

Final Words*1 Kings 2:1-4*

Introduction: Over the past number of weeks we have learned a lot from the life of David. We've seen the best in David - his courage in confronting enemies; his intimate friendship with Jonathan and his vital walk with God. We've also seen the worst in David - his sloppiness in following God's instructions when moving the ark; his anger at Nabal; and, of course, his moral failings with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah. God in his wisdom has recorded all of this for our instruction. Today, as we conclude our study of David, we are looking at some of his final words to his son Solomon. As is often the case, final words are important words. In these four verses David gives Solomon, and us, wisdom and guidance for life.

Opening Discussion: What are some important words that have been spoken to you that have made a difference in your life?

Read 1 Kings 2:1-4

1. What observation do you have about what David says to Solomon here?
2. What commands does David give to Solomon?
3. What do you think it means to "be strong, . . . show yourself a man" (v. 2)?

Brian said:

David's greatness wasn't found in himself; it was found in his dependence on God. I think when David tells Solomon to be strong, he must be thinking about the kind of strength that can only be found in God. If Solomon is going to be up for the task of leading, it will be only found in what God can do in His life.

And you know what? The same is true in our lives. Obviously, none of us have been appointed kings, but we have been entrusted with responsibilities from God. Whether it is the responsibilities of parenthood, or work, or some kind of role or challenge that God has entrusted to you, or a ministry you are involved in, or even the calling to be a witness for Christ, none of us will find the ability to do these things on our own. What we need to be up for these responsibilities, we will only find in God.

4. What responsibilities do you believe God has entrusted to you for which you need His strength?

5. Practically speaking, how do we find strength in God for the things He has entrusted to us?
6. What does it mean for Solomon to "keep the charge of the LORD your God, to walk in His ways" (v. 3)?

Read Deuteronomy 17:14-20

7. How important do Moses (looking ahead to the day Israel would have a king) and David (from our passage) believe the Word of God is for Solomon? Why?
8. What blessings could Solomon expect to experience if he was careful to obey God?
9. What blessings have you experienced in walking with God? Or, what blessings have you missed when you were not walking with God?

Brian said:

If we could have stood at the side of this man's bedside as he neared the end of his life to hear his final words, I believe that he would have looked each of us in the eye and with great conviction out of the experiences of his life, he would say to each one of us, "There is nothing better than walking with God. If you will obey Him, He will bless you. Be strong in Him. He's given you important things to do. Be strong. Obey."

10. Are you convinced that there is nothing better than walking with God? Why or why not?
11. As you look back at the last season of your life, how diligent have you been to be in God's Word that you might increasingly orient your life around God's ways?