

Foolish Choices

1 Kings 11:1-43

- The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People by Stephen Covey. 1989.
- 77 Habits of Highly Ineffective Christians by Chris Fabry. 1997.

In 1 Kings 11 we are confronted with someone who made a series of decisions that wrecked his life.

1. How did Solomon lose everything that matters?

What does Solomon do? (Vs 1-8)

- *He was foolish (Vs 1-3)*

See Exodus 34:11-16 and Deuteronomy 7:1-4.

This is about who Solomon loves. His love for others leads to a love for their gods.

- *It was gradual (Vs 4)*

As Solomon grew old.

Old age is not a safer stage of life. The results of his foolish choices took a long time to show.

- *It was partial (Vs 4)*

His heart was not fully devoted to the LORD.. Proverbs 4:23, "Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it."

- *It was evil (Vs 6-8)*

Notice the repetition of detestable.

What happens as a result? (Vs 9-43)

The LORD is angry. He loves the king. But this is spiritual adultery.

The LORD promises a devastating outcome for the united kingdom. Like Solomon's heart, it will be divided.

The LORD raises up adversaries for Solomon.

- Hadad the Edomite (Vs 14-22)
- Rezon son of Eliada (Vs 23-25)
- Jeroboam son of Nebat (Vs 26-43)

2. How can we gain and keep everything that counts?

Is there a king who will love the LORD with all his heart, mind, soul and strength? Only such a king will have a kingdom that is secure for his subjects.

King Jesus is the one who always loves his Father in attitude and actions. His kingdom is everlasting. This is where the future is heading. There will be no disaster for the subjects of Jesus. This is the king we need to follow.

We need to start the race by **faith**. We need to be **fruitful** as we run the race. We need to **finish** the race with faith..

The narrow door. Luke 13:22-30. Don't get distracted. Enter the door.

Be fruitful and finish the race. John 15:5-6.

Some things are hard to diagnose. Some things are not. That's true for physical and spiritual issues.

I'm feeling weak and I don't have any energy to do anything. I don't eat or exercise. That's not a mystery. I'm really struggling with my faith and I don't seem to be making progress.. I don't read my Bible and I hardly come to church. That's not a mystery. I've lost interest in Jesus and church. All the people I spend time with think Christianity is boring, irrelevant and untrue. That's not a mystery. What should we say to our youth? Song of Songs 8:4.

Who do we love? We will be attracted to the gods of those we love..

How do we live fruitful lives and make it to the end? Mark 4:24-25.