

## 1Kings 3

### A Complex Saint/Sinner and His Gracious God

**Pastor prepares his family for the evening sermon at Covenant PCA in Panama City in 1Kings 3. In these twenty-eight verses, the Holy Spirit teaches us that saints are still complex sinners, but that their God is a patient and gracious God. More important than wisdom and honor is to fear Him and keep His commandments, for this is man's end.**

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First kings, three. These are the words of god. Now, solomon made a treaty with pharaoh king of egypt and married, Pharaoh's daughter. Then he brought her to the city of david. Until he had finished building his own house. And the house of yahweh and the wall all around jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the people sacrificed at the high places. Because there was no house built for the name of yahua until those days. And solomon, loved Yahweh walking in the statutes of his father, david? Except that he sacrificed and burned incense at the high places. Now, the king went to Gibby into sacrifice there for that was the great high-priced place.

Salmon, offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. That Gabby and yaha appeared to Solomon in a dream by night. And god said, ask what shall i give you? In solomon said, you have shown great mercy to your servant david. My father. Because he walked before you in righteousness.

And in up rightness of art with you, You have continued, this great kindness for him. You've given him a son to sit on his throne. As it is this day. No, you are playing my god. You have made your servant king instead of my father, david. But i am a little child.

I do not know how to go out. Or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people, whom you have chosen. A great people to numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore, Give to your servant and understanding heart. To judge your people. That i may discern.

Between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of yours. The speech please to the lord that solomon had asked this thing. God said to him? Because you have asked this thing. And if not asked, Long life for yourself, nor have asked, Riches for yourself, nor have asked.

The life of your enemies, but am asked for yourself. Understanding to discern justice. Behold i have done according to your words, see. I have given you a wise and understanding art. So that there has not been anyone like you before you. Nor shall any like you arise after you?

And i've also given you what you have not asked. Both riches and honor. So that shall there shall not be anyone like you among the kings, all your days? So, if you walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my commandments, As your father, david walked? Then i will.

Lengthen your days. Than Solomon. Awoke and indeed, it had been a dream. And he came to jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of yahweh. Offered up. Burnt offerings offered, peace offerings. And made a feast for all his servants. Now, two women who were harlots came to the king.

And stood before him. And one woman said, oh my lord, this woman, and i dwell in the same house. And i gave birth while she was in the house and it happened the third day after i had given birth that this woman also gave birth And we were together, no one was with us in the house except the two of us in the house.

And this woman's son died in the night because she lay on him. So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from my side. While your maid servant, slept And laid him in her bosom. And laid her dead child in my bosom. And when i rose in the morning to nurse my son, there he was dead.

But when i had examined him in the morning, indeed he was not my son whom i had born. Then the other woman said, no, but the living. One is my son, and the dead one is your son. The first woman said, no, but the dead one is your son and a living one is my son.

Thus, they spoke before the king. And the king said, the one says, this is my son who lives and your son is the dead one. The other one says, no, but your son is the dead one. And my son is the living one. Then the king said, bring me a sort.

So, they brought a sword before the king? And the king said, divide the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other. Then the woman whose son was living spoke to the king. For to yearned with compassion for her son and she said, oh my lord.

Give her the living child by no means kill him. But the other said, let him be neither am i nor yours divide him? So, the kid had certain said, give the first woman a living child. By no means kill him. She is his mother. And all israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered.

And they feared the king for they saw. That the wisdom of god was in him. To administer justice. So far the reading of gods inspired and And Aaron twerk. As we come to this passage one of the first things we see, Is how complex we are.

Excuse me. As we come to this passage one of the first things we see is how complex we are. And how ingrained our sin is. Even though the lord had loved solomon, And giving him grace by, which Solomon. Loved the lord and walked. As his father david did in many ways.

As verse 3 says. Yet. Solomon was already committing the sins that would ruin much of his life and indeed, Bring the kingdom as a whole. Under the curse of god, He made a treaty with pharaoh. He married, Pharaoh's daughter. And not only that, but It wasn't just the people who were sacrificing on the high places.

Solomon sacrificed in the high place. And we know he knew better. Because after the lord appears to him in the vision, He actually goes back to jerusalem where the ark was where the tabernacle was. And offer sacrifices at the tabernacle. In the way, prescribed by god. And yet. Solomon did by grace.

Love the lord and walk in many ways. According to the word of god. And so we should not be. Proud before the lord. Or ignorant of. The possibility know the reality. Of. Our blindness to our own sin. This means we should always be asking, god. To help us see the ways in which Uh, we are walking and ignorance and sin.

And rebellion. Without. Being ungrateful for Or disregarding the grace of god that has given us. To know and act on. Much from his word. The mercies of god and solomon were real mercies. The godly. Um, Aspects of how he led and what he did were real godliness. And so we should both be.

Asking gods to help us, that we might be further sanctified, but also thanking god. For his goodness. And his mercy to us. So, there's something to see about ourselves here. There's also something here to see about god, the great patience of god. Now, we know that worshiping on the high place, this is a great sin.

