

Wasted

By Justin Morton

How many times have you heard a person nearing the end of his life speak about the regrets he had? My guess is you probably have heard several people speak of regrets and wasted opportunities. That seems to be a big part of people's lives, right? After all, most of us have regrets.

Solomon was no different than anyone else who had spent years living a "successful" life. And yet, he had his share of regrets. Solomon wrote, *"Then I became great and increased more than all who preceded me in Jerusalem. My wisdom also stood by me. All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor. Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was no profit under the sun"* (Eccl. 2:9-11).

You can hear Solomon's pain. Solomon, who was reflecting back on his life, says everything he had and everything he did was vanity. Meaningless. Solomon had regrets because he wasted too much of his life chasing after futile things.

Perhaps the saddest part of all this is Solomon's great beginning. He had the potential to live a very impactful life. Let's consider a few of the reasons Solomon had great potential.

Solomon was Blessed. Consider who Solomon had as a father: David. Solomon was the son of David (2 Sam. 12:24). Can you imagine your dad being the only person in the world who is described as a man after God's own heart? Not only that, but just imagine the bragging rights Solomon had! "Your dad may be tough, but my dad killed a giant."

Solomon was Loved. He wasn't just loved by his parents, Solomon was loved by the Lord (2 Sam. 12:25-26). In fact, Solomon was called Jedidiah, which means, "Beloved of the Lord." The giving of this name suggests the Lord's special favor on Solomon from his birth.

Solomon was Successful. According to the inspired Word, the kingdom was well established under the hand of Solomon (1 Kgs. 2:46). As far as being king goes, at least early on, Solomon was successful.

Solomon was Different. God appeared to Solomon and told him to ask anything he wished (1 Kgs. 3:5). While some people might have chosen fame or fortune, Solomon was different. He realized he was too inexperienced for the task of being king and asked God to bless him with wisdom (1 Kgs. 3:7-9). Certainly, Solomon was very different from most other young people his age.

Solomon had all the potential in the world to make a great impact. Instead, looking back on his life, he was filled with regret and heartache because he wasted opportunities.

May we make the most of our opportunities to serve and glorify God so we don't look back on our lives someday and feel as though it was wasted!