

Solomon

Brynmawr Family Church Sermon (Family Service)
Stuart Wheatman, Sunday 23rd Aug 2009

Intro

- If you could be characterised by a Mr Man which one would be you? Identify the 4 Mr Men. Mr Happy, Mr Clever, Mr Greedy and Mr Miserable. Today we're going to look at the life of a man who started out as Mr Happy, then became Mr Clever, and then became Mr Greedy. Finally he ends up as Mr Miserable. The man's name is Solomon.

Read 1Kings 3:1-15

Mr Happy

- *Mr Happy is the third book in the Mr Men series by Roger Hargreaves. Mr Happy discovers Mr Miserable (who looks exactly like him) and helps him become happy. His catchphrase: "Wonderful!" He also has a deepish voice, sounding like a stereotyped game show host.*
- Solomon must have been happy as he was a generous person and they are usually happy people. See his generosity to God in v4 (1000 burnt offerings). This was extreme generosity- like the woman pouring a pint of Nard on Jesus' feet, worth a year's wages. Solomon knew that worship should cost him something- it is our generosity towards God. How generous are we to God?
- Look at God's response in v5- God responds to man's generosity in worship- God wanted to give back to Solomon. Sometimes we want God to bless us, even when we grumble to God rather than worship Him. Also see his thankfulness to God in v15. How much of God's blessings do we just take for granted?
- Solomon was also generous to people (see in v15 also). Jesus said that generous people ('good eye') are full of light, whereas stingy people are full of darkness. As we are generous we will become filled with joy rather than miserable like misers.
- TAMPA, Florida - With wads of cash strapped to his body and hoping to make some people happy, Kevin Shelton gave away \$1 bills while strolling through a mall. In two hours, Shelton says he gave away about \$7,000 - with only smiles and "thank yous" to show for it. "It's what I choose to do," he said Friday after the cash giveaway. "I think it's making an impact." Shelton, 32, says he earned his money buying and selling real estate in the Tampa Bay area. Reactions at the International Plaza varied - from hugs to lectures for not giving the money to the poor. Most shoppers happily took the free money and walked away giggling. Some vowed to give it away. Others planned to buy a lottery ticket. Shelton began doling out cash last year as a way to brighten people's day and spark generosity. He swears it's not a gimmick. He says he doesn't keep track of what he gives away, but guesses it's in the tens of thousands.
- If you find yourself getting miserly, begin to scatter, like a wealthy farmer in New York State that I heard of. He was a noted miser but later he was converted. Soon after, a poor man who had been burned out and had no provisions, came to him for help. The farmer thought he would be liberal and give him a ham from his smokehouse. On his way to get it, the tempter whispered to him: "Give him the smallest one you have." He had a struggle whether he would give a large ham or a small ham, but finally he took down the largest he could find. "You are a fool," the devil said. "If you don't keep still," the farmer replied, "I'll give him every ham I have in the smokehouse." -- Gospel Herald

Mr Clever

- *Mr. Clever is the thirty-seventh book in the Mr Men series. Mr. Clever lives in Cleverland. He is one of the smartest people in the world and is one of the few characters with visible ears.*
- (Play game of choosing the most costly item). In a dream God offered Solomon anything he wanted. What would you ask for? Solomon was in charge of a lot of people and needed God's help. He was also taking over from his Dad, David, a great king. Solomon put God first- he asked God for wisdom- knowing how God would do things- WWJD. Solomon wrote 'fear of the Lord is the start of wisdom'- this means being more concerned about what God thinks than about what others think. It is making God the foundation of our lives. Jesus said that if we hear and do

what He says we are like a house with the right foundations.

- God was pleased with His answer and gave him also all the things he could have asked for- money, fame, and if he obeyed God, a long life. There was also peace in Solomon's lifetime, and his name means 'peace'- shalomo 'shalom'. The Bible says seek first His kingdom and righteousness and all we need will be added to us on top. What are your desires in life? Prioritise God's kingdom over them and God will supply.
- Solomon wrote many proverbs or wise sayings.
- Words of wisdom from children...Never trust a dog to watch your food (Patrick, age 10). When your dad is mad and asks you, "Do I look stupid?" don't answer him (Michael, 14). Never tell your mum her diet's not working (Michael, 14). Stay away from prunes (Randy, 9). Puppies still have bad breath even after eating a Tic-Tac (Andrew, 9). You can't hide a piece of broccoli in a glass of milk (Armira, 9). Felt markers are not good to use as lipstick (Lauren, 9). Never try to baptize a cat (Eileen, 8).
- Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip. After a good meal they lay down for the night and went to sleep. Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up at the sky and tell me what you see." Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars." Holmes asked, "What does that tell you?" Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is omnipotent and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow." "What does it tell you?" Holmes was silent for a minute, and then spoke. "Watson, you meathead. Someone has stolen our tent!"

