



It seems like there a few ways I could start the message off this morning. One way would be to just jump into the message and pretend that I have been at CPC for the last ten years. Another option would be to introduce myself, casually, by saying I'm the new Foster City Campus Pastor and roll right into the message. Another way would be to start off talking about how this is my first time preaching here and how excited my family is to be at CPC. I might ramble and talk about how excited I am to work with the team of leaders here at CPC. Eventually I would mention that I am pretty nervous to preach my first message. I may keep talking about how I have sat and studied this text for hours over the last couple weeks as I have been praying God would use this to shape lives here.

The last decade of my life has really been dedicated to seeing students draw closer to God; eight of those years have been in Sin City—Las Vegas. It would be fun to sit with you and share with you all the stories of life change. Let's start with Mark who came to me crying as a sophomore when he had made some unwise choices that he was regretting. I was able to pray with him but never really made a good connection until he was 20 years old when I started mentoring him. Mark is currently sold out for Jesus and going to Bible college. Then there is Nick who was a freshman in high school when he started attending our high school ministry. Nick was what we would call a difficult student; he had a problematic childhood and his parent's divorce scared him. That year though he came to winter camp and gave his life to Christ. It has been a blast seeing how God has changed him over the last five years of his life. I could keep going on and tell you about Alex who gave her life to Christ at a hardcore concert we held at our church. Then there is Kelly who was deeply broken by the death of her father and was invited to our high school ministry where one day she chose to make Jesus king of her life.

What is your story? Understanding that all of us are in a different place in our spiritual journey, where would you say you fall? From my experience in ministry there are many of you in this room that have made Jesus king of your life. Your desire, on a daily basis, is to exalt him as king and live your life for him. You may have made this decision as a young child and never left the church. You may have made this decision as an adult and have radically grown in your Christian walk. You may have made this decision somewhere else but God lead you to CPC to continue that growth.

Then there are some of you in this room that I have always called "seekers." I'm not sure I really like that word but you are actively seeking out this God-thing. Maybe someone around you made a commitment to Jesus and at first you were skeptical but over time you have seen how God has changed their life. The change in their life opened your eyes to a spiritual void in your life, which has created a desire in you for God. You are not totally sure about God yet but you are here and have committed to figuring this out.

Finally there are those of you in the room who are the people that have been "invited" (aka: dragged) here by a family member or good friend. You really didn't come on your own accord or maybe you felt guilty into coming this morning. In reality you could care less about God or maybe have negative feelings toward him because of a previous incident in your life. Either way you are here this morning. Whatever position you find yourself in I want to encourage you that there is a reason you're here this morning; nothing in this world happens on accident.

We are going to be in 1 Kings chapter 1 this morning. As Mark already mentioned in his video we are starting a new series called "The Wisest Fool" where we will look at the life of Solomon as found in 1 Kings chapters 1-11. Many conservative scholars believe that the prophet Jeremiah wrote the book of Kings around 627 B.C.

When King David was very old, he could not keep warm even when they put covers over him (1 Kings 1:1).

The story of the wisest fool doesn't start with Solomon but actually begins with his father David. When most people think of King David they think of a young shepherd boy that God called out of the desert to lead Israel. David was a handsome man who slayed bears, lions and the giant Goliath. This David that lead the nation of Israel in military campaign is the same David who broke five of the Ten Commandments in one day with Bathsheba. We tend to think of David as a strong military leader, great Psalm writer and someone who is loved by the people. 1 Kings paints a different picture of David.

So his attendants said to him, "Let us look for a young virgin to serve the king and take care of him. She can lie beside him so that our lord the king may keep warm." Then they searched throughout Israel for a beautiful young woman and found Abishag, a Shunammite, and brought her to the

king. The woman was very beautiful; she took care of the king and waited on him, but the king had no sexual relations with her (verses 2–4).

David is old, frail and on his deathbed. His attendants are aware of the king's failing health so they hold a Miss Israel competition to find a beautiful young virgin to keep the king warm in his old age. As so many people are concerned with the health of the king another problem is boiling under the surface that David's failing health reveals—a crisis of power.

As David is lying on his deathbed in the palace the murmurs in the street begin to increase as to what will become of the king. An opportunist in the kingdom sniffs out this crisis of power and the time to act is now for David's oldest son Adonijah. Who knows how long he has been working on this plan or how much he has gleaned from the failed plan of Absalom to take over the kingdom, but Adonijah decides that now is the time to act.

Now Adonijah, whose mother was Haggith, put himself forward and said, "I will be king." So he got chariots and horses ready, with fifty men to run ahead of him (v. 5).

He calls together his buddies, maybe sends out a mass text message, letting everyone know that he is the new king! To solidify his role he gets chariots and horses to run ahead of him and throws a big party! Adonijah is no dummy. He was aware that the best way to get people to support you that may not otherwise is to feed them, take care of their needs, and show them how you are a better king.

