Singapore Bible College Fon Naphamas

22 April 2021 Message 1 of 1

ESV 15 Minutes

**Come Back to Me!**

***1 Kings 11:9-43***

**Topic:** God’s faithfulness

**Subject:** How does God respond to unfaithfulness of man?

**Complement:** God is angry, but he remains faithful and disciplines us for our unfaithfulness.

**Purpose:** The listeners will know that God is angry with our unfaithfulness, but he still faithful to us, disciplines us and we should be thankful and be willing to turn back to him.

**Meditation:** -

**Reading:** -

**Song:** -

**Benediction:** -

# Paste Sermon Outline here to Develop Manuscript (Step 6b)

# Introduction

1. Interest: According to research, about 40%, meaning that 4 in 10 married couples are impacted by infidelity! This shows that people have trouble staying faithful even to their loved ones. What happened? How can they turn away from their loved ones? What about the love that you are supposed to have towards your one and only God?

2. Need: Have you been faithful to God all the time? Probably not. It is sad, but it’s true. As much as we have trouble staying faithful to people, we often find ourselves hard to stay faithful to God as well.

3. Subject: What about the other way round? How does God respond to our unfaithfulness?

4. Background: Solomon was a wise king who brought wealth and security to his kingdom, but in 1 Kings chapter 11, as we have heard from Matt last week, things changed for the worse. In 1 Kings chapter 11, Solomon married many foreign women and worshipped other gods. He failed to be faithful to God’s covenant.

5. Preview: Solomon was unfaithful to God’s covenant, but how does God respond to him? Today, we will be looking at three ways God responds to our unfaithfulness.

6. Text: Let’s turn to 1 Kings 11:9-43. You may follow the text while I go through each main point.

(Now, the first way in which God responds to our unfaithfulness is his anger….)

1. God is angry with our unfaithfulness (v.9-11).

[God is displeased when we turn away from him.]

1. In verses 9-11 God was angry with Solomon’s unfaithfulness and vouched to transfer his kingdom to one of his subordinates.

In verse 9 we see that “The Lord was angry with Solomon, because Solomon turned away from God to worship other gods.” I’m sure we remember that the Lord gave wisdom to Solomon and blessed him with much wealth. He appeared to Solomon not once, but twice to talk to him personally, but still, Solomon turned away from God.

So, in verse 11 God said, “Since you act like this then I will give your kingdom to your subordinates.” Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant made God angry and would lead to the division of the kingdom.

1. Brothers and sisters, God displeases when we turn away from him.

[show the posture of slowly turning away from the center] Imagine God is at the center right in front of us. When we turn away from him to love other things, we slowly move away from his sight. And if we do that, God will be angry with us.

C. While I was preparing for this sermon, I wanted to know what people think about God’s anger, so I typed in YouTube, “God is angry”. Do you know what result I

 found? More than half of the result is “Can I be angry with God?” “I am angry with

 God” “Is it right to be angry with God?” I was so surprised that what people think

 about is them being angry with God! Think about it, if we combine what we have

 done, all the sins we committed, don’t you feel thankful that you are still alive today?

 God should be the one who is angry with us!

 We are under God’s grace in Christ and there is no condemnation in Christ,

 but this doesn’t mean that God cannot be angry when we turn away from him.

 Brothers and sisters, God is slow to anger, but don’t take it for granted. If you find

 yourself being unfaithful to him, would you turn back to him now?

(First, we know that God is angry with our unfaithfulness, the second way that God responds to our unfaithfulness is that…)

1. God remains faithful to us (v.12-13)

 **[The LORD never fails to be trustworthy even when man is not.]**

A. God kept Solomon on the throne and kept the tribe of Judah for his son (v.12-

 13).

 [Let me read the text for you v.12-13] The only thing that kept Solomon on the

 throne and part of the land was still with his line was because the unconditional

 covenant God made with David in 2 Sam 7:12-16. God promised David that he

 will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.

 Solomon was still on the throne for the rest of his life, not because he deserved

 it but because of God’s faithfulness. God kept his promise to David. Therefore,

 Solomon as an heir can continue to rule. Isn’t this like how we receive grace

 under the faithfulness of Christ? Because Jesus obeys the father, when we

 believe in him, we are his heir, and we have the right to inherit the kingdom of

 God.

