Buying the Security God Freely Offers June 13, 2021

*1 Kings 4:20-34 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

Prayer is not a substitute for intelligent effort, careful planning, efficient selection or people, or adequate financing. — Fred Smith

Intro: Crippled by an unpaid bill

1. God’s blessings are multiplied by wise organizers
2. God’s blessings need people wise enough to administer them

v. 20 *Judah and Israel were as many as the sand by the sea.*

Genesis 22:17 *I will surely bless you, and I will surely multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore.*

v. 21 *Solomon ruled over all the kingdoms from the Euphrates to the land of the Philistines and to the border of Egypt.*

1. Wise organizers bring peace, order, and joy

v. 20 *They ate and drank and were happy.*

v. 24 *And he had peace on all sides around him.*

v. 25 *And Judah and Israel lived in safety, from Dan even to Beersheba, every man under his vine and under his fig tree, all the days of Solomon.*

Proverbs 29:2 *When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

1. God gives the church wise organizers

Romans 12:8 *the one who leads, with zeal*

1 Corinthians 12:28 *And God has appointed in the church … gifts of … administrating*

* What do you think of the quote by Fred Smith near the top of the sermon outline? Do you agree/disagree? Why?
* The gift of administration is often viewed as unspiritual. Why?
* What are some examples of ways that the gift of administration can be used for the church’s blessing?
* How can you tell if you have the gift of administration?

1. God’s blessings are compromised by worldly trust
2. Strategy without obedience is folly

v. 26 *Solomon also had 40,000 stalls of horses for his chariots, and 12,000 horsemen.*

2 Samuel 7:16 *And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.*

Deuteronomy 17:16 *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.’*

1. God’s blessings are secured by faith and obedience

Psalm 20:7 *Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.*

Psalm 33:16-17 *The king is not saved by his great army; a warrior is not delivered by his great strength. The war horse is a false hope for salvation, and by its great might it cannot rescue.*

* In what sense did purchasing horses and chariots seem like a wise idea? Why was it actually foolish?
* Why are ‘wise’ people sometimes particularly susceptible to foolish compromise with God’s Word?
* What are some of the ways that a Christian might trust in chariots and horses instead of the Lord today?

1. God’s blessings are undermined by unjust burdens
2. Everybody loves a great party

vv. 22-23 *Solomon's provision for one day was thirty cors of fine flour and sixty cors of meal, ten fat oxen, and twenty pasture-fed cattle, a hundred sheep, besides deer, gazelles, roebucks, and fattened fowl.*

1. Who’s paying for your parties and how much do they cost?

v. 27 *And those officers supplied provisions for King Solomon, and for all who came to King Solomon's table, each one in his month. They let nothing be lacking.*

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 …*

1 Kings 12:18 *Then King Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was taskmaster over the forced labor, and all Israel stoned him to death with stones.*

Jeremiah 22:13 *Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages …*

* Even though Solomon lived selfishly, why may he have been tempted to see himself as generous?
* What are some examples of great achievements that came at the cost of heavy burdens to others?
* What would it look like to pursue ministry like a taskmaster? What are the consequences? How should Christian ministry be different than that?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study Ephesians 5:1-2

Notes