

Finishing Strong!

Sept. 11, 2022 – 1 Kings 11:1-13

Pastor Jon Pickens

Solomon **started** his reign **well**. (1 Kings 3:6-9, 1 Kings 4:24-25, 1 Kings 6-8, 1 Kings 10:23-24)

Solomon began to **compromise** his obedience to the Lord

- God's promise to Solomon:
1 Kings 3:14; 1 Kings 6:11-13; 1 Kings 9:3-5

- Solomon's promise:
1 Kings 8:23-25; 1 Kings 8:54-61

- He ignored God's warning.
1 Kings 9:6-7; 1 Kings 11:1-2

- His compromised his walk of obedience.
1 Kings 11:9-11

Solution: Walk **faithfully** before God.

Definition of Faithfulness:

It is a committed pursuit of God through **obedience**, **repentance**, and sincere **love**.

Four Areas of Faithfulness to finish strong as a leader and as a church:

1. Faithful in our **Worship**: Committed to worshipping God alone.
2. Faithful in our **Walk**: Committed to pursuing obedience out of love.
3. Faithful to the **Church**: Committed to using the gifts God has given each of us to encourage, edify, and unify the body.
4. Faithful in **Mission**: Committed to being actively involved in advancing God's purposes for His world.

Discussion Questions:

1. At the beginning of Solomon's reign, he seems to be a mature and devoted man of God, yet he turned his heart toward other gods toward the end of his reign. How did that happen to Solomon? How can that happen to you?
2. What happened to Solomon seems to be a picture of what happened to Israel. They turned away from the LORD and turned to other gods. In what ways can this or has this happened to the church?
3. In what ways can we be guilty of compromising our obedience to Christ?
4. Pastor Jon talked about four areas that we need to pursue as a faithful follower of Jesus. What were they? Which one of the four challenges you the most?
5. Being faithful to God requires you to choose something. What is at least one choice you can make (and follow through on) that will help you pursue faithfulness in your walk with the LORD?
6. What is a take-away for you from the message or this passage?

Next Steps:

1. If you would like to become a follower of Jesus, please let us know. Pastor Jon will be in the room behind the Welcome Center after the service.
2. If you are interested in baptism, let Pastor Jon know in person or email him at pj@fbclowell.org.
3. Consider joining an elective. They meet most Sundays at 11am.
4. Read the Bible with us to know God and respond to Him! Below is our current schedule.

September 2022 Two Year Bible Reading Plan			
Week 1 <i>Starting Sept 5</i>	Week 2 <i>Starting Sept 12</i>	Week 3 <i>Starting Sept 19</i>	Week 4 <i>Starting Sept 26</i>
Day 1: 1 Kings 12	Day 1: 1 Kings 18	Day 1: 2 Kings 3	Day 1: 2 Kings 10
Day 2: 1 Kings 13	Day 2: 1 Kings 19-20	Day 2: 2 Kings 4-5	Day 2: 2 Kings 11-12
Day 3: 1 Kings 14	Day 3: 1 Kings 21	Day 3: 2 Kings 6	Day 3: 2 Kings 13-14
Day 4: 1 Kings 15	Day 4: 1 Kings 22	Day 4: 2 Kings 7-8	Day 4: 2 Kings 15-16
Day 5: 1 Kings 16-17	Day 5: 2 Kings 1-2	Day 5: 2 Kings 9	Day 5: 2 Kings 17

**3 He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief;
and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.
4 Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows;
yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.**

— Isaiah 52:3-4

What was your big take-a-way from the message this morning?