COULD IT HAPPEN TO US?

1 Kings 11

From Pastor Mark

As we experience Election Day this week, let us be much in prayer for our country and its spiritual needs. The IBC sanctuary will be open from 9:00-4:00 on Nov. 8 for any who wish to stop by and have a few moments of prayer. Also, there will be a prayer meeting at noon with our pastors for any who are available to join us.

In 1 Kings 1-10, there had been ominous sounds of cracking in the structure of Solomon’s life and kingdom. Then, in chapter 11, an astounding collapse occurred! If it could happen to Solomon of all people, could it happen to us?

I. YOU COULD LEAVE YOUR FIRST LOVE (11:1-13)
   A. A Heart Problem (1-3, 4b)
      1. A Problem of Loyalty (1-3, 4b)
      2. A Problem of Expediency (3; political alliances)
      3. A Problem of Acceptability (3)
      4. A Problem of Depravity
   B. A Gradual Process (4—“when he was old”)
   C. A Shocking Participation (5-8)
   D. A Divine Provocation (9-10)
   E. A Widespread Product (11-13)

II. YOU COULD EXPERIENCE GOD’S CHASTENING (11:14-43)
   A. External Problems (11:14-25)
      1. Historical Enemies (14-25)
      2. Theological Explanation (14, 23)
   B. Internal Problems (11:26-43)
      1. Unforeseen by the King (26-28)
      2. Announced by the Prophet (29-39)
         a. Judgment (29-33)
         b. Mercy (34-38)
         c. Hope (39 “…but not forever”…)

III. YOU COULD HAVE A MIXED LEGACY (11:40-43)
   A. Life is limited (40-43).
   B. One thing matters.
      1. Ecclesiastes 12:13-14
      2. Did Solomon repent before he died?

Summary: God’s One Expectation—“Love the LORD your God with ALL your heart, ALL your soul, ALL your might.” How’s your heart? We all need Jesus.
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR NOVEMBER 6. 2016

1. This election week, spend some extra time in prayer for our country and community’s spiritual needs. (Try to avoid the discussion becoming political and focus on prayer for spiritual needs.)
2. What is your greatest personal take away from studying the life of Solomon?
3. Read 1 Kings 11:1-4. How do you see these heart problems tempting people today—loyalty, expediency, acceptability, or depravity?
4. Read Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 and 12:13-14. When do you think Solomon wrote Ecclesiastes and how does its message tie in with Solomon’s own life?
5. What cracks beneath the surface of your life may need to be repaired to avoid potential spiritual collapse?
6. Invite your LG members to our Anniversary Dinner this Saturday, Nov. 12 at 5:30 PM and finalize your plans to sit together as a Life Group.