Now this probably wasn't a difficult task for Adonijah to accomplish. He is the oldest son, which generally means that he would be next in line for the kingship. The Bible gives us a nugget of truth into the life of Adonijah that we can't pass over.

His father had never rebuked him by asking, "Why do you behave as you do?" He was also very handsome and was born next after Absalom (v. 6).

Scripture tells us that Adonijah was a handsome "wild child." Adonijah had his plan in place, he had invited almost all the right people and was well on his way to becoming king, but the problem is he did it all the wrong way.

Nathan knows that something fishy is going on when he catches wind of what Adonijah is up to. The more he presses in to find the truth he realizes that Adonijah has acted in secret and left out some key people; Nathan being one of them.

He invited all his brothers, the king's sons, and all the royal officials of Judah, but he did not invite Nathan the prophet or Benaiah or the special guard or his brother Solomon (verses 9b–10).

The tension in Israel is increasing as to who the true king will be when Nathan heads over to Bathsheba's house to discuss what must be done to save Israel.

Then Nathan asked Bathsheba, Solomon's mother, "Have you not heard that Adonijah, the son of Haggith, has become king, and our lord David knows nothing about it? Now then, let me advise you how you can save your own life and the life of your son Solomon. Go in to King David and say to him, 'My lord the king, did you not swear to me your servant: "Surely Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne"? Why then has Adonijah become king?' While you are still there talking to the king, I will come in and add my word to what you have said" (verses 11–14).

This passage gives us an account of the conversation where Nathan and Bathsheba committed to stacking hands to save Israel. Knowing that Nathan is a prophet of the Lord it seems safe to say that he has every intention to encourage a plan that will be most beneficial for Israel.

After he and Bathsheba establish their plan it's time to execute the plan; they know that there is no time to waste as Adonijah has already begun his coup. Bathsheba probably put on her nice dress, some fancy perfume, before she heads over to the king's room where she promptly bows down before the king. Now the awkward part is that Abishag might have been there in the room with David trying to keep him warm. Bathsheba comes to plead with the king by telling him all that is going on in his kingdom. She fills David in on the whole story of Adonijah and is clear to remind David that he promised to have his son Solomon sit on the throne after him. Bathsheba ends her request with truth and passion knowing that if David fails to act death is certain for her and Solomon.

"My lord the king, the eyes of all Israel are on you, to learn from you who will sit on the throne of my lord the king after him. Otherwise, as soon as my lord the king is laid to rest with his ancestors, I and my son Solomon will be treated as criminals" (verses 20–21).

Now David doesn't really doesn't have any time to process all the information that Bathsheba has just given the king because at the very moment she finished speaking Nathan the prophet comes to the room of the king. Nathan reiterates the same information that Bathsheba has just shared with David confirming to the king what is taking place outside the palace. Nathan has a great approach method by asking David if he is the one who declared Adonijah king. Nathan reminds David of the people that Adonijah has invited to his secret party and asks if there was a reason he was intentionally left out of the loop. The man who knows the deep secrets of the king just asks for the king to share the truth.

Nathan said, "Have you, my lord the king, declared that Adonijah shall be king after you, and that he will sit on your throne?" (v. 24).

“Is this something my lord the king has done without letting his servants know who should sit on the throne of my lord the king after him?” (v. 27).

Nathan wasn't rude in his approach but he was frank with the king in his questions and is looking for answers.

We have hit the point in the story where we need to ask what is going to happen! The cliffhanger is there and it's time to see what David will do in response to these questions. This is the point in the movie where you start to wonder if the bad guy is really going to win or will justice prevail. Will the right people do the right things or will the story end in hopeless despair?

At this point David calls Bathsheba back into his room where he confirms to her that he will indeed act on the promise that he had once made to make Solomon king. We have to read what David said because although David is in poor physical condition we see that the mind of the king is still as sharp as ever.

The king then took an oath: “As surely as the Lord lives, who has delivered me out of every trouble, I will surely carry out this very day what I swore to you by the Lord, the God of Israel: Solomon your son shall be king after me, and he will sit on my throne in my place” (verses 29–30).

David acts on his promise and acts immediately; there is no time to slow down and grab a coffee! He calls in his three closest attendants: the priest, the prophet, and his personal bodyguard. David lays out a precise plan that will put the kingship firmly in Solomon's hand and dispel any coup that has taken place.

David has clear instruction for these three men to take Solomon, put him on David's personal mule, lead him to Gihon where they will publicly anoint him king.

He said to them: “Take your lord's servants with you and have Solomon my son mount my own mule and take him down to Gihon. There have Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him king over Israel. Blow the trumpet and shout, ‘Long live King Solomon!’ Then you are to go up with him, and he is to come and sit on my throne and reign in my place. I have appointed him ruler over Israel and Judah” (verses 33–35).

