

When God Makes You Uncomfortable

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1 Kings 3:2-10

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(Watch Video *Not an Expert*)

A Christian is to be a witness in this world and make a difference wherever and however they can. But obeying His call can be quite scary. And when asked, most people give some response like, "Are you crazy? I have no formal training!" Like the man in the video, this person stands there dumbfounded that someone would even think of asking them to do such a thing. Still there are others who try, but rely on their own wisdom and their own understanding. And when they really get in over their head, there is guilt and shame. They feel like a failure. They feel like they have let God down. So one person never tries, and the other always feels like giving up. The one person says they can't and the other thinks they shouldn't. To both individuals, I'd like to share a valuable lesson from the life of Solomon.

Solomon was the youngest son of King David, born after David had committed adultery by sleeping with Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11). Although that child died, later David and Bathsheba have another, which was Solomon. God called him Jedidiah, which literally means "Beloved of the Lord". (2 Samuel 12:25)

Solomon would have been born into a household filled with selfishness, political intrigue, lust, and favoritism. As a little boy, he would have heard about how his brother Amnon raped Tamar. He would have been invited to Absalom's house when Amnon was killed. He would have fled with his father as Absalom tried to take over the kingdom. And somewhere between the ages of 20 to 25, he would have seen his older brother Adonijah try to take over the kingdom as well.

Solomon would have heard the stories about his father, the warrior king. He would have learned about fierce battles and incredible victories won because of his father. He would have learned about how David took this little, timid nation and turned it into one of the greatest dynasties of western Asia. His father was the most successful king ever recorded in history.

I believe as young Solomon stood in awe of his father, and as he watched the behavior of his older brothers, he made up his mind that this kind of life was not for

him. Let me tell you why I believe this. There are several Old Testament Scholars that believe Nathan the Prophet was Solomon's tutor; that David asked Nathan to watch over his youngest son and teach him about the ways of God. There's a good chance that Solomon spent most of his childhood studying and learning, not practicing sword play or how to battle and go to war. 1 Kings 4:33 says that he possessed a lot of knowledge about the things of this earth. That's knowledge, not wisdom. Wisdom he got from God, but knowledge he gained by study.

Solomon was a thinker, not a man of war or politics. So can you imagine how he must have felt when a Priest, a Prophet, a Mighty Warrior, and the king's bodyguard put him on the King's donkey and anoint him as king? Do you think this is where he wanted to be? Do you think he felt in over his head? Do you think he felt qualified?

Solomon found himself seated upon the throne quite aware of what the rest of the family was doing, quite aware that he had some mighty big shoes to fill, and quite aware that he inherited a kingdom beginning to divide. That's why when God asked what it was he wanted, Solomon asked for wisdom and discernment.

Read 1 Kings 3:3-10

So often when I hear someone teach on this passage they use the old standard line, "If God was willing to give you anything you wanted, what would ask for?" As if one day I was dusting off some old lamp and the Lord suddenly appeared. But that's not what it says. It's not like God's written a blank check. Look at what going on here. God is admitting that He has placed Solomon in an uncomfortable position. God knows that Solomon does not have the training to accomplish this task. Solomon knows this too. In effect, God is saying, "Alright Solomon, I admit that what I'm asking you to do makes you uncomfortable, and I know you don't have the training nor the skill to be King of Israel. So then, what do you need from Me in order for this to work?" And the other thing is that Solomon was most interested in being God's servant, not in fulfilling his dreams. He is most concerned about God's people, not himself, which made God very happy.

There is a lesson I want you to hear; a lesson I hope you'll remember years from now. If you are a follower of Christ, a time will come when He will ask you to

do something that makes you uncomfortable. Not IF, but when. When God ask you to step out from behind your comfort zone; when He calls you to a task beyond your skill and training, He will gladly give you what you need to see this task through. And why? Because God is asking you to do His work. And He is not about to let you fail.

Solomon turns to God and says the task is too great; I can't do this on my own. The Apostles do the same thing. They realize that in order to overcome Jewish opposition, they will need to become far bolder than they have been. And so they pray (Acts 4:29). You and I need to remember to do the same thing.

Has God asked you to do something for Him? Is He calling you to a task beyond your capabilities and outside of your training? Then learn the lesson from King Solomon. With the heart of a servant, he stood humble before God. Tell our Lord that you cannot do this on your own. Tell Him that what He is asking you to do is beyond your capabilities. And tell Him what you need in order to accomplish what He is asking you to do. Maybe its wisdom and discernment like King Solomon. Maybe you need boldness like Peter and John. Maybe you need patience or love. What ever it is your asking for, just make sure it is to help God be glorified and not yourself.

Try to remember who is sustaining who in this world. So often we fear failing God or making a fool out of ourselves. We worry about letting Him down. But God is not asking us to support Him, He is asking us to let Him be our support. "I hold you up!" says the Lord. "I am the one who supplies the seed to the farmers. I will make sure you have all that you need in your ministry for Me."