

WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

February 12

MONDAY

There are those who did not support Adonijah in his effort to overthrow the king. When Adonijah offered sacrifices as part of his attempt to wrestle all power from his father, he did not invite Nathan the prophet, Benaiah the priest's son, Solomon his older brother, or any of David's so-called 'Mighty Men'.

READ: I Kings 1:8-10

It's unthinkable what Adonijah did: he put on a big show of being religious, hoping undoubtedly to attract a crowd. He offered sacrifices and that was wrong to do. But Adonijah was ambitious, and doing the right thing was a non-issue. His heart was set on power, prestige, and money, and righteousness was nowhere to be found. As God's people, we are called apart from such things, and commanded to follow after righteousness. "Be holy as I am holy," God has told us. May we walk to a different drum beat, and live our lives to do the right thing in the right way.

TUESDAY

Because he had been invited to join in with the scheme, Nathan knew of Adonijah's plan to take the crown. He told Bathsheba about it and told her exactly how she should inform King David of this treason.

READ: I Kings 1:11-14

Nathan is concerned with God's will, and determined that Solomon, whom David already announced as the next king, will, in fact, be the next king. He warns Bathsheba that her own life, as well as Solomon's, is on the line. And he offers a plan for alerting David and procuring his action. Nathan's example is a good one: he turned from evil and did that which was good. That is to say, he rejected Adonijah's offer to join him in his quest for the throne, and he did everything he could to see that the right course of action was followed. He obeyed the simple teaching of Scripture - the same sort of teaching that is before you and me - to do the right thing in the right way every time!

WEDNESDAY

As Bathsheba and Nathan have planned, she goes to David first, alone. She reminds him that he once promised that Solomon would be the next king, and she informs him that, although David doesn't know it yet, his younger son Adonijah has declared himself to be the king now.

READ: I Kings 1:15-18

Bathsheba's approach to David typifies how we are to approach God himself: she bowed herself before him, acknowledged that he was her lord, identified herself as his servant, and appealed to him on the basis of his own promises. I love it - it's a great pattern for us! We bring a promise that God has made

before him in prayer, and plead with Him to act on the basis of that promise.

THURSDAY

Bathsheba continues to tell David the details of Adonijah declaring himself to be king of Israel. She tells him that if he does not act, once he is dead, she and Solomon will surely be killed by Adonijah.

READ: I Kings 1:19-21

Bathsheba reminds David that the eyes of all Israel are upon him. This is her way of saying, "So do the right thing." Are not the eyes of others upon those of us who call ourselves His beloved children? (they are) Some would love to see us falter and fail. They delight to see discord among the brethren. But for us, the idea that others are watching is a call for holy living. It drives us to our knees and then to the imitation of Jesus Christ:

To be like Jesus in all I do and say... To be like Jesus in all my life today.

FRIDAY

While Bathsheba was still talking to David, (as arranged) Nathan comes in to confirm Bathsheba's story. He asks David directly if declaring Adonijah to be the king is his idea.

READ: I Kings 1:22-24

In a way, Nathan typifies the one who would stir others to action. Nathan is respectful and honors David by his greeting and his posture. But then, he asks a question that takes David to the heart of the entire matter: Is this of your doing, David? Although we may prefer to speak in general and obscure terms to avoid offense or such, often it is best to address the issue openly. "How is your walk with the Lord going?" or "With all the problems in your life, do you have a personal faith in Jesus Christ that enables you to live a victorious life?" That's how the man of God did it here.

SATURDAY

Nathan reports additional details of how Adonijah became king. And he speaks of some who were not involved in this treachery. Then he asks David once more if Adonijah is his own choice to follow him.

READ: I Kings 1:25-27

Nathan tells David that he was not invited to be part of Adonijah's coronation. Nor was Solomon. The point is this: anything which is kept from those who would normally be told such a thing - a brother, the priest, or the former king - anything like that is undoubtedly evil in some way. In our lives, if there are things which we do our best to hide, it's probably an indication that such things should be abandoned. The life of the righteous is as an open book before God, and so should it be before a world waiting for authenticity. #69