After they do that they are to bring Solomon up to sit on David's throne as the new leader of Israel. Immediately these men do as David instructed by taking Solomon down to Gihon and anointing him king over Israel.

Imagine if you were living in Israel at this time, you would surely have heard about Adonijah and been wondering what would happen to the throne. So let's say you are sitting at the local coffee shop where you catch a glimpse of Nathan the prophet, Zadok the priest, and Benaiah taking Solomon down to Gihon on the king's personal mule. You have heard about what Adonijah

has done but the people he called together are like the “B” team compared to these guys. You leave your coffee, send a quick tweet to let everyone know what is happening, and begin to follow these men where you have a unique opportunity to see Solomon anointed as the new king of Israel. Now you are not the only person who saw this; people are lining the streets to see Solomon, Facebook is blowing up, Instagram has pics, and the streets are rejoicing with the decision made by David.

So Zadok the priest, Nathan the prophet, Benaiah son of Jehoiada, the Kerethites and the Pelethites went down and had Solomon mount King David's mule, and they escorted him to Gihon. Zadok the priest took the horn of oil from the sacred tent and anointed Solomon. Then they sounded the trumpet and all the people shouted, “Long live King Solomon!” And all the people went up after him, playing pipes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound (verses 38–40).

Imagine the joy that King David would have felt when he heard the sound of the people cheering for his son Solomon. This morning he laid in his deathbed wondering what would happen to the promises that God had made to him. The discouragement from Adonijah could have added a few more gray hairs to his head but the joy that is coming from the streets of Israel may not warm his body but it lifts his spirit. David finds hope in knowing that he will have one of his sons who is competent to sit on the throne after him.

At this point you may be thinking to yourself something like this: “So what Neal! What does this story with all these difficult names have to do with me?” I am glad you asked because I was just about to get there! As I have been studying this text it seems clear that we have one main point that we can take from this passage: I need to focus on living for the King. For us, that means living for Jesus Christ. He is the King of Kings and true Son of David that we serve today. This story has actually revealed four practical ways that we can do that.

Don't be Adonijah

The first application point is don't be Adonijah. Now generally I wouldn't use a negative for an action point but there is really no other way to say it. The lessons that we learn from Adonijah are the exact actions that we do not want to do as the people of God. These are things that we know about; things that we know we shouldn't do but we continue to do them anyway. For the student in the room this could mean that you stop flirting with the student in your class that you are attracted to but know God doesn't approve of. For the college student this could mean that you don't submit that paper that you “borrowed” from your older brother. For the mother in the room it may involve gossiping less about the other moms at the park. These are the simple things we know we aren't supposed to do but for some reason we find a way to justify our actions when we do them.

Be willing to stand up for what is right

The second thing you can do is be willing to stand up for what is right. When we were looking at the story did you notice how Nathan and Bathsheba were willing to take a risk and stick their neck out for the sake of the true king? They remind us there are critical times for us to act on behalf of the King and his kingdom. Like them we should act courageously and work towards anything that advances his kingdom. We can do this in the marketplace by being men and women of integrity. We can do this in our home by picking our shoes up off the floor, or decide to be the first to say "I'm sorry" when we have messed up. We can do this in society by opposing injustice. We can do this in the ministry of the church by inviting friends to worship, welcoming people, supporting missionaries, praying for people. We can do this in our homes by protecting our marriage. We can do this with our children by choosing to spend time with them instead of ignoring them out of frustration. Will you stand up for what is right?

Trust that God will fulfill His promises

The third thing that you can take from this message is trust that God will fulfill his promises. This is a lesson that we learn directly from the attitude of Solomon. If you notice there is never a point in this text where Solomon acts on his own behalf. Maybe your marriage is in a rough place this morning and you are ready to give up but when you were praying six months ago you felt God speak to you that he would save it; don't give up. Maybe you

walked into this room this morning having the worst week of your life and you are ready to give up on your faith; hold on and don't give up on God. If you are not sure what the promises are that God has for your life, I would like to show you where they are. The Bible is full of promises for God's people.

Worship the true king

The most important action item is something that we all need to do: Worship the true King. In this account we see a glimpse into the life of Christ. Just as Solomon rode a mule into the city our King Jesus rode a donkey into the city. He was not anointed with oil but with water in the Jordan River when the Spirit descended upon him. His crown was much different than that of Solomon's crown and his throne was not ready immediately. The crown for Christ was a crown of thorns as he hung on the cross to forgive us from our sins. He did not take his throne until his accession back to Heaven where He sits at the right hand of God the Father.

Could you imagine what we could do on the Peninsula if this week we chose to worship the true King and made the focus of our lives on living for the King? I think that marriages would begin to see healing, children would feel comfortable at home, students would understand the love of Jesus in a new way. It's amazing what happens when a group of people commit to living their life for the True King.

This manuscript represents the bulk of what was preached at CPC. For further detail, please refer to the audio recording of this sermon.