



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 22

**Lesson Title:** Solomon Follows False Gods

**Take Home Point:** Keep God on top.

#### **Warm-Up:**

We have all heard the story about the frog that is put into tepid water – it feels good to the cold-blooded amphibian and there is no sense of danger so he doesn't move. But then, as the temperature is slowly raised, the frog adapts to it until it is too late and he is killed by boiling water. That story is a good analogy of how we miss the impending peril if we become accustomed to a sin slowly but steadily. We rarely decide to jump into "serious" sin at one leap. Now the frog didn't have much of a choice about being put into the water of the experiment, but we can choose whether or not we yield to sin's temptation and get "into hot water" in the first place – one decision at a time.

**Read:** 1 Kings 11

#### **Observation (What happened?):**

What did Solomon do to please his many foreign wives?

Why was the Lord angry with Solomon?

#### **Interpretation (What does it mean?):**

Do you think Solomon initially intended to follow other gods?

How does it appear that Solomon responded to the Lord's rebuke in 1 Kings 11:11-13?

#### **Insight:**

It's sad to read about Solomon slipping into sin, isn't it? I doubt he started out with the idea that he would turn away from God, but that happened anyway. Just a simple statue, then another, then another, then going with a wife to her ceremony, then becoming part of the worship, then turning away from God with a hardened heart. Just like Solomon, as we sin, we gradually develop a hardness of heart. We may fool ourselves into thinking everything is as it was in our relationship to God, but the effect is relentless and sure. It is the original "slippery slope," and only God reaching out can keep us from sliding all the way to hell. King Solomon had every advantage possible, but he chose to leave it behind, one small decision after another. Still today, so many people refuse God's lifelong presence and strength because of sin's steady enticement.

#### **Application (What does it mean to me?):**

In what area of your life do you need to be alert to Satan's temptations to put something ahead of God?

What example are you giving your children of keeping God on top?

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