

Live Action
Solomon - Wisdom and Folly
August 16 2026

- What is the craziest thing you have ever done?

Scriptures:

1 Kings 3:7-9

7 "Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?"

1 Chronicles 29:25

The LORD highly exalted Solomon in the sight of all Israel and bestowed on him royal splendor such as no king over Israel had ever had before.

1 Kings 10:26-29

Solomon accumulated chariots and horses; he had fourteen hundred chariots and twelve thousand horses, which he kept in the chariot cities and also with him in Jerusalem. The king made silver as common in Jerusalem as stones, and cedar as plentiful as sycamore-fig trees in the foothills. Solomon's horses were imported from Egypt and from Kue[j]—the royal merchants purchased them from Kue at the current price. They imported a chariot from Egypt for six hundred shekels of silver, and a horse for a hundred and fifty.[k]

They also exported them to all the kings of the Hittites and of the Arameans.

1 Kings 9:15

Here is the account of the forced labor King Solomon conscripted to build the Lord's temple, his own palace, the terraces, the wall of Jerusalem, and Hazor, Megiddo and Gezer.

Wait. The forced labor? You mean slaves? We're told these slaves are not Israelites but foreign people they've conquered. So, a king building up his palaces and using slave labor from foreigners. Where have we heard that story before? But we're not done yet.

1 Kings 11:1-3

King Solomon, however, loved many foreign women besides Pharaoh's daughter—Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Sidonians and Hittites. They were from nations about which the Lord had told the Israelites, "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.

1 Kings 11:4

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.

Deuteronomy 17:16-17

The king, moreover, must not acquire great numbers of horses for himself or make the people return to Egypt to get more of them, for the Lord has told you, "You are not to go back that way again." He must not take many wives, or his heart will be led astray. He must not accumulate large amounts of silver and gold.

Ephesians 5:15-16

Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.

Discuss:

- What new insight did you gain from the telling of the story?
- Did this story bring up any new questions?
- What did you learn about God's character or the heart of God through this story?
- What type of guardrails do you already have in place for your life? What might you need to add?
- Talk about where you have community; what would it look like for you to take a next step into community?
- What action is God asking you to take?

Invitation & Prayer:

How does this message lead you to pray?