

Single-Minded

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Next Wed: all worship night!

B. Pray for Veronica. Women's Retreat. London Attacks.

1. *I will seek you with all of my heart.* Ps.119:10 or msg, *I'm single-minded in pursuit of you; don't let me miss the road signs you've posted.*

II. Slide2 Intro: Single-Minded

A. At this point the story of Solomon suddenly changes. The glory passes away, and we observe his rapid degeneracy and doom.

1. A life so filled with promise, ends in gloom and failure.

a) *Wealth, privilege, and position* didn't help him or maybe partly caused his downfall. Wealth can be a blessing or a curse. Great privilege entails great responsibility. *He let the world squeeze him into its mold.* (Rom.12:2, Phillips)

2. Notice how many times you hear the word **heart** mentioned.

III. Slide3 POLYGAMY & PAGANISM (1-8) Causes

A. In keeping with the fashion of typical Oriental courts...*the more in your harem, the greater the ruler!*

1. Perhaps Solomon's **great sin** was not so much **sexuality** as it was simply the desire to be *thought great*.

B. Solomon had wisdom for everybody else but would not apply it to himself.

1. Slide4 Rom.2:21-24 nlt *Well then, if you teach others, why don't you teach yourself? You tell others not to steal, but do you steal? You say it is wrong to commit adultery, but do you commit adultery? You condemn idolatry, but do you use items stolen from pagan temples? You are so proud of knowing the law, but you dishonor God by breaking it. No wonder the Scriptures say, "The Gentiles blaspheme the name of God because of you."*

2. The man who wrote Prov.4:23 *Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life*, did not obey it.

- a) It's one thing to **know** the word it's one thing to another word but quite another thing to **do** it.

C. **Slide5** See if you have a **stoney heart**, God can **soften it**, turn it into flesh. **But** a **divided heart** cannot ever be *cured* as long as it remains *divided*.

1. **See** Solomon didn't just wake up 1 day and decide to build high places for foreign gods. **Rather**, his **singular love for God** was **Slowly replaced** with other loves. A heart once devoted to the Lord had become a *divided heart*.

a) *A divided heart loses both worlds.* AB Simpson

2. **See** a *divided heart* usually leads to a **divided family**, which leads to **divided relationships**, which leads to **divided kingdoms or nations or churches**.

D. **Note:** it was a *clinging* issue. (see vs2) דָּבַק *dabaq*-to hold firmly or tenaciously, usually w/hands.

1. This is the same Hebrew word used in Deut.11:22 *For if you carefully keep all these commandments which I command you to do - to love the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, and to hold fast to Him.*
2. When an **earthly love replaces** our **love for God**, & we find ourselves *clinging* to other things for our full satisfaction, we have erected an **idol** in our life.

E. **Slide6a** 6 Signs of a Spiritually Divided Heart [illust: *cut apple in 8 parts w/apple slicer*]

F. How do I know if I'm **seeking God** with all my heart?

G. How do I know if I **love God** with all my heart?

H. How do I know if I **believe God** with all my heart?

I. How do I determine if my heart is **divided** or **united** to fear God's name in truth?

1. **Slide6b** Ps.86:11,12 *Teach me Your way, O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And I will glorify Your name forevermore.* [*unite* = singleness of heart]

a) This is a prayer about forming the **right habits** rather than making the *right moves*.

b) **Unite my heart** - a beautiful metaphor, conveying the idea, that the **heart** of man is full of *noise, torn in pieces, & often scattered about in fragments*.

(1) Its a state when the heart may be: *insincere, uncertain, hesitant, vacillating, or in a tug-of-war.*

(2) *The uniting of a heart is when God gathers it to Himself & holds it together in a state of *steady and preserving obedience.*

c) I will praise You, O Lord my God, with all my heart. (12)

(1) His **whole heart** is absorbed in praise. He's **not** going to *wait passively* for the spiritual maturity he has been seeking in vs.11.

J. **Slide6c** 6 Signs of a Spiritually Divided Heart: from Ps.119

1. **Slide7** A spiritually divided heart is **emotionally unstable.**

a) *Blessed are those who keep His testimonies, Who seek Him w/the whole heart.* Ps.119:2

b) **Blessed/happy.** Not necessarily *wealthy, successful, powerful, popular, or prominent.*

(1) **A divided heart** is revealed in a saddened or discouraged countenance.

(2) Is my life characterized by happiness and peace **or** worry and confusion?

(3) Am I **tossed** into the depths of despair through every **undesirable circumstance** **or** have I **entrusted** my innermost source of happiness to **God's word**?

2. **Slide8** A spiritually divided heart is **wandering.**

a) *With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments.* Ps. 119:10

b) God's word is **not a list of rules** keeping me boxed in under the heavy thumb of dictatorship.

c) God's word was inspired and written for my greatest good.

d) The Bible clearly outlines and defines what **path** to travel, what **attitude** is appropriate. My heart is divided when I fight against the truth of God's revealed word **and** willfully or ignorantly choose my own path.

