

Return of the King
The Danger of Ingratitude
2 Samuel-1 Kings

Main Idea:

Though the sin of ingratitude is displayed differently in David and Solomon, their willful neglect of God has dire consequences for the future well-being of the nation.

Exposition of 2 Samuel-1 Kings: The Spiritual Danger of Ingratitude

Examples from the life of David:

David desires to build a “house” for God – 2 Samuel 7:1-2

God says He will build David a “house” - The Davidic Covenant
2 Samuel 7:8-17

David’s Prayer of Gratitude – 2 Samuel 7:18-22

However, David forgets his loyalty to God -

David stays back from war – 2 Samuel 11:1
(He lost his perspective of leadership)

David & Bathsheba – 2 Samuel 11:2-5

David displeased God – 2 Samuel 11:26-27

Nathan confronts David – 2 Samuel 12:7-14

David forgot God’s blessings

David repents and God forgives, but there are consequences (the child dies)

Bathsheba gives birth to Solomon – 2 Samuel 12:24

God redeems a bad situation

Examples from the life of Solomon:

God is pleased with Solomon’s request – 1 Kings 3:3-10

Solomon builds and dedicates the Temple – 1 Kings 8:20-21

God calls Solomon to walk as his father did, but warns him – 1 Kings 9:6-9

However Solomon’s heart turns away from God – 1 Kings 11:1-4

(He loved foreign women, who brought their gods and idols with them)

The Lord was angry with Solomon, but Solomon doesn’t repent –
1 Kings 11:9-13

What are the similarities between David and Solomon's sin?

They both neglected (forgot?) to recount God's blessings and favor at key moments when tempted by vanity/idolatry.

What are the main differences between David and Solomon's sin?

David's sin of neglect ingratitude was occasional, while Solomon's was habitual.

Solomon's final words may have been Ecclesiastes 12:13, "The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man."

David's final words may have been Psalm 145:21, "My mouth will speak the praise of the Lord, and let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever."

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Application - Making the Christ-Connection with 2 Samuel/1 Kings:

Ingratitude: may be the (real) root of all evil. Romans 1:18-21

Gratitude/Thankfulness: may be the key to living a God-honoring, Christ-centered, Spirit-filled life of glad submission. Colossians 3:12-17

Cultivating a life of Christ-Focused Gratitude

- 1. Ask the Holy Spirit to occupy your mind with the wonder and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father who brings us to Himself through Him (Christ). Philippians 1:20-21*
- 2. Constantly bring to mind the many blessings you are thankful for – both the eternal and temporal ones. 1 Thessalonians 5:18*

3. *Learn to live with the “big picture” in mind: “I am in Christ, Christ is in me, and I am destined to be with Him and the Father forever, for nothing can separate me from His love.” Galatians 2:20, Romans 8:31-39*

A.W. Pink on making the Lord Jesus the “vision” of your life:

“Looking to Jesus constantly, trustfully, submissively, lovingly; the heart occupied with, the mind stayed upon Him – that is the whole secret of practical Christianity. Just in proportion as I am occupied with the example which Christ has left me, just in proportion as I am living upon Him and drawing from His fullness, am I realizing the ideal He has set before me...genuine Christianity is a life lived in communion with Christ: a life lived by faith, as He was.”

Discussion Questions

- 1) How do we see ingratitude in the lives of David and Solomon? What role does ingratitude play in their willful sin against God?
- 2) What is the main difference between how David and Solomon reacted to God’s correction/judgement of their respective behaviors?
- 3) Why do you think Paul puts such a big emphasis on “thanksgiving” in his letters? (hint: see Rom. 1:18-21; Colossians 3:12-16)
- 4) How might you learn to live with more “gratitude” in your life by making Christ the “vision” of your life?