

Pastor Tony Dorsey

12/27-12/28

New Years Message

Title: *"There's a thief in my house"*

1 Kings 3:16-28

English Standard Version

Solomon's Wisdom

¹⁶ Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷ The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house. ¹⁸ Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house. ¹⁹ And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him. ²⁰ And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. ²¹ When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne." ²² But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king.

²³ Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'" ²⁴ And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king. ²⁵ And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." ²⁶ Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him." ²⁷ Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother." ²⁸ And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

Intro: "How the Grinch stole Christmas"

PP-Grinch Photo

The case

- Two women
- Two babies
- 4 people in the house
- 1 baby dies in the night
- Profession of the two women (harlots)

Court

The Honorable King Solomon of Israel presiding.

History

- Solomon (Person). Third king over Israel, the second son of David and Bathsheba, who reigned some 40 years (970–930 bc). His alternative name was Jedidiah, “beloved of the Lord.”
- *The Government*. David’s efforts had brought about a union of the 12 tribes, but Solomon established an organized state with many officials to help him (1 Kgs 4). The entire country was divided into 12 major districts, and each district was to ensure the provisions of the king’s court for one month each year. The system was equitable and designed to distribute the tax burden over the entire country.
- *Solomon the Builder*. One of Solomon’s earliest building attempts was to construct the temple. David had it on his heart to build the temple, but this task was left to Solomon, the man of peace. Hiram, king of Tyre, provided cedar trees from Mt Lebanon for the temple (1 Kgs 5:1–12), and in return he was given an appropriate amount of food. In order to provide the necessary labor for these building projects, the Canaanites became slaves (9:20, 21). Israelis likewise were compelled to work in groups of 10,000 on every third month (5:13–18; 2 Chr 2:17, 18). The workers for the temple alone comprised 80,000 stone cutters, 70,000 common laborers, and 3600 foremen.
- It took seven years to finish the temple, which by modern comparison was a rather small building: 90 feet long, 30 feet wide, and 45 feet high. Nevertheless, the gold covering for both walls and furniture made it quite expensive.

- One of Solomon's earliest recorded acts as king was to go to the high place at Gibeon and sacrifice 1000 burnt offerings. On the following night, the Lord appeared to the king in a dream, asking as to his fondest wish. Solomon asked for wisdom to judge Israel and God was pleased with the request (1 Kgs 3). Israel's king was given his wish, along with the gifts of long life, riches, and fame. In time Israel held Solomon in high esteem for the wisdom God gave him.

Harlot. Woman guilty of illicit sexual relationships, figuratively, one who worships an idol. The term "harlot" translates four different words found in the Bible. One type of harlot was the man or woman, married or unmarried, who committed immoral acts (Gn 34:31; Jgs 19:2; Prv 23:27). A different harlot was the temple prostitute of heathen religions in which fornication was part of the worship (Gn 38:21, 22; Dt 23:17; Hos 4:14). Such prostitution was forbidden by the Law of Moses (Lv 19:29; 21:9). The "strange woman" was another harlot (1 Kgs 11:1; Prv 5:20; 6:24; 7:5; 23:27). There are different opinions why that name was given to harlots. One explanation is that it referred to a man leaving his own wife for another, who ought to be a stranger to him (Prv 5:17, 18, 20). It may also have referred to a foreign woman (Nm 25:1; Jos 23:13). "Harlot" also refers to any woman, married or single, who practices unlawful sexual indulgence, whether for lust or gain (Mt 21:31, 32; Lk 15:30; 1 Cor 6:15, 16; Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25).

Harlotry appeared early in Israel's life and continued throughout biblical history. Most biblical passages strongly condemn the practice of harlotry in any form. The priestly law of Leviticus 21:9 provided that a priest's daughter who practiced harlotry was to be burned to death. A priest could not marry a harlot (Lv 19:29) and the wages of harlotry could not be used to pay vows in the temple (Dt 23:18). These prohibitions served to keep the worship of the Lord free from the practice of cult harlotry.¹

A number of biblical passages do, however, seem to accept the harlot as a member of the community. Tamar temporarily served as a temple harlot to remind her father-in-law of his promise to her (Gn 38:14, 15), and Rahab the harlot had a special place in Hebrew history because she had befriended the Hebrew spies (Jos 2:4–16; Heb 11:31).

