

Title: **The King Who Had It All**

Date: November 10, 2013

Text: 1 Kings 2:1-4

Theme: The Story

Place: Decatur Church of God

Introduction: Research shows that if you put a frog into boiling water it will jump out. If you put a frog in room temperature water, lukewarm water, and turn the burner up, you can literally cook the frog to death (and have delicious frog legs for dinner. They taste like chicken). The frog story is a metaphor for the person in The Story, Solomon, David's son by Bathsheba. Solomon was a frog who could jump over any lily pad; who had the blue-blood of royalty; who was a frog any princess would kiss and 700 of them actually do. But Solomon got himself into lukewarm water and by the end, his life is cooked. Solomon started strong, got into the pot, and by the end, as we will see, he ends poorly. Let's begin The Story in 1 Kings 1.

1 Kings 2:1-4

When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.

[2] "I am about to go the way of all the earth," he said. "So be strong, show yourself a man, [3] and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses, so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go, [4] and that the Lord may keep his promise to me: 'If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.'

Review: God called Abraham to become the father of the nation of Israel. The mission of Israel was to point other nations, all peoples, to God. God wants all people to come back to him. God gave Israel a land and God allowed them to have kings. The first king was Saul who failed to represent God. God then chose David as king. David did represent God well, and even though he sinned

grievously, he repented and captured the heart of a gracious God who is available to everyone. Here in 1 Kings David is old and dying and passes the leadership baton to Solomon.]

I. Solomon pleases God by asking for wisdom to reign as king.

A. God invites Solomon to ask for anything.

1 Kings 3:5

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you."

B. Solomon asks for wisdom (Hebrew *hokma*) to rule as king and administer justice.

C. Solomon's wisdom is tested by two women who each claim the same baby as their own.

1 Kings 3:16-28

Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. [17] One of them said, "My lord, this woman and I live in the same house. I had a baby while she was there with me. [18] The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

[19] "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. [20] So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. [21] The next morning, I got up to nurse my son--and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

[22] The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours."

But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

[23] *The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.' "*

[24] *Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. [25] He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."*

[26] *The woman whose son was alive was filled with compassion for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"*

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

[27] *Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."*

[28] *When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.*

II. Solomon writes wisdom so everyone in his realm may be wise.

- A. The Bible is arranged topically, not chronologically.
- B. Solomon wrote Proverbs, Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs.
- C.

* Some examples from Proverbs...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge,
But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

My son, if you accept my words
And store up my commands within you...
Then you will understand the fear of the Lord,
And find the knowledge of God.

Let love and faithfulness never leave you;
Bind them around your neck,
Write them on the tablet of your heart.

Then you will win favor and a good name
In the sight of God and man.

My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline,
And do not resent his rebuke,
Because the Lord disciplines those he loves,
As a father the son he delights in.

Can a man walk on hot coals
Without his feet being scorched?
So is he who sleeps with another man's wife;
No one who touches her will go unpunished.

It is to one's honor to avoid strife,
But every fool is quick to quarrel.

A gossip betrays a confidence;
So avoid anyone who talks too much.

III. Solomon builds a temple for God and grows in popularity. *1 Kings 6-10*

- A. Solomon builds a beautiful temple and dedicates it to God.
- B. God both blesses and warns Solomon.

1 Kings 9:4-9

"As for you, if you walk before me in integrity of heart and uprightness, as David your father did, and do all I command and observe my decrees and laws, [5] I will establish your royal throne over Israel forever, as I promised David your father when I said, 'You shall never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.' [6] "But if you or your sons turn away from me and do not observe the commands and decrees I have given you and go off to serve other gods and worship them, [7] then I will cut off Israel from the land I have given them and will reject this temple I have consecrated for my Name. Israel will then become a byword and

an object of ridicule among all peoples. [8] And though this temple is now imposing, all who pass by will be appalled and will scoff and say, 'Why has the Lord done such a thing to this land and to this temple?' [9] People will answer, 'Because they have forsaken the Lord their God, who brought their fathers out of Egypt, and have embraced other gods, worshiping and serving them--that is why the Lord brought all this disaster on them.' "

- C. The Queen of Sheba visits Solomon and admires his wisdom and his kingdom.

IV. Solomon, who started strong, ends poorly. I Kings 11

- A. As Solomon grew old, his 700 wives led his heart away to worship idols.
- B. The LORD became angry with Solomon because Solomon's heart was divided.

1 Kings 11:9-13

The Lord became angry with Solomon because his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. [10] Although he had forbidden Solomon to follow other gods, Solomon did not keep the Lord's command. [11] So the Lord said to Solomon, "Since this is your attitude and you have not kept my covenant and my decrees, which I commanded you, I will most certainly tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your subordinates. [12] Nevertheless, for the sake of David your father, I will not do it during your lifetime. I will tear it out of the hand of your son. [13] Yet I will not tear the whole kingdom from him, but will give him one tribe for the sake of David my servant and for the sake of Jerusalem, which I have chosen."

- C. Because Solomon's heart was divided, his kingdom divided.

What does this mean to me?

No one wakes up and says, “I’d like to wreck my life and ruin all my relationships.” These things happen slowly. If the wisest man failed, then what about us?

To Christians:

1. Live to point others to Christ. That is our mission.
2. How we live matters and will influence others.
3. Stay out of lukewarm waters. How?
 - pray to finish strong
 - ask God for wisdom
 - invite accountability

To non-Christians:

1. Before you end your life, trust Christ as your Savior. Stay out of hot water.
2. Jesus is the ultimate finisher. He declared from the cross, “It is finished!”
3. Trust in Christ today.

All: watch video “Slow Fade” by Casting Crowns

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QASREBVDsLk&feature=av2n>

If you are not a Christ follower: You are already in a pot that is slowly heating up. If you end your life without personally trusting Christ as your savior, you’re cooked. Jesus is holding out his hand and inviting you to get out of that pot by placing your trust in him.

At the end of his life, after realizing what he has done, Solomon turns back to God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of every human being.

Solomon shows us it’s not too late to come back to God.