 B. Brothers and sisters, God is faithful to us and he keeps his promise even when
 we do not.

 C. Let me show you how easy it is for humans to break promises (object lesson).

 This is what our promises look like [show the piece of paper with the word on it]. This is a simple promise, “I will read Bible (everyday)” [tear the paper after reading it], I will love others (even someone I don’t like) [tear the paper after reading it], I will give thanks for the food (including canteen food) [tear the paper after reading it]. It’s easy for humans to break promises but this is what God’s promises look like [show the Bible]. You can’t tear them. We are so weak to stay faithful, but God is not.

 D. One of our lecturers shared with me that, many years ago, SBC had an international student who got expelled for being involved in pornography and prostitution in Geylang just months before his graduation! He could not continue to study, and he had to go home empty handed. He was being unfaithful to God and also to his girlfriend. However, he repented, and he went through counselling for several years. Later on, he returned to SBC to finish his final semester. He is now married and is a leader in his denomination.

 Even if we are unfaithful, God is still faithful; and even if you messed up, God still loves you. He is still working in your life as long as you turn back to him. God responds to our unfaithfulness by staying faithful to us.

(Now we know that the first way God responds to our unfaithfulness is that he is angry, and the

second way is God remains faithful, so now we move on to the third way…)

**III. God disciplines us for our unfaithfulness (v.14-43).**

 **[God punishes us to call us back to him]**

A. God brought three opponents against Solomon’s kingdom; Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam to discipline Solomon.

 a.) In verse 14-22, God brought Hadad against Solomon’s kingdom. Hadad was the

 prince of Edom, one of the greatest enemies of Israel. He weakened Solomon’s

 kingdom.

 b.) And in verse 23-25, God brought Rezon against Solomon’s kingdom. Rezon was

 from Zobah then he became king of Aram kingdom. Out of hatred, he harmed

 Israel throughout the time of Solomon.

 c.) In verse 26-40, God brought one of Solomon’s officials, Jeroboam, to take over

 ten tribes of Israel from Solomon through the prophetic message of Ahijah.

 d.) These three opponents were brought upon Solomon because God needed to discipline Solomon and Israel. God, who was being faithful to the covenant, wanted them to turn back to him. But sadly, they did not turn back to God.

 B. Brothers and sisters, sometimes God uses punishment to help us turn back

 to him. It is by punishment that we realize that we were wrong.

 C. Ok, let me ask you, how many of you faithfully read through every single point in EO guideline or HO guidelines in homiletics class? Ok, all heads down, all eyes closed…raise your hand if you want to confess to Dr. Rick.

 After we have submitted the paper, we will receive a beautiful yellow line fill in our paper with beautiful number. Why are we being penalized when we didn’t follow the guideline? It is to help us to stay faithful to the word of God.

Disciplining is one way God uses to bring us back to him. We should not be discouraged by him disciplining us but surrender and turn back to him.

(Now we know that the way God responds to unfaithfulness of man is that….)

**Conclusion**

 1. MI: God is angry, but he remains faithful to us, however God disciplines us for our unfaithfulness.

 2. MI restated: God is displeased when we turn away from him but he is still faithful to us, and he disciplines us because he wants us to turn back to him.

 3. Application

 a.) We should be thankful for God’s faithfulness and be willing to turn back to

 him whenever he disciplines us. We know that sometimes we will fail to stay

 faithful to God, but remember that, the most important thing is to always, always

 turn back to God.

 b.) Is there any area in your life that you have not been faithful to God? During this

 hectic period, are we still faithful to God by upholding integrity in our school

 work? How about your daily lives? Do you engage in activities that do not please

 God, loving something else more than God and is not willing to let go?

 c.) If God is disciplining you right now, will you turn back to him?

 Let’s pray: Dear heavenly Father, we are sorry for our unfaithfulness. We are sorry that sometimes we hurt your feelings, and that we made you angry. Forgive us Lord and help us to turn back to you. Thank you for how you remain faithful to us even when we are not and disciplining us for our good. Help us to humble ourselves when you discipline us and turn back to you again, in Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.

# Study Questions (Step 1)

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

### In chapter 11, the author recorded the beginning of Solomon’s downfall where he married many foreign women and end up committed idolatry.

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

### This chapter marked the turning point in the kingdom where Solomon’s disobedience led to the division of the kingdom, but the Lord remained faithful to his promise to David.

