Selfish Wisdom August 15, 2021

*1 Kings 10:1-13 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

Applause is like a wet puppy--once let in the house it is difficult to control. — Laurence A. Wagley

Intro: All About Eve

1. Does people’s perception of you match the reality?
2. The Queen of Sheba was breathless for all the right reasons

v. 1 *the queen of Sheba heard of the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD*

v. 4 *when the queen of Sheba had seen all … there was no more breath in her*

v. 7 *Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.*

1. The queen imagined that it was a blessing to live under Solomon

v. 8 *Happy are your men!*

v. 8 *Happy are your servants, who continually stand before you and hear your wisdom!*

1. People were burdened by Solomon’s ambitions

* 1 Kings 12:4 *“Your father made our yoke heavy. Now therefore lighten the hard service of your father and his heavy yoke on us, and we will serve you.”*

1. Faith shouldn’t be a smokescreen for an unyielded heart

* Luke 12:2 *Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known.*
* Matthew 6:1 *Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.*
* How would Solomon have felt after answering all the queen’s questions and leaving her breathless in admiration?
* What are some subtle ways that we can feel ‘applause’ today?
* How can we narrow the gap between the person people see and the person that we are?

1. Do you understand who has blessed you and why?
2. The Queen of Sheba saw the blessing of the Lord

v. 9 *Blessed be the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and set you on the throne of Israel!*

v. 9 *Because the LORD loved Israel forever, he has made you king …*

1 Kings 5:7 … *as Hiram heard the words of Solomon, he rejoiced greatly and said, “Blessed be the LORD this day, who has given to David a wise son to be over this great people.”*

1. The Queen of Sheba saw the purposes of the Lord

v. 9 *that you may execute justice and righteousness*

Micah 6:8 … *what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

Genesis 12:2 *I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.*

1. God’s grace should lead to our repentance

Romans 2:4 *Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?*

* Why might God have used foreign rulers to remind Solomon that God had made him king and had done so for His purposes?
* When we feel ‘applause’ why are we tempted to forget God and His purposes for our lives?
* How does God’s kindness lead us to repentance (Romans 2:4)?

1. Do you give your fans what you won’t give your family?
2. Solomon was generous to the Queen of Sheba

v. 13 *King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all that she desired, whatever she asked besides what was given her by the bounty of King Solomon.*

1. Solomon wasn’t so generous to his own people

1 Kings 12:16 *And when all Israel saw that the king did not listen to them, the people answered the king, “What portion do we have in David? We have no inheritance in the son of Jesse. To your tents, O Israel!”*

1. Your family should feel your love

1 Timothy 5:8 *But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.*

Galatians 6:10 *So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.*

1. We can learn from the Queen of Sheba

Matthew 12:42 *The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*

* Why was Solomon generous to the Queen of Sheba but not to his own people?
* Why is someone who ignores the needs of his own family worse than an unbeliever?
* What are some ways that you can do good “to those who are of the household of faith”?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 10:14-29.

Notes