Eventually the Cracks Will Show September 5, 2021

*1 Kings 11:9-43 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

God isn't wrathful in spite of being love. God is wrathful because God is love. – Miroslav Volf

Intro: If God isn’t angry, who should be?

1. God is angered by people who turn from Him
2. Cracks can turn into chasms

v. 9 *the LORD was angry with Solomon*, *because his heart had turned away from the LORD, the God of Israel*

1. Does God have anger issues?

Psalm 7:11 *God is a righteous judge, and a God who feels indignation every day.*

Nahum 1:2-3 *The LORD is a jealous and avenging God; the LORD is avenging and wrathful; the LORD takes vengeance on his adversaries and keeps wrath for his enemies. The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, and the LORD will by no means clear the guilty.*

* What do you think Miroslav Volf meant when he said that “God is wrathful because God is love”?
* Why was the Lord angry with Solomon?
* How do I know whether the Lord is angry with me?
* Why does it say that God “feels indignation every day”?

1. God is angered by squandered grace
2. The more you know, the more you’re responsible for

v. 9 *who had appeared to him twice*

v. 10 *and had commanded him concerning this thing, that he should not go after other gods*

v. 10 *But he did not keep what the LORD commanded.*

Luke 12:48 *Everyone to whom much was given, of him much will be required, and from him to whom they entrusted much, they will demand the more.*

1. The less you know, the less you’re responsible for

1 Timothy 1:13 … *though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief …*

1. God has given everyone enough information to turn to Him

Romans 1:19–20 *For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.*

* Why are we told that God appeared to Solomon twice?
* Why is more required of the person to whom much has been given?
* What are some ways that we can squander grace the way that Solomon did?
* Why are all people “without excuse”?

1. God’s anger is expressed in real consequences
2. God’s anger toward Solomon is a warning of final judgment

v. 11 *Since this has been your practice …*

v. 11 *you have not kept my covenant and my statutes that I have commanded you*

v. 11 *I will surely tear the kingdom from you*

1. God raised up adversaries against the man named ‘peace’

Hadad the Edomite (vv. 14, 19), Rezon the son of Eliada (vv. 23-25), and Jeroboam the son of Nebat (vv. 26, 28, 31)

1. Even forgiven sins have consequences

Galatians 6:7-8 *Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.*

Romans 8:13-14 *For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.*

1. There is no forgiveness for a stubbornly unrepentant heart

Hebrews 10:26-27 *For if we go on sinning deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful expectation of judgment, and a fury of fire that will consume the adversaries.*

* Can you think of an example of a sin that would still have consequences even though God may have forgiven it?
* What does it mean in Hebrews 10:26 when it says, “there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”?

Jesus is our only shield against God’s anger

1. God’s anger was tempered by mercy for the sake of David

v. 12 *for the sake of David … I will not do it in your days*

v. 13 *I will give one tribe to your son, for the sake of David*

1. God’s anger toward sin is only turned away by Jesus

John 3:36 *Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life; whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

1 John 4:10 *In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.*

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Matthew 9:9-13.

Notes