The Dangers of Compromise  
Series: E-100—1 Kings 8:1-9:9  
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Last Week

God asked Solomon, “What can I give you?”

1 Kings 3:5 (NLT) That night the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream, and God said, “What do you want? Ask and I will give it to you!”

Solomon asked for wisdom.

1 Kings 3:9 (NLT) Give me an understanding mind so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great nation of yours?

God was pleased with Solomon’s request.

1 Kings 3:10 (NLT) The Lord was pleased with Solomon’s reply and was glad that he had asked for wisdom.

Today

God blessed Solomon and allowed him to build the Temple.

1 Kings 7:51 (NLT) So King Solomon finished all his work on the Temple of the Lord. Then Solomon brought all the gifts his father, David, had dedicated—the silver, the gold, and the other utensils—and he stored them in the treasuries of the Lord’s Temple.

Solomon prayed to dedicate the Temple.

1 Kings 8:22-23 (NLT) Then Solomon stood with his hands lifted toward heaven before the altar of the Lord in front of the entire community of Israel. He prayed, “O Lord, God of Israel, there is no God like you in all of heaven or earth. You keep your promises and show unfailing love to all who obey you and are eager to do your will.”

God called Solomon and the people to faithfulness.

1 King 9:3-9 (NLT) ’The Lord said to him, “I have heard your prayer and your request. I have set apart this Temple you have built so that my name will be honored there forever. I will always watch over it and care for it. ‘As for you, if you will follow me with integrity and godliness, as David your father did, always obeying my commands and keeping my laws and regulations, ‘then I will establish the throne of your dynasty over Israel forever. For I made this promise to your father, David: ‘You will never fail to have a successor on the throne of Israel.’
“But if you or your descendants abandon me and disobey my commands and laws, and if you go and worship other gods, then I will uproot the people of Israel from this land I have given them. I will reject this Temple that I have set apart to honor my name. I will make Israel an object of mockery and ridicule among the nations. And though this Temple is impressive now, it will become an appalling sight for all who pass by. They will scoff and ask, ‘Why did the Lord do such terrible things to his land and to his Temple?’ And the answer will be, ‘Because his people forgot the Lord their God, who brought their ancestors out of Egypt, and they worshiped other gods instead. That is why the Lord has brought all these disasters upon them.’”

Unfortunately, at the end of his life, Solomon compromised his faith.

1 Kings 11:1,4 (NLT) Now King Solomon loved many foreign women. Besides Pharaoh’s daughter, he married women from Moab, Ammon, Edom, Sidon, and from among the Hittites… In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship their gods instead of trusting only in the Lord his God, as his father, David, had done.

Lesson for Us

Even though we ask God for wisdom and experience His blessings, we must always guard against compromise in regard to His truth.

Dangers of Compromise

1. The first step is the most dangerous.

   Compromise begins in the heart.

   Love for God becomes secondary.

   Mark 12:29-30 (NLT) Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord. And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’”

2. The nature of compromise

   Concessions usually begin in small, insignificant ways, so it’s easy to underestimate their potential for damage.

3. The consequences of compromise

   Decreasing our obedience to God’s truth weakens our character, hinders our prayer life, and corrupts
our thinking.

Compromise causes us to try to please two masters.

James 4:4 (NLT) You adulterers! Don’t you realize that friendship with this world makes you an enemy of God? I say it again, that if your aim is to enjoy this world, you can’t be a friend of God.

4. Compromise causes the loss of God’s blessing.

1 Kings 11:11 (NLT) So now the Lord said to him, “Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my laws, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants.

Avoid compromise. Make God’s Word your standard of conduct.

Conclusion

The believer who refuses to compromise has strong convictions about the Bible and sturdy faith in God’s promises.

The believer who does not compromise has a discerning spirit that helps him or her to discern what is right from what is unacceptable.