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| EXPL  Deut 17  3 things | Deuteronomy 17:16-17 lists 3 rules that Solomon broke,   * do not collect horses * do not hoard gold * do not marry foreign wives. |
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| ILL  Singapore FINE City | If you have been in Singapore for any amount of time, you know that Singapore also has rules to follow. In fact, there is a T-shirt design that celebrates these rules. Singapore is a fine city. |
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| T to app | This T-shirt tells you that if you are able to be seen naked in your own home, you will be fined $2,000. |
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| Summary | God’s word told Solomon that if he was disobedient (i.e., took many wives), his heart would turn away. |
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| APP MP1 | The same applies to us today, when we are disobedient to God’s word, we risk turning away from God. Therefore, you must identify the sinful things in your life. |
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| ILL  Christians turning away | All too often you hear of Christian leaders who do not identify the sinful things in their lives and end up getting in trouble. One such person is John Crist, a Christian comedian. A magazine reported that he had been using his celebrity status to manipulate young women to give him sexual favors.  Why do you need to identify the sinful things in your life? |
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| MP1 | When you continue to disobey God, you follow sinful things that turn you away God. |
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| T to MP2 | (That’s the first thing that happens. The second thing that happens when you continue to disobey God is) |
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| MP2 | You follow sinful things that result in disaster. |
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| Restatement | (Living that is not pleasing to God leads to bad things that just get worse). |
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| T to vs 2b-5 | Verse 1 told us Solomon loved many foreign wives. The first part of verse 2 reminded us that God had provided a warning to Israel’s kings that having foreign wives would result in their hearts being turned away. Let’s read what happens to Solomon starting with the end of verse 2. |
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| 11:2b-4 | Solomon clung to these in love. 3 He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. And his wives turned away his heart. 4 For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. |
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| EXPL  Judgment fulfilled | Solomon had many foreign wives. This was contrary to God’s word. Solomon’s response:  He clung to these in love. NET states he was irresistibly attracted. Either way, it indicated Solomon continued in his disobedience to God’s word. |
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| T to vs 5-8 | The rest of the passage simply shows the result of Solomon’s disobedience. |
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| 11:5-8 | 5 For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Sidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. 6 So Solomon did what was evil in the sight of the Lord and did not wholly follow the Lord, as David his father had done. 7 Then Solomon built a high place for Chemosh the abomination of Moab, and for Molech the abomination of the Ammonites, on the mountain east of Jerusalem. 8 And so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods. |
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| EXPL  Progression | Note the progressions of Solomon’s disobedience. First, he turned his heart towards other gods. Then he began to follow those other gods. And finally, he is building altars to these gods. |
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| ILL  Train wreck | Have you ever seen a train wreck? On YouTube you often see a highspeed train running through a car at a railroad crossing. But most train wrecks happen at slow speeds. A train that is barely moving is about to hit a stationary object. People are shouting STOP, get out of the way. But a train can’t stop quickly. You know what is going to happen. Eventually it does. That was Solomon’s life. It was a long slow motion train wreck that begin with some unwise decisions, but eventually as he clung to his foreign wives in love, his heart was turned away from God. |
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| EXPL  Hope | But there is hope. Solomon was not like his father David who wholly followed the Lord. But David sinned! He took another man’s wife as his own and had him killed! The difference? David repented. David did not turn to false gods or idols, he always turned to the true God. |
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| APP MP2 | You too can repent. You too can turn to the true God. I’ve already said you need to identify areas of your life where you are being disobedient to God. Now you must turn from those areas and turn to God. |
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| Big T | So, what have we learned? This passage basically shows what happens when you continue to disobey God… |
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| Concl:  MI/CPS | Disobeying God leads to following sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster. |
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| Restatement | When you are living a life that is not pleasing to God, your heart will be turned away, and you will go from bad to worse. |
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| SP “A” | The first two verses showed us that disobedience results in sinful desires that turn you away from God |
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| APP  (Identify) | Therefore, you must you must identify the sinful things in your life. Identify what are doing now that is not pleasing to God. Identify what are you doing now that is contrary to God’s word. |
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| SP “B” | The rest of the passage showed us that disobedience results in sinful desires that lead to disaster. |
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| APP  (Turn from) | Therefore, you must turn away from those sinful desires. |
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| Summary | Solomon was the wisest man to ever live. Still, his heart was turned away from God. Learn from his mistakes.   * Know that disobeying God leads to following sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster. Therefore: * Identify the sinful things in your life * Turn away from the sinful things in your life. |
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| Invitation | Even though you may do something not pleasing to God, even though you may even turn your heart away from God, know this, God never turns his heart away from you.  God sent is son Jesus, to die in your place on the cross. If you don’t know Jesus, turn your heart to him now. If you feel your heart has been turned away because you have been disobedient to God, now is the time to turn your heart back to Him. |
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| Prayer | * Lord God, we thank you for never turning away from us. * We know that even the wisest person to ever live is not good enough to be a part of your kingdom. * Let us rely on your wisdom and learn from Solomon’s mistakes. * Help us to identify the unconfessed sin in our lives and turn away from those sinful desires and live a life that is pleasing to you. Amen. |

