

THE NEW YOU Sermon Series: Solomon or Jedidiah

Today we are going to talk about Solomon. What do most people think of when they think of Solomon? **Wisdom!**

Solomon had an encounter with God where God gave him the opportunity to ask for anything he wanted... & Solomon asked for wisdom! **2 Chr. 1:7-12**

If God gave you that choice, what would you choose? _____

What perspective did Solomon have that led him to make such a request?

The answer may be in Solomon's origin story, & in the giving of his name!

- Solomon was the son of King David and Bathsheba...
- Solomon was born into a family of bloodshed...
- Solomon was chosen by David to be his successor...

Solomon's name means "peace", but His backstory was anything but peaceful... But you can imagine why King David would give him such a name!

Solomon's name can also be translated "replacement", which again would make total sense considering all that David had lost!

But Solomon was not the only name he was given! The Prophet Nathan, gave Solomon a different name, Jedidiah, which means "Beloved of the Lord." Why would Nathan give him a different name? And why this name?

Nathan was the same prophet who declared God's judgment on David & said that "the sword would never leave his household..." Peace would not be David's experience, even with the birth of this son (w/the name "peace").

But Nathan did know that this son would be loved by God and chosen to be David's replacement as king, so he gave him the name that confirmed that!

David was looking for peace, and a replacement for his lost son... but God was looking to teach David that what he needed was God's love & promise!

What if God asked us a question and offered us whatever answer we gave? What if He asked us "Would you rather live a life without hardships (peace), or live a life filled with difficulties but also filled with experiencing God's love & presence walking with you through them?"

That's a hard question isn't it... An easy life, but one unaware of God's love, or a hard life, but one filled with the knowledge of God sustaining you?

That is what I imagine this interaction between David and Nathan was like when Solomon was born... Peace was not God's plan, but love was!

Solomon/Jedidiah was loved by God, just as David was... but peace was never long established for God's people.

Someone might ask, "Why can't we have both... peace and love?" We can but that doesn't come through this son of David, but a different One!

Jesus was of the lineage of David, a direct descendant of David & Bathsheba!

Solomon could never provide the "peace" that God's people truly needed... but Jesus could, and did! Solomon/Jedidiah's story is a story of God's love, a love that would eventually culminate in the coming of the Prince of Peace!

Sometimes "peace", here and now, is not the answer... because God is using the brokenness in this world to point us to Jesus who is our eternal peace!

What is always the answer, is that God will be faithful to His beloved! It was true for David... Jedidiah... for God's people Israel... & it's true for us today!

What are we looking for from God? What are we asking of Him? Maybe what we need most is not what He has not yet given, but in what He already has... His Son who is God's love for us incarnate, & our eternal peace!

How can we live today without peace in the world... in our families... in our hearts...? We can live as God's beloved children (as Jedidiah's), knowing that there is an eternal peace to come, not from David's son Solomon, but God's Son Jesus... The descendant of David that we all should be looking for!

We come to the table today, to look back... to look to the future... and to live in the present... strengthened to face no matter lies ahead!

Solomon (Peace) may not be our experience in this life, but all of us can experience what it means to be a Jedidiah (a beloved one of God)! It is made possible through the One whose name is Jesus, meaning Savior!

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