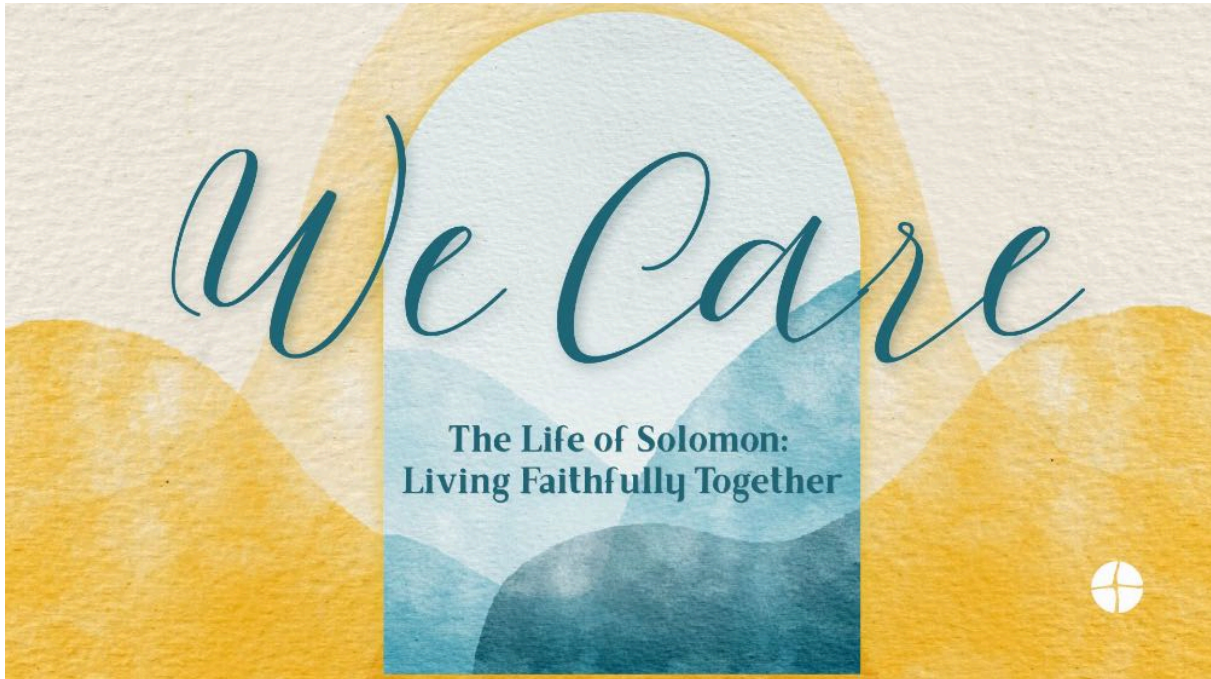


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Worship Set and Sermon Notes



Worship Set

Able

Faithful To The End

I've Witnessed It

Jesus Be The Name

We Care: The God Behind the Blessing

1 Kings 10:1–13, 23–25

We're in week four of WE CARE, walking through the life of Solomon and asking one question: *How do we faithfully live the life God has entrusted to us?* This week, the Queen of Sheba travels a thousand miles to see if the reports about Solomon are true. **When she arrives, she sees far more than wealth and wisdom—she sees the God behind it all, and she leaves praising Him instead of Solomon.** Solomon has more than most people could ever imagine, yet his story reveals that the deepest purpose of a blessed life was never to end with us. This week we'll look at what it means for our lives to make God visible, and what it means to let His blessings flow through our hands instead of building up around them.

A Life That Makes God Visible

The Queen comes with *chidot*—hard questions meant to test whether Solomon's wisdom was real (v. 1), and "Solomon had answers for all her questions; nothing was too hard for the king to explain" (v. 3). But it's what she sees that undoes her: his palace, his table, his officials—and "the burnt offerings Solomon made at the Temple of the LORD" (v. 5). The writer takes her all the way to the altar, because we haven't really seen Solomon's life until we've seen how he worships. She says, "I had not heard the half of it!" (v. 7), and then names the real subject: "Praise the LORD your God" (v. 9). **She isn't simply impressed by Solomon—she is overwhelmed by the God she sees through him**, and that's exactly what Solomon prayed for at the temple's dedication: that the whole earth would come to know God's name (8:41–43, 60). God's blessing on Solomon's life becomes a window, not a mirror—something people look *through*, not something they stop and stare *at*.

Blessing Is Meant to Flow

The Queen gives Solomon roughly 9,000 pounds of gold; Solomon gives back "whatever she asked for," besides all he'd already given her (v. 13). Nobody keeps score—the blessing just keeps moving. But the text won't let us forget the source: "wisdom God had given him" (v. 24). Then the tone quietly shifts. "Solomon built up a huge force of chariots and horses" (v. 26)—the very stockpiling Deuteronomy 17:16–17 warned Israel's kings against. **What God places in our hands is never meant to stop with us—it's meant to move through us**, and the moment it stops moving, it starts becoming something else. Like the Dead Sea, which receives every day but gives nothing away, a life that only accumulates ends up lifeless.

This Week

Generosity was never meant to end with us. **When God's people steward His blessings together with open hands, our shared abundance becomes a doorway that points others toward Him.** Solomon shows us what an open-handed life looks like, but he can't give us the heart to live it—for that, we need Someone greater. Jesus opened His hands for us on the cross, and because we've already been given everything we need in Him, we're free to live open-handed too.

Next Step: Let's become a church with open hands that point people to God. Everything we have is a gift from Him. This week, practice gratitude

by asking not, "What can I keep?" but, "How can what God has given us help someone encounter His goodness?"