

THE STORY CHAPTER 13 WHY DO SMART PEOPLE DO DUMB THINGS?

Key Verse:

*God told Solomon, "You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods." **Nevertheless**, Solomon held fast to them in love. He had seven hundred wives of royal birth and three hundred concubines, and his wives led him astray. As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and **his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God**, as the heart of David his father had been. 1 Kings 11:2-4*

Questions for Discussion

1. What is one of the smartest decisions you've ever made? How is your life different because of that decision?
2. (Optional) What is one of the dumbest decisions you've ever made? How did that affect your life?
3. Solomon operated with such wisdom, but he made several critical mistakes that changed his family legacy. Which of Solomon's mistakes do you see operating in your own life?
 - a) He deliberately disobeyed. He gave space for the enemy to setup a belief system that contradicted God's will, and his conscience was dulled to where he no longer was remorseful or aware of how he was breaking God's heart.
 - b) He chose to isolate himself from wise counsel in his personal life. There were behaviors, beliefs, and attitudes that were off limits to talk about. This allowed the enemy's grip to grow unchecked in his heart.
 - c) He allowed his gifts to become his god. He relied upon his intellect rather than God's wisdom. He elevated himself to the throne of his heart, rather than giving rightful place to the Lord.
 - d) He neglected his first love (God). His heart's devotion was divided among other gods.
4. Like Solomon, we all have blind spots. These are areas of our life that we are unaware of, and yet they cause us to stay in a loop that just keeps repeating – keeping us stuck and always wondering when is life going to change. Are you stuck in a loop, and you don't know why? Can you identify with any of these?

- a) I continue to have the same argument with my (spouse, child, co-worker, relative). We never can make peace about an issue.
- b) I keep going back to my addiction.
- c) My financial situation never changes. I either fall short or barely make it.
- d) I feel like a failure if I haven't worked myself to the bone each day.
- e) I am easily offended by other people. I spend an inordinate amount of time thinking about how other people have let me down.
- f) When I feel empty or lonely, my comfort is not usually God. I go to (food, TV, partying, video games, sports, work, family, isolating myself, drugs, sex).
- g) My spouse and I are never able to connect.
- h) I always wonder why God, or people, are against me.
- i) I'm continually disappointed in myself.
- j) I generally just accept that life is always going to be this way, and that God can't or won't act on my behalf.
- k) My life will never be different because of what happened to me in the past.

Ask the Holy Spirit what the truth is about these "loops." How can you join Him to overcome these patterns?

5. God is ready and wanting to give you wisdom. What challenge / decision are you facing today where you really need His wisdom?