

The Error Of Solomon
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I'm not going to continue with our study of the book of Ephesians today. I'm going to take one of my diversions to share about something that the Lord is dealing with me about. I'm going to do my best to communicate this, although I know that it can easily be misunderstood. And that's not because anyone is dumb, it's just because I don't really know how to say it very well.

I mentioned briefly last week about the error of Solomon. Unfortunately it got cut off the recording at the end...and I didn't feel like I could re-do it because it was rather spontaneous. That wasn't my intention, but the last 15 or 20 minutes were randomly cut off by the recording device and replaced with the message that Haley and Rod gave the other week. It was a very strange and unexplainable technical phenomena. Maybe the Lord is trying to tell me something.

At any rate, during the prayer last week, I sort of stopped praying and shared something about Solomon. I had been in my office earlier in the morning, before the 9AM class. I was praying. I was feeling an unusual sense of sobriety about the purpose and truth of God. But at the same time, had been feeling a bit like my eyes were partially closed and I couldn't see very clearly. I didn't know why or when it started to get dark, but I felt an uncomfortable absence of Spirit-given perspective. And at times like that I realize how dark things are outside of Him.

Just as a side note: I'm going to speak pretty freely this week. I may cut some of it out of the recording if I regret it. I usually at least try (you may find this funny) to say things that are somewhat new-person-friendly. I don't mean Adam-friendly...but I usually at least try to throw some things out there that almost anyone could pick up. I don't really believe much in what I understand to be the seeker-sensitive model. Maybe you've noticed that. It's not that I don't want to be welcoming and kind to new people. Of course I do. But I have two major problems with the seeker-sensitive approach. One is that the gospel of the cross is not compatible with the natural man. I cannot both say something true about the gospel and comforting to the flesh, to our carnality, to our natural mind, etc. Number two...is that I have a real difficult time preaching anything other than what the Lord is dealing with my soul about. Maybe you've noticed that too.

So, sometimes that leaves me where I feel like I am today. I want to say some things that are on my heart, that represent a dealing of the Lord in me, but I know its perhaps not the best introduction to our church, nor is it terribly easy to hear. Some of what I want to say might be taken as intense or extreme. And I can understand why people say that kind of thing. But really, spiritual reality only seems intense and extreme when we're so much the opposite of it that it feels like it's a

world away from us. People say I am intense. But I don't think that's a good word for it. I think the truth is just real. And if that seems intense, then that is because it contradicts our lives in many ways. And that's not God's problem.

So, getting back to what I was saying about Solomon. I was praying in my office last week and I felt like the Lord spoke something to my heart. "Don't make the error of Solomon". The error of Solomon. What was Solomon's error? Most of you probably know the story. Solomon was the wisest man on earth, made so by God Himself. Not only did he have wisdom as a ruler in Israel, as a king, as a builder, and all those things in the natural realm. But he had the kind of wisdom that looks at the things that were created and sees through them to the spiritual realities that they represent. He understood plants, and animals, and love and relationships, and family...not just in their material form, but as the earthly counterparts of heavenly substance. Solomon was a man who saw far beyond His covenant. He saw with the mind of the Lord. He saw many things in the Light of Him who was still yet to come.

So how did the wisest man in the earth become a fool? How did it happen? David, who was not nearly as wise, somehow avoided it. David kept his heart rooted in God for all of his days. But Solomon became a fool.

Well, it tells us in 1 Kings quite plainly. It doesn't just tell us what happened, it tells us why it happened. It's really rather simple. After 10 chapters of describing the wisdom and glory and greatness of Solomon, it all comes to a tragic halt in chapter 11. You can read the details on your own. The chapter begins like this

"But King Solomon loved many foreign women...he clung to these in love...and his wives turned his heart after other gods; and his heart was not loyal to the Lord his God as was the heart of his father David."

Now the fact that it was women that he loved here is not the issue. It could have been anything. Anything of the shadowland, that is. Anything of the realm and reality that can only speak of eternal things. It doesn't matter what it was on the earth, only that it was something of the earth. And that Solomon loved it.

