

Kings of Israel
The Divided Heart
Sunday, July 26th, 2026

1 Kings 3:3-14 NKJV

³ And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places.⁴ Now the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that *was* the great high place: Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ⁵ At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" ⁶ And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day. ⁷ Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I *am* a little child; I do not know *how* to go out or come in. ⁸ And Your servant *is* in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. ⁹ Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?" ¹⁰ The speech pleased the Lord, that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹ Then God said to him: "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked long life for yourself, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have asked the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern justice, ¹² behold, I have done according to your words; see, I have given you a wise and understanding heart, so that there has not been anyone like you before you, nor shall any like you arise after you. ¹³ And I have also given you what you have not asked: both riches and honor, so that there shall not be anyone like you among the kings all your days. ¹⁴ So if you walk in My ways, to keep My statutes and My commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days."

1. A Humble Heart.

2. A Blessed Heart.

3. A Divided Heart.

Conclusion: Solomon's life teaches us the greatest threat to our relationship with God is often not hardship, but prosperity without continued surrender. He began with open hands. He ended with divided affection. Jesus calls us back to the same place where Solomon started: **"Seek first the Kingdom."**

LIFE GROUP LESSON
The Divided Heart

Week of July 26th, 2026- August 1st, 2026

Ice Breaker: What is something you once wanted badly, but after getting it realized it wasn't as satisfying as you expected?

Read 1 Kings 3:3-14.

1. Where is Solomon's heart at the beginning? (v.3)
2. What was tied to his love for God? (v.3)
3. Where did Solomon travel to and for what purpose? (v.4)
4. Who appeared to Solomon and in what manner? (v.5) How might God speak with you?
5. What did the Lord ask Solomon? (v.5) Why would He ask this?
6. How did Solomon respond? (v.6)
7. What did Solomon acknowledge? (vs.7-8)
8. Why is this important for us to acknowledge also? In what aspects of our life would this statement apply? (v7)
9. What did Solomon ask for above all? (v.9)
10. What trait do we see in Solomon here?
11. How did the Lord respond to Solomon's request? (v.10) Why?
12. What did the Lord give to Solomon? (vs.11-13)
13. What did God provide beyond Solomon's request? Why?
14. What is the condition to this great favor given? (v.14)
15. How important is humility in leadership? In walking with God?
16. Read Matthew 5:3. How does this connect with Solomon's start?
17. Read Matthew 18:3-4. What is required of our hearts to enter heaven? What does Jesus mean? How did Solomon display this?
18. Read Matthew 6:33. Is this a truth only for when we begin our faith journey or ongoing? If ongoing, how do we protect this?
19. Read 1 Kings 11:1-2. What happened to Solomon's heart?
20. Read 1 Kings 11:4-8. What happened to Solomon's loyalty? What caused the drifting?
21. Read 1 Kings 11:9-12. How did the Lord respond? What was the consequence for his divided and disloyal heart?
22. Read 1 Kings 11:13. Did God protect and fulfill the covenant?
23. Read Matthew 6:24. What truth is revealed? How does this relate to Solomon's life and ours as a Christ follower? Who or what might be our master today besides Jesus?

Point to ponder: A humble heart seeks God first. A divided heart begins to treasure the gifts more than the Giver. That which we treasure most is where our heart will be.