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

### God made an unconditional covenant with David that God will raise up his offspring, establish his kingdom, that this son will build temple for God, and God will establish the throne of his kingdom forever (2 Samuel 7:12-16).

### God made a conditional covenant with Solomon that if Solomon obeyed the Lord’s command, God would establish his throne over Israel forever (1 Kings 9:4-5). But if Solomon turned away from the Lord, did not keep his commandments, and served other gods, God would cut off Israel from the land (1 Kings 9:6-8).

### The future of the kingdom now depends on Solomon’s faithfulness to God.

# Sources Used

### Paul R. House, *1, 2 Kings: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture,* The New American Commentary, Volume 8 (Nashville, TN: Holman, 1995).

### Matthews, V. H., Chavalas, M. W., & Walton, J. H., The IVP Bible background commentary: Old Testament (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000).

### Constable, T. L. In *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures,* edited by J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985).

### Brown, F., S. R. Driver, and C. A. Briggs, *Enhanced Brown-Driver-Briggs Hebrew and English Lexicon* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1977).

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

### V.9 What does “heart turn away from the Lord mean?”

#### Solomon did not love God, but worshipped other gods; his attitude toward God had changed.

### V.11 What covenant and statutes were God referring to?

#### The covenant God made in 1 Kings 9:6-8, “If you turn aside from me…to serve other gods and worship them…”

### V.11 Who was the servant God referred to?

### Jeroboam

### V.13 What is the one tribe that God will give to Solomon’s son?

### God will give the tribe of Judah to Rehoboam.

### What was the other tribe other than Judah which God did not give to Jeroboam?

### The other tribe was Benjamin, which was a small tribe. It was therefore combined with Judah as the Southern Kingdom of Judah.

### V.13 What does it mean when God said “for the sake of Jerusalem that I have chosen”?

### It meant that the name of God will be glorified there through unified and committed worship at the temple.

### V.14 What does “adversary” mean?

This word in Hebrew is *satan* and it means prosecutor or opponent.

### V.14 Who was Hadad?

### Hadad was the prince of Edom, Israel’s enemy. In the time when David attacked and killed every male in Edom, Hadad was a boy. He managed to escape to Egypt. Pharaoh took Hadad in and gave his sister-in-law to him as wife. He then asked Pharaoh for permission to go back to Edom, as he wanted to harm Israel.

### V.23 Who was Rezon?

### He was another enemy of Solomon. Rezon was from Zobah (south of Damascus), and was the former vassal of the Aramean ruler Hadadezer.

### He managed to escape when David kill his master Hadadezer, and later on became the king of Damascus. He established the Aram kingdom which throughout the time of Solomon’s reign, was a rival of Israel.

### V.26 Who was Jeroboam?

### Jeroboam was one of Solomon’s officials from the tribe of Ephraim (northern clan). He was described as a man of standing or a great ability in the reconstruction of the Millo in Jerusalem.

### V.29 Who was Ahijah and why did he tear the cloak?

### Ahijah was the prophet from Shiloh. He tore the cloak into 12 pieces to symbolize the prophetic message of the division of the kingdom.

### V.33 In verse 33, who were the “they” in “they have forsaken me” refer to?

### Ahijah was referring to the people of Israel, because apart from Solomon, they had also forsaken Yahweh.

### V.36 What does “lamp before me in Jerusalem” mean?

### A symbol of continuous succession or as a remembrance of the promise God made to David’s dynasty (2 Sam 7:8-16).

### V.38-39 Are these two verses stating a conditional covenant God made with Jeroboam?

### Yes, it is a conditional covenant, same as when he made the covenant with Solomon (1 King 9:6-8).

### V.40 Why did Solomon want to kill Jeroboam?

### We do not know for sure, because the passage did not state his motive.

### V.41 What was the book of the Acts of Solomon?

### It is common to end an account of a king by referring to the book of which the narrative had been taken from, where other additional works were recorded (1 Kings 14:19; 16:14).

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

Text

# Possible Illustrations

### I promised to God that I will give offering to God faithfully every month, but I didn’t do it.

### I didn’t give every area of my life to God but entertained some part of my life followed my sinful desire.

### The way humans break promises is as easy as tearing a piece of paper, but the way God keeps his promise is like how you can’t tear the whole Bible at one go.

