

## **HOW TO LOSE A KINGDOM**

### **INTRODUCTION**

We spent the month of January focusing on how we, as God's chosen people are called to live as kings and priests, and to be a holy nation. I believe we all benefited through this as we discovered our role as heirs to God's kingdom, the authority we have as part of God's kingdom, and also the fact that we are called to represent God to His people as His royal priests.

Today I want to tell the story of a king who had his kingdom torn away and show how it happened so that we can learn from it and guard our royal position as kings and priests.

### **MESSAGE**

#### **HOW TO MAKE SURE EVERYONE LOSES...**

In 1931, Irving Thalberg of MGM decided he wanted to buy the film rights to the book Tarzan, written by Edgar Rice Burroughs. So Thalberg sent Sam Marx to negotiate with Burroughs, telling Marx not to spend more than \$100,000, an extraordinarily large sum in those days. Marx contacted Burroughs and asked how much he wanted for the film rights. "\$100,000," said Burroughs. When Marx offered him \$25,000, Burroughs walked out of the meeting. However, Marx and Burroughs continued to negotiate throughout the summer. Burroughs eventually settled for \$40,000. After signing the contract, Burroughs admitted that he had wanted MGM and Thalberg to make the picture so badly, they could have had it for nothing if they had insisted. "Mr. Burroughs," replied Marx, "If you had held out, you would have gotten \$100,000!"

#### **Both parties lost!**

- Burroughs, the writer, could have had \$100 000.
- MGM could have saved \$ 40 000.

Why??? Neither party was willing to stand for what they wanted, so they compromised.

#### **The series "24": How Compromise Starts**

In the first season of "24", Jack Bauer (Kiefer Sutherland) is a federal agent charged with protecting a presidential candidate from an assassination plot. He was given that responsibility because in the uncertain world of espionage his character possessed the rare character trait of integrity.

In the show's first episode, Jack's integrity is already put to the test. Because he turned in other federal agents for bribery, some of his own comrades have turned against him. In particular, Jack's immediate boss has come down hard on him and tried to persuade Jack not to be so honest in his job. Jack has an

explosive confrontation with his boss and will not budge on this point. Just after the confrontation, Jack bristles with intensity as he explains his actions to his closest partner.

"You can look the other way once, and it's no big deal, except it makes it easier for you to compromise the next time. And pretty soon, that's all you're doing? Compromising? Because that's how you think things are done. You know those guys I blew the whistle on? You think they were the bad guys? They weren't the bad guys. They were just like you and me, except they compromised once."

John Bradford (1510–1555) was an English Reformer. The story is told that, on seeing evil-doers taken to their place of execution, he was known to exclaim, "But for the grace of God there goes John Bradford,"

There but for the grace of God go I" as an expression of humility and reliance on God's grace rather than our own morality. Bradford knew that the same evil principles were in his own heart which had brought the criminal to that shameful end.

- It's pretty much the same as Jack's comment in the series 24 "They were just like you and me, except they compromised once."
- One compromise leads to another! And it's so easy to compromise.
- What's the key here? Only by the grace of God will we be able to lives devoid of, or clear of compromise!

***My question to us today is this? Has compromise crept in to some area of our lives? Or are we by God's grace living a life that chooses not to compromise.***

## **SOLOMON – A GREAT KING**

Solomon, King David's son took over from him. He was an heir to the throne that had everything going for him.

- He was raised as royalty.
- He was groomed to take over from his father. He had a great heritage.
- God wouldn't let David build the temple, Solomon had the privilege.
- When they dedicated the temple, God's glory filled it and the priests could not stand to minister.
- God spoke to Solomon in his dreams and made him great promises:

**1 Kings 3:3-14** Solomon loved the Lord and followed all the decrees of his father, David, except that Solomon, too, offered sacrifices and burned incense at the local places of worship. 4 The most important of these places of worship was at Gibeon, so the king went there and sacrificed 1,000 burnt offerings. 5 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 requested this:** 9 Give me an understanding heart 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 people of yours?"

**And God was pleased:** 10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. 11 So God replied, "Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— 12 I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! 13 And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life!

**But there was a condition:** 14 And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life."

- The Israelites lived in peace and God blessed Solomon, and the nation, with great wealth.
- Solomon's reputation for wisdom spread far and wide.

As God's royal priesthood, there are many blessings God will pour out over our lives - all He asks is that we love Him with all our heart, mind soul & strength and love our neighbor as ourselves.

