



What Went Wrong? #1 :: A Little at a Time {Jeff Henderson}

INTRODUCTION

We see it all the time. Young athletes failing to realize their full potential. Emerging entrepreneurial organizations losing their momentum. Aspiring politicians squandering their influence through poor moral decisions. Promising careers starting out so strong only to end up with disappointing results. And in each case, we ask the question, *what went wrong?* King Solomon was no exception. He had a meteoric rise to leadership blessed with all the wisdom, wealth, power, and influence – the likes of which the world had never seen before. Yet his life took a different trajectory. *What went wrong?*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you know any promising professionals that never lived up to their potential? What were the reasons for their disappointing outcomes?
2. As you look at your own life, when have you made a series of little decisions that have resulted in you being in an unfavorable position?
3. Read 1 Kings 11:4. Solomon's trajectory away from God happened slowly. Is this an accurate reflection of compromise or are there singular decisions that can wreck your life?
4. Read 1 Peter 5:8. Peter encourages his readers to stay alert for there is a prowling enemy. Do you see any evidence of the enemy's advances in your life?
5. What steps can you take to stay alert? How can you avoid being lulled to sleep like Solomon?
6. If you could address a letter to yourself, what advice would you give?

THINK ABOUT IT

“Oh it's not a big deal. I can handle it.”

That's not a successful strategy for staying alert. That's being incredibly passive and leaving yourself vulnerable. Be proactive. When you consider your friendships, are they inspiring you towards Jesus or away? When you consider your TV/movie/internet viewing patterns, how are you staying alert? How are you practicing selflessness to remind yourself that life isn't about you? What other areas of your life do you need to stay alert?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

This week, write a note to yourself that addresses this question: “If you could somehow give yourself advice, what would you say?” Leave it in a place where you can read it in several weeks.

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.

1 Peter 5:8