Mr Greedy

- *Mr Greedy is the second book in the Mr Men series. The story begins with Mr. Greedy waking up and having his overly large daily breakfast. He then goes on a walk afterwards and finds his way into a cave where everything is larger than life and he begins to explore, finding larger than normal food. Mr. Greedy is then picked up by a giant who then teaches him a lesson and makes him eat all the giant food, making Mr. Greedy end up bigger and feeling like he would burst at any moment. The giant agrees to let him go as long as he promises to never be greedy again. Mr. Greedy promises and then at the end he is still keeping the promise and now has lost some weight, and it shows him looking much thinner at the end.*
- Rd Duet 17:16-19. Here are boundaries given by God to the king. These boundaries were to be read every day by the King so that they would not be broken. The boundaries were: do not multiply horses or make people return to Egypt; do not marry many foreign wives or Canaanites as they will lead you astray; do not multiply gold and silver for yourself. Solomon broke all of these:
Gold. 1Kings 10:14,2,271- '666' talents of gold (about 25 tons, aside from income from taxes on traders and governors) even Solomon's cups were gold and all the utensils in the palace for silver was counted as nothing. He made silver as common as stones in Jerusalem. Jesus said a person's life does not consist of the abundance of their possessions. Riches are deceitful (parable of sower). The desire to get rich is a snare.
Horses. 1Kings 10:26- Solomon gathered 1,400 chariots and 12,000 horsemen and had chariot cities built (see ruins at Megiddo). Horses spoke of power and prestige- Israel was to trust in God, not in the horse or the power of their army. Where does our security lie? Solomon also imported horses from Egypt- 1Kings 10:28-29. 'Egypt' meant going back to the place where they were slaves. For us it means not going back to our old ways when we did not know God, no matter how tempting it is.
Wives. Solomon married foreign wives from nations God forbade him to due to their idolatry (1Kings 11:1-2). He also accumulated many wives which God had said not to do (1Kings 11:3 700 wives and 300 concubines= 1000 wives!). They turned his heart away from God (1Kings 11:4-8).
- Solomon broke boundaries and lived to excess (Ecc 2:1-11). He lived for his own

pleasures even though due to his wisdom he knew it was wrong. Even good things for us can become harmful in excess- e.g. Water intoxication (Andy Warhol- given too much water after routine kidney operation, Leah Betts 1995- wasn't the ecstasy tablet)

From Times Online Jan 15, 2007. A woman from California has died after taking part in a radio competition to drink as much water as she could without going to the toilet. Jennifer Lea Strange, 28, was found dead in her Sacramento home by her mother at 2pm on Friday after taking part in "Hold Your Wee for a Wii", a competition to win the new Nintendo Wii console. At around 9am that day, she had joined 18 other participants in a contest to see how much water they could consume without going to the lavatory in a competition being run by the radio station KDND 107.9. The contest — during which participants were initially handed 237-millilitre bottles of water to drink every 15 minutes, and then given larger quantities if they lasted long enough — was around three hours long. Ed Smith, the Sacramento County assistant coroner, said Ms Strange, a medical secretary, was likely to have died of the rare condition of water intoxication. He said that a preliminary autopsy could not determine exactly how much water Ms Strange had consumed, but it was "excessive". The woman had no life-threatening medical conditions and that her sudden death was "consistent with a water-intoxication death", Mr Smith added. Water intoxication, or water poisoning, is a potentially fatal condition when a person consumes a large quantity of water and their bodily fluids become overly diluted, causing sodium levels to fall below normal. This can lead to brain swelling, seizures, coma and, in severe cases, death.

- In 1981 Daniel Yankelovitch published a book entitled "New Rules: Searching for Self-Fulfillment in a World Turned Upside Down." He says that through many interviews and polls society has so changed morally that many people justify excess. He says, "In their extreme form the new rules simply turn the old ones on their head, and in place of the old self-denial ethic we find people who refuse to deny anything to themselves -- not out of bottomless appetite, but on the strange moral principle that 'I have a duty to myself.'" (p. xviii).

Mr Miserable

- *Mr. Miserable only appears in one story, that of Mr Happy. He lives in a room deep underground which is accessed by a door in a tree. He is the spitting image of Mr. Happy, except that he is as miserable as Mr. Happy is happy. He wants to be happy but decides that he is just miserable by nature. Mr. Happy invites his new friend to stay at his cottage for a while and there Mr. Miserable learns to be happy and even falls about with laughter, with Mr. Happy and others joining in.*
- Solomon ended his days depressed by the mistakes he had made and writes us a warning in the book of Ecclesiastes- 10-11,17. His conclusions is to do what he started off doing in his life-put God first (Ecc 12:13-14)

Conclusion

- As we learn from a wise man's mistakes and place God on the highest place in our lives, living selfless, generous before God and man we will avoid a whole world of needless pain and fulfill our destiny.

Song: *All I once held dear*