***The question this morning is this? Do we love the Lord and obey him like this.***

## **GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS TO KINGS**

**Deuteronomy 17:16** (NLT) "The king must not build up a large stable of horses for himself or send his people to Egypt to buy horses, for the Lord has told you, 'You must never return to Egypt.'

**Deuteronomy 17:17** (NLT) The king must not take many wives for himself, because they will turn his heart away from the Lord. And he must not accumulate large amounts of wealth in silver and gold for himself.

**Deuteronomy 17:18-20** (NLT) 18 "When he sits on the throne as king, he must copy for himself this body of instruction on a scroll in the presence of the Levitical priests. 19 He must always keep that copy with him and read it daily as long as he lives. That way he will learn to fear the Lord his God by obeying all the terms of these instructions and decrees. 20 This regular reading will prevent him from becoming proud and acting as if he is above his fellow citizens. It will also prevent him from turning away from these Commands in the smallest way. And it will ensure that he and his descendants will reign for many generations in Israel.

- "Don't go back to Egypt".
- "Don't build up a huge stable of horses".
- "Don't take many wives for yourself".
- "Don't accumulate large amounts of wealth".

- “Read My word so that it can keep you from disobeying My instructions”.

Surely Solomon in all His wisdom and understanding understood that – He wrote many proverbs, plus Ecclesiastes and Song of Songs. This proves that he did understand.

... but on each of these instructions, Solomon compromised!

- He bought horses...and wives from Egypt.
- He had huge amounts of horses & chariots.
- He had many wives & concubines.
- He was the richest king alive – opulence abounded.

Compromise had slipped in.

***How many times have we seen people who have been blessed by the Lord and as things start going right, instead of becoming more dedicated to Him, they go after the big house and car, entertainment activities keep them from spending time with the Lord and from church, and their own plans and goals become more important than God in their lives?***

The key change in Solomon’s attitude was this:

**1 Kings 11:1-2** (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. 2 The Lord had clearly instructed the people of Israel, “You must not marry them, because they will turn your hearts to their gods.” Yet Solomon insisted on loving them anyway.

***Are we doing what we want anyway? Are we insisting on going against God’s word?***

***Has compromise slipped into our lives?***

## **A KINGDOM SNATCHED AWAY!**

**1 Kings 11:3-8**(NLT) 3 He had 700 wives of royal birth and 300 concubines. And in fact, they did turn his heart away from the Lord. 4 In Solomon’s old age, they turned his heart to worship other gods instead of being completely faithful to the Lord his God, as his father, David, had been. 5 Solomon worshiped Ashtoreth, the goddess of the Sidonians, and Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 6 In this way, Solomon did what was evil in the Lord’s sight; he refused to follow the Lord completely, as his father, David, had done. 7 On the Mount of Olives, east of Jerusalem, he even built a pagan shrine for Chemosh, the detestable god of Moab, and another for Molech, the detestable god of the Ammonites. 8 Solomon built such shrines for all his foreign wives to use for burning incense and sacrificing to their gods.

## **God will not let us get away with compromise!**

**1 Kings 17:9-11** (NLT) The Lord was very angry with Solomon, for his heart had turned away from the Lord, the God of Israel, who had appeared to him twice. 10 He had warned Solomon specifically about worshiping other gods, but Solomon did not listen to the Lord's command. 11 So now the Lord said to him, "Since you have not kept my covenant and have disobeyed my decrees, I will surely tear the kingdom away from you and give it to one of your servants.

***Compromise tore the kingdom from Solomon's hands! Are we at risk of having our kingdom citizenship torn from our hands?***

## **CONCLUSION**

### **The Compromise that Killed the Ranch Cows**

A New York family bought a ranch out West where they intended to raise cattle. Friends visited and asked if the ranch had a name. "Well," said the would-be cattleman, "I wanted to name it the Bar-J. My wife favored Suzy-Q, one son liked the Flying-W, and the other wanted the Lazy-Y. So we're calling it the Bar-J-Suzy-Q-Flying-W-Lazy-Y Ranch." But where are all your cattle" the friends asked? The reply, "None survived the branding."

- Compromise and Christianity don't go together.
- We cannot please everyone.
- We cannot please ourselves through doing what we want to do regardless of God's word – we won't please Him.
- Do we still love the Lord & obey His word?
- Or has compromise crept in?
- Are we at risk of forfeiting our kingdom citizenship through compromise?

**2 Corinthians 6:14-17** Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? 15 What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? 16 And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. 17 Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.

God is calling us today to set aside the compromise in our lives, His spirit is in us, but when we compromise, the Holy Spirit will withdraw. Let us repent of any and all compromise in our lives, and serve the Lord with pure and dedicated hearts!