### I turned away from God when I chose non-Christian boyfriend over God.

# Possible Applications

### Trust in God’s faithfulness.

### Be thankful for God’s faithfulness.

### Try our best to be faithful to God in every area of our life.

### Acknowledge when God discipline us and turn back to God.

# Older Outlines of This Sermon Text or Outlines by Others (Books, Commentaries, etc.)

### Text

**Come Back to Me!**

***1 Kings 11:9-43***

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

# Exegetical Idea (CPT): The response of God to Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant was anger, transferring his kingdom and to remain faithful but discipline him (11:9-43).

# I. The response of God to Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant was anger and transferring his kingdom to one of his subordinates (11:9-11).

## God was angry with Solomon because of Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant (11:9-10).

## God transferred Solomon’s kingdom to one of his subordinates (11:11).

# II. The response of God to Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant was to remain faithful (11:12-13).

## God kept Solomon on the throne all of his life because of the promise God made to David (11:12).

## God kept the tribe of Judah for Solomon’s son because of the promise God made to David (11:13).

# III. The response of God to Solomon’s unfaithfulness to the covenant was to discipline him by bringing the opponents against him (11:14-43).

## God brought Hadad and Rezon against Solomon to weaken his kingdom (v14-25).

## God brought Jeroboam to take over ten tribes from Solomon’s son (11:26-43).

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

The listeners will know that God is angry with our unfaithfulness, but he still faithful to us, disciplines us and we should be thankful and be willing to turn back to him.

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

# Introduction

### Interest: According to research, about 40% or 4 in 10 married couples are impacted by infidelity, showing that people have trouble staying faithful even to their loved ones.

### Need: Have you been faithful to God all the time? (Probably not)

### Subject: How does God respond to unfaithfulness of man?

### Background: Solomon was a wise king who brought wealth and security to his kingdom, but 1 Kings 11 was his turning point where he failed to be faithful to God’s covenant.

### Preview: 1 Kings 11:9-43 show us three ways God responds to unfaithfulness of man.

### Text: Let’s turn to 1 Kings 11:9-43.

(The first way that God responds to unfaithfulness of man is….)

# I. God is angry with our unfaithfulness (v.9-11). *Principle*

 [God is displeased when we turn away from him.]

## God was angry with Solomon’s unfaithfulness and transferred his kingdom (v.9-11). *Text*

## God is displeased when we turn away from him. *Appl.*

## ILL: People often ask, “Can we be angry with God rather than how God is angry with us.”

(First, we know that God is angry with our unfaithfulness, the second way that God responds to our unfaithfulness is that…)

# II. God remains faithful to us (v.12-13). *Principle*

 [God never fails to be faithful even when man is not.]

## God kept Solomon on the throne and kept the tribe of Judah for his son (v.12-13). *Text*

## God is faithful to us and he keeps his promise even when we do not. *Appl.*

## ILL: The way humans break promises is as easy as tearing a piece of paper, but the way God keeps his promise is like how you can’t tear the whole Bible at one go (object lesson).

## ILL: SBC student who get expelled because of pornography and prostitutes in Geylang but was repent and able to came back and finished his final semester.

(Now we know the first way God responds to our unfaithfulness is that he is angry, and the second way is God remains faithful, so now we move on to the third way…)

# III. God disciplines us for our unfaithfulness (v.14-43). *Principle*

 [God punishes us to call us back to him.]

## God brought Hadad, Rezon, and Jeroboam against Solomon’s kingdom (14-43). *Text*

## Sometimes, God uses punishment to help us to turn back to him. *Appl.*

## ILL: Students are being penalized for not following the guidelines in homiletics class so as to help them stay faithful to the word of God.

(Therefore, the way God responds to unfaithfulness of man is that….)

# Conclusion

### God is angry but he remains faithful to us, however God disciplines us for our unfaithfulness (MI).

### Main Points: Now we know that God displeases when we turn away from him but he still faithful to us, and he disciplines us because he wants us to turn back to him.

### Exhortation/Application

#### We should be thankful for God’s faithfulness and be willing to turn back to him whenever he disciplines us.

#### Is there any area in your life that you have not been faithful to God? Are we still faithful to God by upholding integrity in our schoolwork? How about your daily lives? Do you engage in activities that do not please God, loving something else more than God and is not willing to let go?

#### If God is disciplining you right now, will you turn back to him?