This is going to seem like a rabbit trail, but it's not. I recently started to see something in the Scriptures. I started to understand something, having to do with the transition between the covenants during the time that the Bible calls the end of the age...and it started coming to me with such clarity and certainty and frankly, it answered about 150 unanswered questions. It was exciting and paradigm shifting and true.

But what started out as what I believe to be a dealing of the Lord in my heart, over time started to change into an investigation of verses and ideas and answers. I was reading and I was excited, but my excitement was not the joy of seeing the Lord and abiding in His light. But rather, this excitement started turning into the joy of understanding the Bible and finding answers for old questions. It started to turn in my heart. I didn't notice it, but it turned. And I'm not saying that it stopped being true. But I am saying that it became to me **something of the earth that I loved. It became to me something foreign to the Lord. And the Lord could have written a sentence in my biography that said "But Jason loved many beautiful answers". "Jason loved many beautiful Bible verses".**

You wouldn't think that, while reading the Bible and being fascinated with the historicity and reality of certain Scriptures, that my heart could grow cold and turn away from the Lord. But you see...turning away from the Lord is the easiest thing in the world to do. In fact, you don't really even have to turn away from Him. You just have to turn towards something else. You just have to love the world. And whether or not my understanding of these things I was studying was true, it had become *my* understanding. It had become *my* answers. And therefore, it was something of the world. Something foreign to Him.

The type and shadow that is found in God prohibiting Israel to marry outside of the Seed, or forbidding them from loving foreign women doesn't speak of Christians now being forbidden to marry unbelievers. That's obviously not a smart thing to do, but that's not what that Scripture is testifying of and warning about through that aspect of the law. That Scripture speaks of **loving something outside of the kingdom of God. Loving something foreign to that land. Something outside of Him.** And even though I was loving something in His book, it wasn't Him. And I've come to know the difference. It turned my heart away.

It didn't happen overnight. But the sun slowly started to set. There was a change in me from a present view in the light to a memory of light, and a present fascination with *truths*. This has happened before with me on a number of occasions. Often with seemingly innocuous things. Things that you would assume would help and not hinder the knowing of God. It has happened with my love for learning Greek. It has happened with my desire to be a good father and husband. It has also happened with things far less noble-sounding than these.

You don't realize when the lights begin to change...it happens so slowly. Often you don't even realize until you're quite dead on the inside, or quite blind when you pick up the Bible.

I remember one time when my prescription was changing for my glasses. I wear contacts every day or I'm pretty blind. But one time, maybe in college or high school, my prescription had gotten significantly worse. Over the course of a year or so I had come to need a much stronger lens. But it happened so slowly that I was quite unaware of it. You think that the tree leaves were always that fuzzy. You think that the traffic lights always had that blurry ring around them. Until you get the new prescription and only then do you realize how off your vision has been.

Or maybe it's like falling asleep. You don't really know when you're falling asleep. At least I don't. I know when I'm laying there tired. But I don't really know when I'm falling asleep until I wake back up. It's like that with the heart. You don't realize its happening with your heart until it becomes so numb that life feels like death again, or until light shines in the soul.

You wouldn't think that it could happen after your soul has truly seen the Lord. Now I'm speaking specifically about the revelation of Jesus Christ in you. I'm talking about folks that have grown considerably in the truth as the Spirit declares it. And I'm talking about how Light can slowly become ideas. I'm talking about Light becoming a memory. Many of you know what I mean.

What was my problem? It was the error of Solomon. Nothing different. A smaller version perhaps. Not 700 wives and 300 concubines, but something equally foreign to the land. It's all the same. I don't say that with the slightest bit of

condemnation. Only realization. I do it all the time. So do you. We love the world. Turning to something else, our hearts turn from the Lord. You know, you only have one heart, and it cannot love two masters. It cannot serve two bodies. It cannot be split between two creations.

