

A BLANK CHECK FROM GOD (1 Kings 3:5-14)

I. Solomon looked backward (vs. 6).

- A. Solomon first talked about his father David.
 - 1. He pointed out how God had treated David.
 - 2. He then pointed out why God treated David in that manner.
- B. David was one who relied upon God's word for guidance.
 - 1. Solomon said he walked in truth and righteousness.
 - 2. We know David was not sinless.
 - 3. However, David was one loved God and desired to do God's will and was penitent when he did sin.
 - 4. He was so much so that Paul preached that God said he was a man after His own heart (Acts 13:22).
- C. While David was by no means a perfect parent, he was one who set a good spiritual example for his son.
 - 1. Notice his words to Solomon before he died (2:1-3).
 - 2. He urged his son to be faithful to God.
 - 3. And, at first, this was exactly what Solomon was.
- D. Solomon was one who obeyed God and feared God in the beginning of his reign.
 - 1. It was after he had aged some that he turned away from God.
 - 2. 1 Kings 11:4).
- E. If you were approached by God with this offer, who in your past would affect that answer you would give God?
 - 1. Are we surrounding ourselves with good role models?
 - 2. We need to make sure the company we keep will help us make good decisions.
 - 3. God is not going to come to us with this type offer, but we have choices to make every day that affect our souls.
 - 4. Good people will help us make good decisions and bad people will help us make bad one's.
 - 5. Simple but true (1 Corinthians 15:33).

II. Solomon looked inward (vs. 7).

- A. Solomon was a realist about himself.
 - 1. He knew he did not have the experience he really needed.
 - 2. He was young and dumb as we might say, but smart enough to realize that, which many are not.
- B. The phrase, go out or come in, carries the idea of leadership before the people of Israel.
 - 1. He knew he lacked the leadership skills necessary to do a good job.
 - 2. He was one who was not over-confident, but honest about himself.
- C. It reminds us of Gideon, who was very humble when given the challenge of defeating the Midianites.
 - 1. He said he was the least in his father's house.

- 2. He felt he was not prepared to lead.
- D. Humility will take us far in life.
 - 1. It causes us to depend on God.
 - 2. It allows us to be blessed by God.
- E. When we have the attitude of a know-it-all, we are going to fall (1 Corinthians 10:12).

III. **Solomon looked outward (vs. 8).**

- A. Solomon was well aware of how great a people the Israelites were.
 - 1. He knew they were chosen by God to be His people.
 - 2. The number of them could not be told by anyone because there had been no count made.
 - 3. The one begun by Joab for David was an incomplete one.
- B. Solomon did not dodge the responsibility of leading this great nation, but was honest enough to admit he needed help.
- C. Many times, we as humans will not admit we need help.
 - 1. We don't want to be dependent on anyone else.
 - 2. Many times we don't want to be dependent upon God.
- D. We have a great task before us - to get to heaven.
 - 1. The world we live in is against us in this.
 - 2. The moral decay around us proves this.
 - 3. However, if we will look to the right Person and the right place, His word, we can make it to heaven and take people with us.

IV. **Solomon looked upward (vs. 9).**

- A. Solomon asked for wisdom to rule God's people.
 - 1. What a tremendous request.
 - 2. Of all the things he could have asked for, he asked for the most needed thing.
- B. This greatly pleased God and caused God to bless him with things for which he did not ask (vs. 10-14).
- C. Those of us who have children have experienced them trying to do something on their own that was too hard for them to do.
 - 1. Most of the time they would go at it for a while without asking for help.
 - 2. They would even refuse the help offered to them.
- D. How many times have we done that to God?
 - 1. We try to handle things that are above our pay grade so to speak.
 - 2. We don't turn to God until we have become exasperated with the whole thing.
 - 3. Even then, sometimes we turn to other things besides God, when God is patiently waiting for us to turn it over to Him.

Not an original sermon, but could not remember source.