# Study Questions (Step 1)

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

### King Solomon, after inheriting the Kingdom, and initially “walking in the statutes of David his father” (1 Kings 3:3 ESV), had asked God for wisdom and received “a wise and discerning mind” (1 Kings 3:12 ESV) along with “riches and honor” and subsequently built the temple for the Lord.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### To provide a warning about turning your heart away from God.

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

### Kingdom of Israel was united as a Kingdom first under Saul, then David. Due to late bronze age collapse, Israel was able to flourish as a Kingdom free from external interference from the empires in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

### Although free of external threats and appearing to prosper, the nation of Israel needed to remember its covenant with God.

# Sources Used

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# Questions & Answers (cf. p. 22 #1)

### Why did Solomon marry all the foreign women?

Initially the marriages were for political alliances. (source # 2) Later, it seems they were for love (or lust). (what else explains the 300 concubines and sheer number of princesses)

### Were there any warning signs that Solomon would turn his heart away from God in the previous chapters?

The author of 1 Kings shows Solomon’s many achievements. Achievements include amassing great wealth in the form of slaves and horses. Achievements also include the acknowledgement of his great wisdom among the nations. Several commentators are quick to point out the violations of Deuteronomy. Chuck Smith cites Deut 17:14-19 about multiplying horses, returning to Egypt, MacArthur states “Solomon became ensnared by the blessings of his own wisdom and disobeyed God's commands.” However, the author of 1 Kings waits until 1 Kings 11:2 to show where Solomon violated God’s law.

### Was Solomon warned by any prophets (like Nathan warned David)? Why or why not?

Turns out he was warned by God not once but twice (see question #8 for more info about God visiting Solomon).

* In first visit, the warning was vague, and simply stated (1 Kings 3:14) And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.
* The second warning is more explicit (1 Kings 9:6-9) 6 “But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey the commands and decrees I have given you, and if you serve and worship other gods, 7 then I will uproot Israel from this land that I have given them. I will reject this Temple that I have made holy to honor my name. I will make Israel an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations. 8 And though this Temple is impressive now, all who pass by will be appalled and will gasp in horror. They will ask, ‘Why did the Lord do such terrible things to this land and to this Temple?’ 9 “And the answer will be, ‘Because his people abandoned the Lord their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and they worshiped other gods instead and bowed down to them. That is why the Lord has brought all these disasters on them.’”

### Who else “did what was evil in the sight of the Lord”?

* Throughout the book of Judges, the people of Israel are mentioned several times to have done evil in the sight of the Lord.
* Saul is told by Samuel (1 Sam 15:19) “Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?”
* David is told by Nathan (2 Sam 12:9) “Why have you despised the word of the Lord, to do what is evil in his sight? You have struck down Uriah the Hittite with the sword and have taken his wife to be your wife and have killed him with the sword of the Ammonites. 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from your house, because you have despised me and have taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be your wife.”

### What does it meant to “wholly” follow the Lord?

* Passage twice mentions David as the example to follow. In vs 4, Solomon’s heart was not wholly true as was David’s. In vs 6, Solomon did not wholly follow the Lord. So even though David sinned (see question 6 below), the commentator provided 2 possible reasons why David was considered to have followed the Lord.

### Even though David sinned, why does it state David “wholly” followed the Lord?

* King David’s heart had been wholly true to the LORD his God as far as keeping himself from idolatry was concerned, but Solomon did not follow (source #4).
* Another view about David is that he repented appropriately from his sin (Pss. 32; 51), and because sin did not continue as the pattern of his life (source #2)

### If Solomon was so wise, why did he allow his wealth, fame, and love for women turn his heart away from God?

* The short answer is because Solomon was “irresistibly attracted” to his foreign wives (1 Kings 11:2 NET).