We know. That. Making alliances with the world. And even marriages. With those who are opposed to god's word and god himself, Uh, is a great scent. And that we see how patient the lord. That is with solomon. He even appears to him and note the place that he appears to him.

It's at this high place, this great high place. Where Solomon had to offer these sacrifices. And you see the great patience then of god, the great lungs suffering. And mercy of god, even towards us who our great sinners. And this gives us not just or ought to give us not just and appreciation for the greatness of god's love and patience and forgiveness with us.

But i'm great must be the righteousness of christ. And the sacrifice of christ. That for his sake, the lord would be patient within like this and even kind. Let us also however then Not take the fact that the lord meets us in something or that the Lord blesses us in something.

As an approval. Of everything that we are doing, perhaps, even in connection with it. There are many people who excuse for instance. Very similarly, wrong kinds of worship, because god has come near by his word in the midst of that worship. And met them. And helped them. And worked graciously in them and gave them a good response to him and blessed them.

But do we not see god doing that here with solomon at the high place and gibban? And so, we must not. Excuse. Anything that we do? In god's worship on the basis. That god has blessed to us. Or has done us. Spiritual good through it. So, Something about ourselves and something about God.

Therefore, We ought to have a regard. For others to the same extent or in similar fashion. That. When god. Graciously works in others who are Committing some serious theological error or sin? That we don't deny. On the one hand that god is mercifully and graciously working in them but that we don't fail on the other hand.

To note the sin. And if God has put us, In connection with them. To help them with the sin. But to help them with it, imitating, our god's patience, and mercy and love. Not as those who are enemies and despisers. But those who wish by a love that imitates, God's love.

Uh, to Retrieved to recover. Our brother. From his sin. Isn't it wonderful? That in patients, god not only meets Solomon at gibyan. But when by grace, he gives to Solomon to make the proper prayer request. Part of the wisdom that god gives him in response to that request, is to leave Gibby and go to jerusalem and repent.

And so, we see the mercy of god that gives Repentance that recovers. Um, one of his people from his sin and we should have that same love and desire. And recovering one another. From our sins. We have often. Pointed out the spirit in which, And matthew 18 procedure. Must be.

Followed in order to be a genuinely, matthew 18 procedure. And we see in solomon himself, Not just, Uh, cleverness. Which men call wisdom and is a sort of wisdom. But we see. Uh, justice and compassion. Here's a great king. Who has a people to numerable uh, too many to count by his own words.

But, For whom is the case in verses 16 to 28 rendered. Too harlots. It's not just that solomon exercises, wisdom and Comes up for the with the way of differentiating. But i think one of the great things here. Is that he cares for justice for even? The low. Of the low.

Um, Now, i'm not sure. Whether they had been, Caught and harlotry. How is it that they were not being executed? According to The law. But there is a Kindness and immersy to them. That imitates. The kindness and mercy of christ. With the woman who was caught in adultery, And you remember, There were those who wanted to exact immediately, the full penalty of the law.

And the lord jesus. Um, Responded in a way that basically communicated. If we exacted the full penalty of the law, Uh, for all of you. You may have not committed crimes that deserve death. From man. But you have committed sins. That deserve wrath. From god. So, there's something. Uh, christ-like in the heart.

Of solomon here. Who has merciful, even To the lowest of the low. But i think that whole thing in which the lord does conform solving somewhat there, To the lord jesus. It must be seen in the context of verse 28. It's not just the wisdom. That Solomon has from the lord.

But the lord is giving him that thing that he said he would add to him. The honor. That he would have and God used the exercise of that wisdom to give the king honor. In the eyes of the people. And so, The lord is. Showing great mercy. Which will make it.

Even worse. Sadly Solomon comes. To the end of his life. The thing that will have mattered the most. Was not the wisdom. That he might be given in verse 12. Or the riches and honor. That he would be given in verse 13. But the walking in the lord's ways, And keeping his commandments.

That he ought to have given his life to In verse 14, this is the greatest thing. This is the main thing. In the life. Of a person, a believer just to solomon would write. At the end of ecclesiastes. After a long life of learning, The hard way, those lessons fear god?

And keep his commandments. For this is men's all. Would that have been solomon's all? But by the blessing of the spirit to make us to see ourselves and the lord And others rightly. May this be our all? To fear God. And to keep us commandments. Let's pray.

We thank you our god that you have given your son. Our lord jesus not only to be Our wise. And honored. And perfectly godly king. But you have given to us. To have him as our covenant mediator. The one we are joined to by faith. So, that his Wisdom and honor and especially His obedience.

Might be ours. Through union with him. And since he is united to us who are sinners. Who are sinners? Even also, then his sacrifice. And propitiation. And so we praise you. Lord jesus. For being in perfection. Everything of which, Solomon was such a good example to us. And for being the solution.

To everything. Of which Solomon was a bad example for us. And we pray lord jesus that by your spirit. You would apply to us your word. That none of us here would learn. By long and hard example. Long and hard experience. The lesson that it took Solomon, his whole life to learn.

But grant that your spirit would teach our hearts. And that we would live according to your word. By the help of your spirit in union with your son. In his name, we ask it. Amen.