James says, "Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God." John says, "Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

I realize these are hard sayings. I know these are words we seek to protect ourselves from because they seem too severe. We protect ourselves either with theologies or unbelief or just willful ignorance. As Christians, we usually protect ourselves with theologies. We know that the verses are there. We believe that the Bible is true. But we create for ourselves a system of understanding that makes these kinds of verses much less intrusive. We make them align with what we already do and want and think, so that our lives and values and priorities are protected. We hide from verses like these in the darkness lest our hearts be exposed. There are a lot of ways to hide in the dark...but self preservation is behind them all.

A friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. In many ways, that is what Solomon did. In many ways that is what I do. But I read verses like these, and somebody will say to me, "Jason, where's the balance?" ...but I don't have a balance for you today. I think one of my perpetual problems is that I always assume a balance...and balance is not something that makes sense when your talking about opposite things. There is no balance between opposites. I always draw a line, but I don't know how to draw a line now. I can't tell you really where a line goes except between Christ and all else. That's the only line I've seen. If there is another one, then I haven't seen it yet. And frankly, I don't know exactly what to do with that in a lot of ways. I'm not going to pretend that I do.

But I can tell you that this journey is becoming to me more and more about remaining in the Light. The Light of God's view. The Light of His mind operating in my soul. I can tell you that, for me, better is one glimmer of light from the face of Jesus Christ than a million true ideas and answered questions. Without that light I am totally lost and dead and blind. The Light of God is the greatest and most other-worldly thing I know. There is no question about that in my heart. And more and more, the journey that we're on has become to me a journey of seeking and finding and abiding in the Light of the Lord where all things can be seen....and apart from which nothing can be seen.

Solomon was given light. Light from God. Now, to be sure, that light was not dawning in His soul in the way that it does in this covenant. That light was not awakening Him to the day of the Lord and the reality of being IN Christ. But without question, He was given light from the Lord. Not just natural wisdom. But Light, spiritual understanding, which is nothing less than the Spirit's understanding. Solomon had light. But he loved something outside the light. He loved something that was of the darkness, something that Israel was meant to have been cut off from long before. **His affections extended beyond the borders of Israel.**

The thing about the light is that it demands obedience. Maybe you're not used to thinking about it like that, but that's why we don't come into it. That's why we hide

from it. It demands conformity because in the light truth is obvious. It's plain as day, as they say. In a dark room you can argue about the color of the walls or the size of the chair. But the coming of light has a way of ending the argument. The Light of the Lord is like that. It doesn't leave you with a lot of options. It demands conformity to what it shows you because it's already real whether you like it or not. And if you remain disobedient to the Light then you can't walk in the good of it. You can't see. If you are disobedient to the Light, then you cannot find rest.

That was Israel's problem. God cut them off from Egypt, a land that represented death and bondage and labor and law. God cut them off from it through the blood of the Lamb. He ended their relationship to it in one bloody day. He brought them into the Father's house to eat the lamb. But they were disobedient to what God had done. They refused to see what God had finished, to walk in the good of it. They could have walked in the good of it. They could have reaped the good of what God had done if they only would have stopped looking back to Egypt. They wouldn't let God's division stand in their heart. Can you hear what I mean? **God divided them from Egypt, but they would not bear that division in their souls.**

They longed to go back...for better food, better provision, better leaders, a better life. They loved a foreign land. Things foreign to what God had done. They would not live seeing themselves dead to Egypt and alive to God. They wouldn't let Him teach them His view, and learn to walk in that view. So they were always contrary to the mind and purpose and desire of God. Consequently they could never enter into rest.

What does it mean for us to be obedient to Christ? What does it mean for us to be obedient in this covenant? Many would have it that this involves being obedient to words that he tells you. Things he tells you to do. Things he tells you not to do. Places he tells you to go. But this is not New Covenant obedience. That sort of obedience is the shadow of true obedience described and typified in Old Covenant Israel.