### What were the two times that the Lord appeared to Solomon? Although from verse 9, which is outside the text, this question is a follow-on question from question 3

1st time can be found in 1 Kings 3:1-15. Solomon’s dream where he asked for wisdom.

2nd time can be found in 1 Kings 9:1-9. After building the temple.

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# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Solomon’s sin resulted in his turning away from God.

Solomon also sinned in the previous chapter, but the judgment is associated with the sins associated with the many wives. Therefore, subject is not just generic sin but something more specific about Solomon’s sin.

Solomon’s love for foreign women caused his heart to turn away from God.

NET states Solomon was “irresistibly attracted” to these women. Text is clear that eventually he turned away from the true God to worship the false gods of his many wives. But what was the root cause?

SUBJ: Solomon’s disobedience to God’s laws concerning marrying foreign women

COMP: Caused Solomon to turn away from the true God and turn toward idolatry.

# Possible Illustrations

### Matthew 6:21 “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Solomon’s treasure was his love for his wives and concubines.

**Pagan Wives of Solomon**

***1 Kings 11:1-8***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

|  |  |
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| **EO** | **HO** |
| (Subj) Solomon’s disobedience to God’s laws concerning marrying foreign women | (S) What happens when you continue to disobey God? |
| (Comp) Caused Solomon to turn away from the true God and turn toward idolatry. | (C) You follow sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster |
| Exegetical Idea (CPT): The result of Solomon’s disobedience to God’s laws by marrying foreign women was idolatry. | **(CPS) The result of disobeying God are sinful desires that lead you away from God and lead to disaster.** |
|  | **(MI) Disobeying God leads to sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster** |
| **I. The evidence of Solomon indulging in sinful desires was he was turned away from God (1-2a).** | **I.** **Disobedience results in sinful things** **that turn you away from God (1-2).**  (When you please man but not God, you end walking away from God.) |
| A. The evidence of Solomon’s lust was loving many foreign women (1). | A. Identify the sinful desires in your life (1). |
| B. The reason God warned Israel about intermarriage with the nations was to keep them from turning away their hearts from him (2a). | B. Sinful desires draw you away from God (2a). |
| **II. The extent to which Solomon turned away from God started small but grew large (2b-8).** | **II.** **Disobedience results in sinful desires that lead to disaster (2b-8).**  (Not pleasing God leads to bad things that just get worse). |
| A. The result of Solomon’s love for many foreign women was his heart was turned away from God (2b-3). | A. Turn away from sinful desires so you do not turn away from God (2b-3). |
| B. The extent to which Solomon turned away from God was dramatic (4-8) | B. When you turn away from God, the results will be disastrous (4-8). |

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will identify and avoid dangers that lead to idolatry

**Sermon Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)—Steps 5-6

# Introduction

### Interest: Lee Kuan Yew, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, Aung San Suu Kyi, all prominent national figures with impeccable reputations, stand in stark contrast to King Solomon.

### Need: If a person who “excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom” (1 Kings 10:23) can turn away from God, should you worry about falling away from God?

### Subject: What happens when you disobey God?

### Background: After inheriting the kingdom, initially serving God faithfully, and building the temple, Solomon begins to make bad choices which leads to his downfall.

### Text Preview: 1 Kings 11:1-8 will show us two things that happen when you continue to disobey God.

(The first thing that happens when you continue to disobey God is )

# I. Disobedience results in sinful desires that turn you away from God (1-2a).

[When you please man but not God, you end walking away from God].

## Solomon did things not pleasing to God.

## Solomon was judged by God for the things he did.

(The second thing that happens when you continue to disobey God is . . .)

# II. Disobedience results in sinful desires that lead to disaster (2b-8).

[Not pleasing God leads to bad things that just get worse].

## Progressive sin in Solomon started by following other gods, and then he built high places.

## Solomon is contrasted with David who wholly followed God.

(This whole passage simply shows that…)

# Conclusion

### Disobeying God leads to following sinful desires that draw you away God and lead to disaster (MI).

### When you are living a life that is not pleasing to God, your heart will be turned away, and you will go from bad to worse (restatement).

### The first two verses showed us that disobedience results in sinful desires that turn you away from God (MP 1).

### The rest of the passage showed us that disobedience results in sinful desires that lead to disaster (MP 2).

### Therefore, you must you must identify the sinful things in your life. Then you must turn away from those sinful desires (APP).

### Invitation. Although Solomon turned away, God will never turn away.

### Prayer