

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL

Getting to Know King Solomon

LIFEFAITHFUSION DEVOTIONAL DAY TWO

SCRIPTURE STUDY

1 Kings 1:1-34
1 Samuel 16:13
1 Kings 1:49-53
1 Kings 2:13-46
1 Chronicles 22:9-10
1 Kings 4:25

DIGGING DEEPER

“When an Israelite king took office, he was not only crowned, he was *anointed*. The coronation was the political act of establishing the king as ruler; the anointing was the religious act of making the king God’s representative. The oil was poured over the king’s head to symbolize the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in his life and to remind the king to lead his people by God’s wisdom and not his own.” (1 Kings 1 LB notes)

PRAYER FOCUS

Dear Jesus,

As I sit down to study your Word, please speak to me by your Holy Spirit, directing my attention to the truth you have for me to encounter today.

Amen.



ANOINTED AND CROWNED KING

According to Jewish tradition, boys officially become men at the age of twelve. I had waited long and impatiently for this time. I really did not feel like a man. I’m not sure if anyone is really ready to take on the responsibilities of a man (or of a king!) at that age. But my father, King David, was seventy years old, and his health was failing; he no longer left his bed. He was cold all the time, and the doctors could not find anything to keep him warm (1 Kings 1:1). We knew that the end was near—and I knew that God had called me to be the next king. It was almost time for me to take the throne.

It all happened so fast. My stepbrother, Adonijah, declared himself king without consulting my father and without God’s blessing through the prophet Nathan (1 Kings 1:7). He just did it! And his plan would have worked if Nathan had not discovered Adonijah’s coup and told my mother. Together they told my father. He immediately told me to ride on his mule to Gihon, where His closest men anointed me with oil as King of Israel. They blew the trumpets and shouted, “Long live King Solomon!” (1 Kings 1:10-34).

After this exciting day, I returned to Jerusalem, and they placed me on his throne as the new king! [Note: After David was anointed with oil, “the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward” (1 Samuel 16:13 AMP). And though Scripture does not record the same about Solomon, it is likely that this is true, based on the purpose of anointing (see “Digging Deeper” in the left column).]

I was only *twelve years old* when I became King of Israel! Do you have any idea how big that throne looked as I climbed up and sat down in it?

- How do you make important life decisions? Is there someone you talk to? Do you pray and ask God for guidance?
- Has God called you to make an important decision or to do a specific task that overwhelms you? That you're afraid will cost too much? That you don't feel adequate to do? If so, what is it?
- Brainstorm five or six ways that you might prepare for the decision or task. Who could you ask for advice? What research might you do?
- If you've already made your decision or begun your task, are you facing opposition? What's happening?
- King David took immediate action, do you? How should you handle opposition in a relational way?

God has anointed you to do His work. As a believer you have the Holy Spirit living inside you, and He will never leave you. Be encouraged in the work He has called you to do!

THE FIRST STEPS OF A KING

I had barely begun my reign when I learned that my stepbrother Adonijah had taken refuge in the Tabernacle, hoping he would not be killed for his rebellion. I sent word to him that if he behaved himself he would not be harmed (1 Kings 1:49-53).

- Do you think Solomon made a wise decision in this case? Why, or why not?
- Have you noticed that you often have to make major decisions after receiving a promotion or getting a new job? Do you usually seek the advice from others on such things?

One of the hardest days of my life was the day my father told me that he was going to die very soon, "I am going where every man on earth must some day go" (1 Kings 2:1 LB). My heart was heavy; I loved him very much. I concentrated hard as he continued, "Obey the laws of God . . ." (1 Kings 2:2 ff.). I forced myself to keep listening, and I made a heart-felt promise to heed his words. And then he died after a forty-year reign. We buried him in Jerusalem (1 Kings 2:3-11).

- Reread 1 Kings 2:1-11. What final instructions did David give Solomon? From what you know of David's reign, what kind of legacy did he leave to his son and to his country?
- What final instructions would you give to your children?
- What legacy do you want to leave for them?

DEALING WITH REBELLION

Soon after my father's death, my mother came to me on Adonijah's behalf. She told me that Adonijah wanted to marry my father's last mistress. This action was equivalent to claiming the throne! Absalom had done the same when he rebelled against King David. I had to act quickly. Though I am a man of peace, I was forced to end this rebellion by immediately ordering his death and the death of all who had supported him.

- Have you ever dealt with an “Adonijah” in your life—someone who sought to take your place or undermine your authority in some way? What happened?

- Are you currently struggling with an “Adonijah”? What immediate steps do you need to take to protect yourself, your family, and your ministry?

- As you consider those who have negative impact on you, your family, or your ministry, how can you hear their concerns and requests and still retain the freedom to follow the vision God has given you for your life and ministry? Remember, most of the time those who express anger towards you do so because they are hurting and have unmet needs.

KING OF ISRAEL

When I became the King of Israel, my people had only known times of war and unrest. Years before, God had told my father that my reign as king would be peaceful (1 Chronicles 22:9-10). But how that could possibly happen—all the nations around us were determined to conquer us. But God kept His word, and my reign was peaceful (1 Kings 4:25). Because we didn't have to go to war, I had plenty of time for other pursuits. I built God's Temple; I built a beautiful palace; I rebuilt the wall around Jerusalem; I repaired our cities; I traveled to other nations; I visited my people . . . And I married many women.

I quickly learned that it was tough to be in the shadow of “The Great King David.” The people *acted* nice enough toward me, but if I hadn't possessed the power to make their lives miserable, they would not have obeyed me. When you are a “mighty warrior” like my father, people tend to respect you. It is more difficult to garner obedience in times of peace.

- Are you living in the shadow of someone else's greatness? Are you trying to measure up to his or her standards? What does that feel like?

- Are others letting you know that you are missing the mark in some way? Do you think you are supposed to do more in some area? Explain.

- Who are the people in your life that validate your unique calling and gifts?

This was a very hard, yet exciting time in my life. I think you can identify with some of the things that happened to me like the death of my father, my brother trying to “rule” over me, or the excitement of a new ministry. Tomorrow I'll share with you the excitement of God's wisdom and my visit with the Queen of Sheba!

APPLYING THE TRUTH

Read Proverbs 14:35; 16:12-13; 19:12; 20:28; 21:1; 28:16; 29:4, 14.

In the area below, write the Scripture(s), thought(s), and question(s) from today's devotional that you want to spend more time thinking about. What will you apply to your life?