

## Things That Are True To Life

### TODAY'S PASSAGE:

#### **I Kings 11**

Often we study or teach Scripture as if it were some academic lesson rather than real life. No wonder so many of us are bored with our Bibles. We're missing out on the best lessons of God's Word by failing to pick up on the experiences of the people in it. What I love about the Bible is that it always returns me to reality. It never paints its characters with whitewash. If necessary, it hangs the dirty laundry right out the front window to tell me what really happened.

Are you the kind of person that ponders, "If only . . .?" "If only I had more money, I could spend more time for God." "If only I were a bit smarter, I could have a better job." "If only I could move up in the world, I could make more of a difference on those around me."

Sometimes we focus our attention on the success stories of the Bible and feel very inferior spiritually as well as emotionally. But it's always a mistake to compare our own failures with someone else's successes. Let's instead check our failures against theirs. And perhaps there's no better example to examine than King Solomon.

Before you read today's passage, skim through **I Kings 3:20-4:34** and **10:14-29**. At this time, Solomon was perhaps the richest man on earth. He was certainly the wisest. His kingdom was at peace. Spiritually, he was the one who built and dedicated the Lord's temple. He never had to wonder what life would be "if only." Then we come to **I Kings 11** - literally the "final" chapter in Solomon's life.

Read **I Kings 11:1-13**. Consider:

How could someone as wise as Solomon make the mistake he did?

Why do you think Solomon got involved with so many women?

## TRUTH THAT TRANSFORMS

---

What did Solomon's human relationships have to do with his relationship with God?

What lessons can you find in this section that are just as true to life today as they were in Solomon's time? In addition to obvious observations, look for other lessons as well. For example, Solomon didn't receive the full brunt of God's displeasure. Is that something you can relate to? Or perhaps you understand what it's like to have a future that doesn't look as bright as you might hope, yet isn't exactly hopeless.