

“Through the Bible in a Year with Pastor Don and the FBC Family”
November 8, 2016

1 Kings 10:1–11:8. Solomon’s glory and fall.

Mark 6:45–7:13. Jesus is walking on water.

Proverbs 3:1–5. Wisdom and Beauty.

COMMENTS.

1 Kings 10:1–11:8. In **chapter 10**, Solomon is now internationally famous. His wealth and wisdom make him a living legend. Not only has he built a fine temple and palace, but he has developed trade routes and built a fleet of ships on the Red Sea. The Queen of Sheba comes from Arabia to visit Solomon. Today her country is Yemen. She comes to trade both goods and ideas and is deeply impressed by all she sees. She praises the God who has done all this for Solomon. In **chapter 11**, we see Solomon’s downfall. Deuteronomy warned of forgetting God in prosperity (Deut. 6:10–12; 8:7–20). The troubles of Solomon’s reign can be traced to the misuse of God’s blessing. His success in international trade encouraged him to marry foreign wives for diplomatic reasons. He loved the Lord, but he also “loved many foreign women.” This love for foreign women grew greater than his love for the Lord’s commandments. The wives caused him to pursue idolatrous worship. Solomon loses his desire to serve God and becomes a slave to his lust for women.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Departure from a robust life in the Lord always begins with disobedience to His Word; such is always the case. Believers stop thinking about and seeking the Lord in their daily lives, they stop reading the Word of God, they stop thanking God in any and all circumstances, they stop attending the local church, and they stop fellowshiping with likeminded believers. The reason is always the same: the hearts are more wrapped up in the world and their transient lives, than the Lord and the eternal things of God: 2 Timothy 4:10 *for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica.* Matthew 6:19 *"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; 20 "but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. 21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 22 "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. 23 "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.* Only by living in God by proper knowledge and proper love do we discover the beautiful gift of life in the light of the Lord. Life is a gift, and it comes with all kinds of lower gifts. However, when one gets his eyes on the lower goods and forgets the Giver, he enters great darkness, self-deception, and many sorrows. Solomon started off so wondrously. However, in the end, he had a greater taste lower goods and evil than God because he stopped walking with God by proper knowledge and proper love. Believers who return to the world and prefer the world over the Lord are like dogs who return to their vomit. 2 Peter 2:22, *But it has*

happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit." They have time for the vomit, but not the Lord! As far as vomit, note that lukewarm believers make their own Lord want to vomit. Revelation 3:16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. It does no good to excuse or downplay the great evil of a believer becoming apathetic and turning his heart away from the Lord by turning it on the world. It comes down to a matter of 1st order desires. Apart from life in God by proper knowledge and proper love the first-order base appetites never actually change—such a change demands nothing short of the grace of God, which a believer living in disobedience is actively rejecting. A rich spiritual life with God is a gift, not an achievement, but that gift is never given to those who really do not want it in their first-order desires. In sum, only those who desire (1st order) to be a man or woman after God's own heart, will be given such a heart. God respects 1st order freewill. The true exigence of our lives is God, not the details of life.

Mark 6:45–7:13. Outline: Jesus walks on water (6:45-52), Jesus' healing ministry at Gennesaret (6:53-56), and controversy with religious leaders concerning defilement (7:1-23). The walking on water includes several miracles: Jesus walking on water, Peter walking on water (Mark did not record this; see Matt. 14:28–32), Jesus stilling the storm, and the boat arriving on shore the instant Jesus entered it (John 6:21).

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Why the storm? Why the test? Jesus Christ wanted to teach them a lesson on faith that would help prepare them for the work that lay ahead of them after He was gone. The disciples had just completed a very successful mission, healing the sick and preaching the Gospel. They had shared in the miraculous feeding of 5,000 people. They were on a "spiritual high" and this in itself can be dangerous if not grounded in a love life in God rather than emotion. On a previous occasion, Jesus had led His disciples into a storm following an exciting day of teaching (Mark 4:35–41). Now, after a time of miraculous ministry, He again led them into a storm. Each new experience of testing demands more faith and courage. The scene illustrates the situation of God's people today: We are in the midst of this stormy world, toiling and seemingly ready to sink, but He is interceding for us. When the hour seems the darkest, He will come to us—and we will reach shore! The waves that frightened the disciples (including the fishermen in the group) were only stairsteps to bring the Lord Jesus to them. He waited until their situation was so desperate that they could do nothing to help themselves. But why did He act as though He would pass them by? Because He wanted them to recognize Him, trust Him, and invite Him into the ship. They did not recognize Him, but instead screamed with fear because they thought He was a ghost! Jesus reassured them with His word: "Take courage; it is I, do not be afraid" (Mark 6:50). At this point, Peter asked Jesus to let him walk on water; but Mark omits this detail. The disciples had failed their test because they lacked spiritual insight and receptive hearts. The miracle of the loaves and fishes had made no lasting impression on them. After all, if Jesus could multiply food and feed thousands of people, then surely He could protect them in the storm. Even a disciple of Jesus Christ can develop a hard heart if he fails to respond to the spiritual lessons that must be learned in the course of life and ministry. Let us not forget that every test is designed to move us closer to the *Lord by proper knowledge and proper love*. Without faith, there can be no true love or

confidence. How could someone love the Lord if he has doubts about His existence? How could someone trust the Lord if he doubts His existence? It is life in God *by knowledge and by love*, living in that reality, that He brings His light into our lives that give us a transcendent conviction. 2 Corinthians 5:6 *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.* 7 *For we walk by faith, not by sight.* 8 *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.* 9 *Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him.*

Proverbs 3:1–5. These verses show the capital importance of the Word of God, which provides wisdom, guidance, blessedness, and virtue.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and proper love. Note in verse 3 how the Word of God is to impact the life: Proverbs 3:3 *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart.* Not only is the Word of God to be written on the tablet of our hearts, but its truths of mercy and truth are also to be beautiful ornaments around our necks. There is nothing beautiful about griping, complaining, worrying, and being focused on the problems of life or self rather than the Lord. It is life in the *Lord by proper knowledge and proper love* that brings light into our lives and with that light His glory. There is no light or joy apart from love for the Lord. 1 Peter 1:8 *and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory.* It is never just a matter of studying the Word of God. It is a matter of living in the life of God that brings light to the Word of God in a way that is truly beautiful.

Life in God by second person proper knowledge and by proper love.

Pastor Don