The words "harlot" and "harlotry" were used figuratively for idolatry, especially in the prophetic books (Is 1:21; Jer 2:20; Rv 17:1, 5, 15, 16; 19:2). This figurative use was based on the marriage-like relationship of the Lord and the nation of Israel (Jer 3:20). When the people gave their allegiance to idols rather than God he charged that they "went a whoring after" other gods (kjv) or "played the harlot after" other gods (Jgs 8:33).

¹ William B. Tolar, "[Harlot](#)," in *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 928.

The same idea is found in the NT (Rv 17). These condemnations are directed toward that inner harlotry which is a rejection of the Redeemer.²

The Lust of David led to murder and adultery with Bathsheba.

David and Bathsheba had Solomon.

Solomon also dealt with lust (specifically with Pagan women) seven hundred wives and 300 concubines, and a variety of bad decisions

Harlotry (prostitution) comes from a spirit of lust and greed.

Two Harlots, who have lived adulterous, lustful, and greedy lives- are coming before a King, who was born out of lustful greed, seeking justice.

1st Woman

Profile:

- She knew the other woman's character.
- Sleeping on the job
- She tells Solomon over three times that they were alone.
- She did not recognize her gift (when Satan steals from us, we become a person which people do not recognize)

'one of my other favorite Christmas movies is Home Alone'....PP-Kevin McAlister Photo

- 'I liked the character of Kevin's Mom because this was a real description of how a mother feels when their child is in trouble'...PP-Kevin's Mom photo
- Accountability: (Home Alone Scene with the mother realizing that she left Kevin at home) this is how we are when we come to Jesus-we always tell him how we are parents stole from us, ex-spouses stole from us, teachers, preachers, elders, etc....but we never say what we could have done better or how we were irresponsible in certain situations! This woman should have been alert, after carrying a child for over the span of 8-9 months, having a connection that no other person could physically have with another human being, and yet was not able to feel someone come into the room take the child, then replace it with her dead child....she was more than sleeping!! She was unaware, she did not have her salvation helmet on, her sword was absent, her breastplate was under the bed; she was not prepared!!

² William B. Tolar, "[Harlot](#)," in *Baker Encyclopedia of the Bible* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1988), 928.

2nd Woman

IN ORDER FOR ME TO BE PREPARED FOR THE ENEMY, I NEED TO KNOW WHO THE ENEMY IS.

Profile:

- Lucifer (explain) why do I ignore him, when the Bible does not-in fact the Word of God tells me who he was, who he is now, and what he's capable of.

PP-Key verses which explain How Lucifer became Satan:

- a) Colossian 1:16-God created Satan
- b) Ezekiel 28:12-15-Lucifers Perfection, Position, Pride
- c) Isaiah 14:12-15- "The 5 'Wills' of Satan"
- d) Revelation 12-Satans Persuasion

- Liar
- Thief
- Manipulator
- Selfish
- Bold
- Evil (to lay on her baby, then go into the other room and take another woman's baby, then replace with her dead baby)

The sword of Truth

- A person can have all the wisdom or intelligence in the world, but apart from the word of God it means absolutely nothing.

Restoration

- When you allow the word to exist and distinguish between falsehoods and truth, you will start to witness God restoring all that was lost to you.
- You will find yourself laughing and smiling once more, couples begin dating again, phone conversations resume, and lost time is gradually recovered.

PP-Are you a Thief? (slide)

- Have you been robbing God of the Praise and worship that He deserves?
- Have you been robbing your church by not serving with the gifts that God has given to you?

- Have you been robbing yourself of the devotional time-prayer time with the Father, and building a relationship with God?
- Lastly, have you robbed people of hearing about the greatest gift that anyone can receive in any season?