



Reading: Read 1 Kings chapter 1

Key Thought: Putting God's will above our rights. Don't worry or run after things - seek God first, and the rest will be added to you. **(Matt 6v33 - Paraphrase)**

Context: King David had reigned for 40 years over Judah, and for 33 years over Judah and Israel together; and at the age of 70 his life was near the end. God's hand was at work both in the ancestors of David – Ruth and Boaz, and in his descendants too. After all, this was the line of Jesus the Messiah. It always surprises me who God chooses to use. So ... Ruth was a Moabitess (not even an Israelite); David was the youngest of seven sons; and Solomons mother, Bathsheba, had committed adultery with David (Bathsheba became David's 8th wife).

But God chose Solomon for a reason and for a purpose. Under his rule Israel was to know peace for 40 years. However, there was to be trouble. Solomon was one of David's youngest children. Adonijah (David's eldest surviving son, the first three had died), saw himself as the rightful successor to the throne.

Content:

King David was near the end of his life, and in attempt to secure the throne for himself Adonijah took things into his own hand. He wasn't only taking the throne prematurely from David, but also from God's chosen successor.

As was the custom, David had a young woman, Abishag, to keep him warm in bed (and not for any other reason). But Adonijah coveted her as well. Adonijah used the army to try and effect a coup d'etat. However, the prophet Nathan – a godly man who was trusted by David - heard of this and devised a plan with Bathsheba to bring it before David's attention, with a view to seeing Solomon made king with immediate effect.

I believe that David and Nathan understood God's will in this action. (Read 1 Chronicles 28v1-7). And so, Solomon is paraded in the streets on a donkey, anointed by the priest, given a trumpet fanfare. And there was singing and dancing, and shouts of 'Long live the King' (1 Kings 1v28-40).

On hearing this Adonijah became afraid for his life and sought asylum at the altar.

Challenges:

- In this situation of 'fighting for our rights', would we be more like Adonijah or Solomon? Do we take things into our own hands or wait for God to work out his purposes?
- Nathan the prophet and Bathsheba spoke up for Solomon. Do we look to people who are older and spiritually wiser than us for guidance and advice?
- Nathan acted on the prophecy from 1 Chronicles 28v5. He was fighting for God's will, not predominantly for Solomon's rights. Sometimes, fighting for our rights can be a trap that will lead us away from God. Seeking God for his mind, will safeguard us from making mistakes.

We can only benefit when we seek God first. "But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore, do not worry about tomorrow". (Matthew 6v33&34)

Communicate:

Feel free to let us know if you have questions or comments about this study. Perhaps you have a testimony or word of encouragement that might help others. Or maybe you would like prayer as you begin a new thing for God in your life. We will gladly get back to you.