Lost in the Pursuit of More August 22, 2021

*1 Kings 10:14-29 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

In the end it is not the one who keeps, but the one who gives away, who is rich; and it is giving away, not possession, which renders a man happy. – Clement of Alexandria

Intro: Eiki Batista lost himself, then he lost everything.

1. Your gold is from God
2. God gave Solomon extraordinary riches

v. 14 *the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was 666 talents of gold*

1. God was faithful to His promise

v. 23 *King Solomon excelled all the kings of the earth in riches and in wisdom.*

1 Kings 3:13 *I give you also … both riches and honor*

1. Remember who gave you what you have

Deuteronomy 8:17-18 *Beware lest you say in your heart, ‘My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.’ You shall remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth …*

1 Samuel 2:7 *The LORD makes poor and makes rich …*

1 Corinthians 4:7 *What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?*

* Why do we think that we’re responsible for what we have?
* What difference does it make that we remember that all our wealth is from God?
* How can you tell if you truly believe your wealth is from God?

1. Your gold isn’t all for you
2. Solomon kept looking for new ways to spend money on himself

v. 16 *King Solomon made 200 large shields of beaten gold; 600 shekels of gold went into each shield.*

v. 17 *he made 300 shields of beaten gold; three minas of gold went into each shield*

v. 18 *The king also made a great ivory throne and overlaid it with the finest gold.*

v. 20 *The like of it was never made in any kingdom.*

v. 21 *All King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold …*

1. Kings were commanded not to hoard for themselves

Deuteronomy 17:17 *nor shall he acquire for himself excessive silver and gold*

1. The love of money leads to discontentment

Ecclesiastes 5:10 *He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.*

Hebrews 13:5 *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”*

* If God gave Solomon the money, what was wrong with him spending it? What could he have done instead?
* What’s an example of the “love of money” that you relate to?
* According to Hebrews 13:5, how can we be content?

1. Your gold can’t hide your compromise
2. Kings were commanded not to buy horses from Egypt

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. Solomon became an international arms dealer

v. 26 *He had 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen …*

v. 28 *Solomon's import of horses was from Egypt and Kue …*

v. 29 *through the king's traders they were exported to all the kings of the Hittites and the kings of Syria*

Mark 4:19 *But the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful.*

1. Your gold will be gone

1 Kings 14:25-26 *In the fifth year of King Rehoboam, Shishak king of Egypt came up against Jerusalem. He took away the treasures of the house of the LORD and the treasures of the king's house. He took away everything. He also took away all the shields of gold that Solomon had made …*

1. Focus on what’s greater than gold

Psalm 19:9-10 *the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold …*

1 Peter 1:7 *the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire*

Revelation 21:18 *The wall was built of jasper, while the city was pure gold, like clear glass.*

* With so much money, Solomon didn’t need the horses from Egypt that God had forbidden. Why did he buy them anyway?
* What are some temptations that can accompany wealth today?
* What are some ways that you can focus on God’s will, acts of faith, and eternal hope more than you focus on riches?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 11:1-8

Notes