

Wisdom cannot satisfy

Over the course of ministering for the Lord I have enjoyed studying the lives of Biblical characters. It has always fascinated me about the individuals that God has raised up to do unbelievable things. After years of studying the Bible and its characters, I have come to one conclusion. We have a whole lot more in common with them than we could ever imagine. They weren't perfect, they weren't a 'super-race people,' and by all means they were men and women who failed just like we do. They all had their shortcomings, but they were unique because they were all called by God.

Today we want to look at an Old Testament saint, and his name is Solomon. It would be hard to find a more interesting study than him because God blessed him two ways. When Solomon became King the Lord came to him and asked what He could do for Solomon. Realizing he would be following in his father's footsteps, he asked for wisdom. He had great respect for his father, David, and



JUST A THOUGHT

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he knew he had a difficult task facing him. Because Solomon asked God for wisdom, God blessed him with wealth also. He was not only the wisest man who ever lived, he was also the richest. As one looks at the story of Solomon it is easy to say that it would have been a dream come true to be in his shoes. However, it didn't play out that way. During the course of his reign over Israel Solomon became one of the most foolish men we could read about in Scripture.

The guidelines given to Solomon when he began to reign were slowly pushed aside

for selfish pleasure. The first thing that God told him was not to marry foreign wives. That fell on deaf ears because he accumulated 700 wives and 300 concubines in the course of his life and many of those wives were from places foreign to him.

As Solomon grew older, he began to see the error of his ways, and in a little book in the Old Testament (Ecclesiastes), Solomon more or less wrote the memoirs of his life. He also realized his vanity and he made that clear to those who would read his story. He came to understand that wisdom cannot satisfy. To more clearly understand his heart, read Ecclesiastes 1:12-18. What he wrote fits all of us today. In verse twelve he talked about the rich and famous, which was definitely him, because people from all over the world came to see Solomon. The famous of this world seem to have an air of power, and Solomon had that.

In verse 13 Solomon gave his heart to seek and search for what he was longing for and what was so desper-

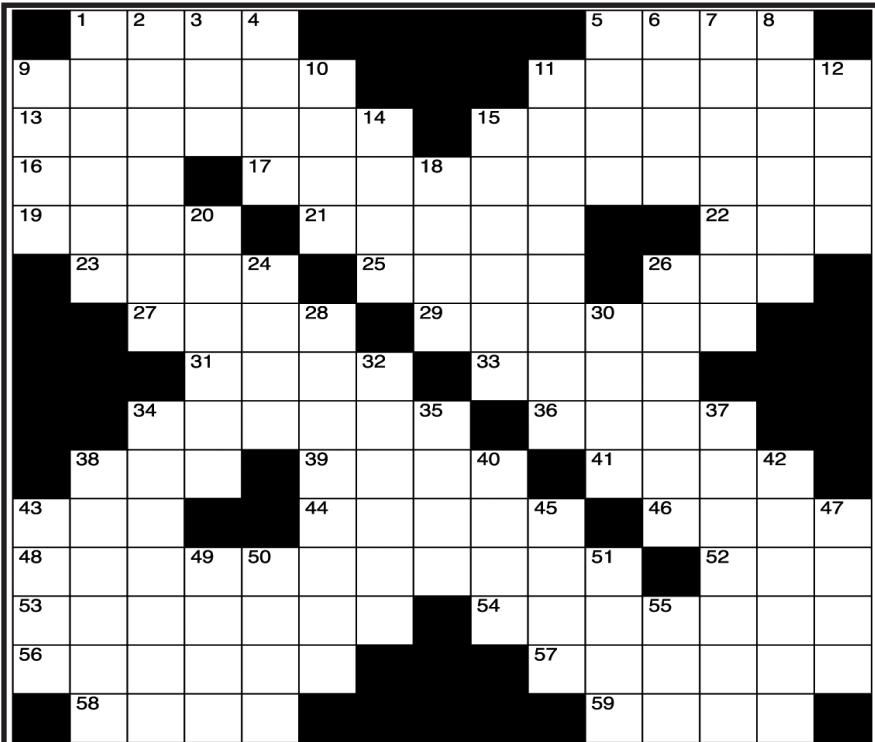
ately missing. In all reality, what he needed most was the presence of God upon his life, but in verse 14, he saw the wickedness in the way that he had wasted his life seeking the wrong things. Solomon states in verse 16, "I thought I had it all," and he really did. Yet he overlooked it, trying to find peace and satisfaction in all the wrong things. In verse

Ecclesiastes 1:12-18

17, Solomon said, "I tried it all," but verse 18 kind of wraps it all up when he said he was 'unfulfilled.' What Solomon realized after an entire lifetime of seeking and searching is that what he needed had been right under his nose the whole time.

I believe there are many powerful lessons we can learn from Solomon's life, and it is not concerning the

rich and famous. God gave him everything he needed, and God does the same for us. And yet we, many times, find ourselves out hunting what we already have. Take a moment to take inventory of your life. It is not the outward things that bring peace and contentment. It begins on the inside. Let's take a minute and look within, because it is there.



CLUES ACROSS

1. Partner to "flows"
5. French industrial city
9. Diagrams
11. Diplomat
13. Hires
15. Hawaiian island
16. Set aflame
17. Very happy
19. Blue dye
21. Small terrier with short legs
22. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
23. Northern pike genus
25. Expression of annoyance
26. Female deer
27. Casella and Kellerman are two
29. Actor's lines to audience
31. Days (Spanish)
33. Close a person's eyes
34. Cloaked
36. Comedic actor Rogen
38. It's all around us
39. Neutralizes alkalis
41. Native people of New Mexico
43. No seats available
44. Famed "Air Music" composer
46. Fit of irritation
48. Psychic phenomena
52. Knicks' first-rounder Toppin
53. Seed used in cooking
54. "WandaVision" actress Hahn
56. Samples food
57. In a lucid way
58. Stair part
59. Adieus

CLUES DOWN

1. Type of moth
2. A Christian sacrament
3. It lends books to Bostonians (abbr.)
4. Turn away
5. Impersonal
6. Shortly
7. Indigenous Alaskans
8. Subtle difference of meaning
9. Sicilian city
10. Put in harmony
11. Administrative divisions
12. As happily
14. Horse mackerel
15. Muddy or boggy ground
18. Monetary unit of Italy
26. Tracts at the mouths of rivers
28. Earnings
30. Insect repellent
32. Runner-up
34. Musician
35. Serious or urgent
37. Esteemed one
38. Where rockers play
40. Work furniture
42. Greek prophetesses
43. Quantitative fact
45. Missing soldiers
47. Minute
49. This (Spanish)
50. Maintain possession of
51. Assault with a knife

Answers to puzzle on Page 12

SUDOKU

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | 3 | | | 8 | | 4 | | 6 |
| 5 | 6 | 4 | 1 | 7 | | 2 | | |
| 2 | | | | 5 | | | 3 | 7 |
| | 7 | 6 | | | | | | |
| | 5 | | | 1 | | 7 | | |
| | | | 7 | 4 | | | 8 | 1 |
| | | 2 | | | 5 | 9 | | |
| 6 | 4 | 5 | 9 | | | | 1 | |
| 8 | | 7 | 4 | | | | | |

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Answers to puzzles on Page 12