

**A LESSON ON AMBITION FROM THE LIFE  
OF SOLOMON  
(I Kings 3:3-15)**

**INTRO:**

Let me begin this study this evening with a very personal a pointed question -"What's your heart set upon"

I suppose if we could take a survey of what people have their hearts set upon having we would find all sorts of things. Some young people might be musing

"My heart is set upon having a new car and being able to cruise..." Some young adults might be pondering -

"My heart is set upon having a good job and making plenty of money..." Still others might be thinking -

"My heart is set upon raising my children and seeing them do well in life."

Now there is nothing inherently wrong with what a lot of people have their heart set upon. The only problem is their ambitions are just not spiritual ambitions. They may be praying about making plenty of money or praying about having certain things but these have no real affiliation with what pleases the Lord.

So many things for which people pray falls under James' denunciation -"Ye ask and ye have not because ye ask amiss that ye might..."

Notice in this account before us we can and should learn a lesson on the right kind of ambition. What is the right kind...? It is to desire the very things that please the Lord.

With what then are you occupied? Is your heart set upon things^ that please the Lord?

Notice...

## **I. THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY WHICH SOLOMON WAS GIVEN**

1. Had an opportunity to ask the Lord. What do you suppose most folks would do with an opportunity like this. Some would ask if they could win the lottery... a new car, boat, or house. Some might wish for popularity or fame or a better job or an easier life...

2. For anything he wanted. The Psalmist recognized

an important principle. "feed me with food convenient for me lest I be full and deny Thee and say Who is the Lord? Or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain (Prov.30:8,9) Application. What would you want this evening if you could have anything you wanted? If some folks got what they wanted it would take them away from God.

## **II. THE UNSELFISH OCCUPATION WHICH SOLOMON DISPLAYED**

1. Wanted a wise heart. I have often said the

Biggest problem that most people have is self-centeredness. They are concerned about looking out for #1.

2. To be able to help others. We often sing songs

like, " I want a servant's heart" but you can't have a servant's heart without being occupied with the needs of others.

Application- I have already asked you what would you want if you could have anything you wanted. Now the next question is would it be to help others or yourself?

### III. THE UNANTICIPATED OUTCOME OF SOLOMON'S REQUEST

1. Was given much more than he asked for. Oftentimes people fail to see that what they have is directly related to what they have given to others. The Bible says that "the liberal soul shall be made fat"
3. Because what he desired pleased the Lord. I know a certain man this even who has very little and I know the reason why. By his own testimony he has never tithed and honored the Lord with his finances.

Application. I believe if you are selfish and dishonor the Lord you'll go lacking. But I believe if a man will concern himself with how he can be a blessing to others God will bless that man and give him an abundance.

### CONCLUSION

We can see the greatest ambition is to have our hearts set upon the things which please the Lord. We would do well then to ask ourselves what are the things that please the Lord? The Scriptures give you and me a number of things which is said to please the Lord.

It pleases the Lord to believe in Him and trust Him in what He asks us to do (Heb. 11:6)

It pleases the Lord to share the gospel with others and try to win them to the Lord (I Cor. 1:21)

It pleases the Lord when we are occupied with Him in worship and praise. It pleases the Lord when we share with others who have various needs. (Heb. 13:16)