

“U Asked for It □ Sexuality & Culture” [5.27.07]

Let's PRAY [Father, please speak to our ♥'s that we may hear Your voice]

Consider this...

Have you ever met someone who appeared to lead a charmed existence: everything they touched seemed to turn to gold?

I once met a man in Tucson; that came as close as anyone that I've ever met in matching this description.

His name was Rick Chance...

← ← [INSERT]

SO, what went wrong? On the outside; he seemingly had it all?

- Practical genius w/an amazing imagination
- Good looking & likable man
 - Unimaginably successful – w/annual income of over {2 million}
 - Claimed to know Jesus; I sincerely believe he wanted to be a good man.

SO, what went wrong?
Something was desperately missing!

A similar story is found in the Bible that I believe unlocks some clues to this mystery!

I. Solomon's story [let's allow the text to tell the story]

A. ® I Kings 2: 1 – 4 or p. 258 in pew Bible
Now, let's fast forward to I Kings...

B. ® I Kings 3: 3 – 15
... & God honored His word [He never breaks a promise!]

C. ® I Kings 3: 16 – 22
• (Short time later) Solomon's wisdom was tested

D. ® I Kings 3: 23 – 28

- re ® v. 28
 - God's gracious hand was strongly evident in Solomon's life!
 - Read w/me how God's abundant grace was tangibly made evident:
 1. ® I Kings 4: 20, 24 – 25, 29 – 34
- An amazing life that was filled by {blessings upon blessings}

His most significant contribution to the world of architecture was building the magnificent Temple of God:

E. ® I Kings 6: 7

Solomon's wisdom & insights were [world renowned]!
Final footnotes...Just for FUN

F. ® I Kings 10: 21 – 28 [only the BEST would do]
[On paper] Solomon had every advantage affordable to humankind.

- Discerning ♥ = divinely anointed w/wisdom & understanding
- National Security = complete peace on all sides
- Unimaginable wealth [more bling than the eye could imagine]
- PURPOSE – meaningful vocation

SO, what went wrong?

How could the man who seemingly had it all; not be happy in the end?

[Back to the text] it reveals the...

II. Root Causes of Soul Dissatisfaction

A. 1st root cause = Solomon neglected (disrespected) scripture

1. ® I Kings 11: 1 – 3
2. Although Solomon had clear instructions from God not to marry women from foreign nations; he chose to [disregard] God's commands.
3. He married not one but 700 wives & had 300 concubines in addition
 - a. @ least (3) women a night at his beckon call
 - b. Can you imagine trying to remember all those birthdays & anniversaries?
 - c. When people ignore God's commands – negative results always happen! God knows our strengths & weaknesses & ... His commands are always for our good!

B. 2nd root cause = Solomon chose cultural relevancy over God!

1. ® I Kings 11: 4 – 8
2. [Church] take God's commands seriously
 - a. Like Solomon; the 2nd wisest man who ever lived; none of us are bullet proof [we are not as strong as we may think]
 - b. For all of his wisdom – Solomon had some blind spots:
 - i. He could not say no to compromise or to his lustful desires
 - ii. You may have a strong faith (be assured) you also have some blind spots; and that is where temptation usually strikes.

- iii. Identify and strengthen your weaker areas because a chain is only as strong as its weakest link.
- iv. If Solomon – with all of His divinely appointed gifts can fall {pinch yourself} SO CAN YOU!

3. It's the enemy's goal to make you fall!

- a. Bible says, "Be self controlled & alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." [1 Pet 5: 8]
- b. I'm learning that our enemy the devil doesn't care which side of the boat he can make us fall out of; his only concern is to make us fall ☹
- c. Notice the downward spiral Solomon's life took...
 - i. 1st – Solomon resisted idolatry [keeping his faith pure]
 - ii. Next – he began to tolerate a more wide-spread practice of idolatry ☹

"Tolerance is the virtue of a man, that doesn't believe in anything." CK Chesterton

- iii. Finally - he became involved in idolatrous worship; rationalizing away the potential danger to himself and to the nation of Israel.

C. 3rd root cause = Solomon abandoned 'his 1st LOVE'

- 1. ☹ I Kings 11: 9 – 10
- 2. A little sin can be the 1st step in turning away from God ☹
 - a. It's not the sins we don't know about BUT the sins we excuse that cause the greatest trouble.
 - b. We must never let any sin go unchallenged
 - i. Don't EXCUSE it
 - ii. Confess this sin to God & ask Him for strength to resist temptation!

D. Root cause of soul satisfaction is found in a parallel of the human soul that is likened unto the tabernacle in the OT [Abraham Kuyper]

- 1. You have an outer court = which is the public domain
 - a. Public persona = public activity
 - b. That's where you work, where you shop, & where you go to school!
- 2. You also have an inner court!
 - a. This is the place where you invite family – friends that you love deeply

- b. Not everybody gets into your inner court!
- 3. But then inside the tabernacle (way inside the tabernacle) is the Holy of Holies.
 - a. This is a deeply private space that is shared only by you & God
 - b. No other human being can ever enter into your Holy of Holies JUST you and God (1) on (1)!

The most important question is;
How is your inner life in the Holy of Holies?

- If we do not find satisfaction in God's goodness to us; we will look for satisfaction someplace else.
 - It's soul dissatisfaction that always has the effect of making sin look good
 - Any time you see somebody who has fallen; you can be sure that person was living w/a chronically dissatisfied soul.
 - What's really sad isn't just the ditch he or she ends up in; what's really sad is the months & years they were living with a dissatisfied soul!
 - A dissatisfied soul eventually has the effect in making bad look good ☹

Is your soul dissatisfied? If so Jesus says,® Matthew 11: 28 – 30 or p. 742 in pew Bible