3. **Slide9** A spiritually divided heart is **selfish.**

- a) *Turn my heart towards your statutes and not toward selfish gain.* Ps.119:36
- b) Left to my own devices I am *bent towards* selfishness.
- c) When I am **offended** by the opinions of others, **threatened** by the status of a peer, **or hesitant** to give of my abundance to someone in need, **I am selfish.**
- d) I have strayed from God's word and will **and** allowed my flesh to take over. My heart has been *divided*. I have failed to *esteem others as better than myself* Phil.2:3

4. Slide10 A spiritually divided heart is **inconsistent**.

- a) *This has been my practice: I obey your precepts.* Ps. 119:56 niv
- b) Can I truthfully proclaim that I obey God's word without falter every second of every day? Not a chance.
 - (1) **However**, the undivided heart, **or** the heart walking through life believing God's word, **will be swayed towards obedience.**
 - (a) Willful rebellion will be the exception, not the rule.
 - (b) When my *daily practice* is devoted to **knowing** and **following** God's word, my heart is **united in truth.**

5. Slide11 A spiritually divided heart is **sour**.

- a) *How sweet are your words to my taste; sweeter than honey to my mouth.* Ps.119:103
- b) When I am *hurt, angry, bitter, sour, tart, or vinegary*, where do I turn for guidance and comfort?
 - (1) Do I seek the opinions of friends, family, pastors, and teachers **first or** do I seek the counsel of God?
 - (a) The more of **His words** I consume, the more **nourished** I will be.
 - (b) When I neglect His guidance **and** first seek help from human sources I am left hungry, malnourished, w/a **sour** taste in my mouth.
 - (2) If I don't know the word of God, how will I know if the advice I'm given is biblical?
 - (3) The prophet Isaiah said, *Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy? Listen carefully to Me, and eat what is*

*good, And let your soul **delight** itself in abundance.* Is.55:2

6. Slide12 A spiritually divided heart is **fearful**.

- a) *I will speak of Your testimonies also before kings, And will not be ashamed. And I will delight myself in Your commandments, Which I love.* Ps.119:46-47
- b) If my *Mon-Sat life* does not line up with my *Sun life*, I should be afraid to speak of my faith.
- c) Without a *living, active gospel* displayed through my life, I will be put to shame when I witness to others. *How can I preach to someone when my life is the opposite of my message?*

K. Every time you read Psalm 119 be reminded to **check your heart-status**.

1. Am I whole-heartedly seeking God and His word **or** am I offering up only the **pieces** I prefer?
2. Make your desire to live with an *undivided heart*, wholly united w/God's word.

IV. Slide13 **ADVERSARIES W/IN & W/OUT (9-25)** *Consequences: civil war, 2 enemies*

- A. God now spans Solomon with *3 human rods*. Hadad, Rezon, & Jeroboam.
- B. (9) *The Lord became angry with Solomon*. (used for *divine anger* only, 14 x's)
 1. His sin was aggravated by the great privileges he enjoyed. **Eg.** God appearing to him **twice**.
- C. **Really**, he built these high places *on the hill that is east of Jerusalem*. (7)
 1. This is not another than **the Mount of olives**. **Jesus loves this mountain**.
- D. (21,22) **Hadad** didn't even know why he wanted to leave Egypt.
 1. Like *migratory birds* feel the call to southern lands.
 2. **But** behind the scenes...**It was God** (14). *God's overruling hand!*

V. Slide14 **JEROBOAM & REHOBOAM (26-40)** *Jeroboam's Rebellion*

A. R & J -

VI. Slide15 **DEATH OF SOLOMON (41-43)** *Solomon's Death*

- A. He started well, but finished poorly. What a **bold contrast** with the testimony of Paul, *I have fought the good fight, I finished the race, I kept the faith.* 2 Tim.4:7
- B. Solomon's sun, which had risen in such *splendor*, was now about to set behind *the darkest clouds*.
- C. Rehoboam - reigned over *all Israel* a very short time. *The seeds of division planted in the time of Solomon now came to full bloom.*
- D. Jesus final words...Mt.22:37 *You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart...*

E. Contemplation Time:

1. What are you clinging to?
2. Which heart best sums up mine tonight?...*distracted heart. Idolatrous heart. Troubled heart. Deviated heart. Hot/warm/cold. Black/white/pale. Whole/divided. Wise/Foolish.*
3. **Emotionally unstable** or **happy** heart?
4. A **wandering** heart or one on a **straight path**?
5. A **selfish** heart or a **selfless** one?
6. An **inconsistent** heart or a consistent one?
7. A **sour** heart or **sweet**?
8. A fearful heart or a **Brave-Heart**?
 - a) William Wallace: *Every man dies, not every man really lives.*