In the Old Covenant there was not the Light of Life enlightening the soul of man. There was not the light of the truth bearing in upon the soul. There were words to obey. There were commands upon the flesh, commands having to do with where to go and when, and in what way. But now the Word of God resides in you. Now the strongholds of the MIND and high places of the HEART are taken captive in obedience to Christ. In this covenant there is light to obey. Now there is a Son who is your Life, and obeying Him involves staying in the Light where truth transforms your soul and cleans the inside of the cup and conforms and constrains. It involves staying out of the darkness when the darkness is exposed. You are conformed to what the Light shows you, and you are then must turn your back on everything the Light shows to be darkness.

And that changes with time. There was a time in my life when the darkness that I was turning from was not a very large thing. In other words, my comprehension of darkness was small, and it was not a big or costly thing to turn from it. But the more that light shines, the more you understand to be darkness. The more you see the truth, the greater the lie becomes. I mean you become aware of its greatness. And what stands between the lie and the light is the immovable line of the cross. And you have to obey. **You have to obey in your soul, or you will be overtaken by the darkness. If you don't stay in the light as this journey progresses, you will be overtaken by the darkness.**

See, we don't realize this. We misunderstand so much. Somebody says, if you preach a finished work, and God has done everything in Christ, how is that we can screw this up? If God has accomplished His eternal purpose in Christ, and He who began a good work in us will complete it, then where can I go wrong. What could be the problem? The problem is the error of Solomon. The problem is that we look to and love something outside of the land of the living. We are disobedient to what God has done, what He has established. This isn't a disobedience to what you were supposed to do yesterday. This is disobedience, contrariness, opposition to what God has shown to be darkness and light, living and dead, first and second, old and new. The problem comes and resistance works in our hearts when we love something that God has put away. We love darkness, hide in darkness, and are not obedient to the light, obedient to the cross.

Ultimately, when its all said and done, our obedience and disobedience is unto the cross that draws a line between two universes. It is unto the light that shows us the difference. The cross *is* the line, the light *shows* you the line, and you must obey in your soul. You cannot move the boundaries. You can fight them your whole life. You can ignore them and condemn them in your misunderstanding. But everything you see in the Light will have the same boundary associated with it. Everything God shows you will have a line drawn between the living and the dead.

In other words, when He shows you truth, you will also become uncomfortably familiar with the lie. The line of the cross shows the contrast. When he shows you Christ, you will be struck with the otherness of the Adamic man. There will be a line between them, and you and I will have to continually choose in our hearts. Abide in the living or walk among the dead. That's what I mean by obedience. Choose to turn towards and know and live in what God shows us to be Light, or bear the darkness in ourselves.

And if we're not obedient to the cross, then it doesn't matter whatever else I do or don't do. I mean, it doesn't matter if I have something that I think I'm being obedient to. If you are disobedient to the cross that divides...if you are disobedient to the Light, then anything else, even with the best intentions, is still disobedience. Anything else is opposition to God, disagreement with God, contrariness with God.

In other words, if I refuse in my heart to put away what God has called dead, or if I will not acknowledge what God calls light and what God calls darkness, or if I seek to save something from the dark and call it light, save something from the dead and call it alive, **love something on the wrong side of the line, love something outside of the boundaries of Israel, then my heart will experience that darkness. Whether we realize it or not, if this is happening, then we're committing the error of Solomon. And it takes no time at all before even the wisest among us, even the ones with the greatest view of spiritual reality, become fools, like Solomon, who's lives contradict what God has done.**

The cross has divided two men, two worlds, two covenants. And our hearts are either looking intently one way or another. You think you can love them both, but you can't. You think its just a matter of finding the right balance. But its not. And again, I don't really know all that that means. I don't know all of the implications to what I just said. But I do know that with me, when I'm not looking to, and longing for, and abiding in the Light of God, then I am loving something foreign to the

eternal reality as it is in Christ. I am like Solomon. And in those times, just as with him, the light slowly turns down and there's no telling what I might imagine in the darkness.

Solomon, the wisest man in the world, who encountered God in power and truth, in dreams and visions, in glory and provision and wisdom...ended his life bowing down to sticks and rocks and building temples to demons. It may look different for us, but that is all that there is outside of the light of Christ's life.