

WE DON'T KNOW THE HALF OF IT!

(Sermon Summary)

Reading: 1 Kings 10:1-13.

The Old Testament prepares us for the coming of someone greater. That Person is the Lord Jesus Christ. Moses, David, and Jonah all represent something that is fulfilled in the Lord's ministry. We are told in Matthew 12:42 that the Lord is a 'greater than Solomon' and the reference to the Queen of Sheba is in that passage. Her testimony of what she found when she had met Solomon is reported in 1 Kings 10:7. We meet someone greater still when we meet the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. A report worth investigating.

The Queen of Sheba had been told about Solomon, his greatness and glory (see Matthew 6:29). She had heard about his wisdom and his words. The Lord has greater glory, wisdom, rulership, dwelling place and command. The Queen was compelled to come through what she heard and came from the ends of the earth. We should investigate the report about the Lord Jesus. A lot of people talk about Him. What are we hearing? Are the reports we hear accurate?

Some people don't bother to investigate. They write religion off. Others bother a little but are half-hearted in their investigation. They give up perhaps when they hear about hell or supernaturalism. Others do investigate and, like the Queen of Sheba, think it worth being thought odd by others to find out the truth.

We are to ask questions of our Lord as the Queen did of Solomon. Does He have answers to give us? Can we share with Him what is on our hearts?

2. Spending time with Him.

The Queen of Sheba was able to spend time with Solomon and learnt so much as a result. She listened to what he had to say and observed him carefully. We have to be teachable, like the Queen, if we are going to find out about the Lord Jesus. We cannot come full of our own opinions but have an open mind. We need to look at the words and actions, attitudes, and behaviour of the Lord Jesus. What do we make of it? In particular, what do we make of Him dying on the cross? We do not find Him at the most important moment of His dying in a palace, surrounded by cup bearers and servants. He has been deserted by everyone, including His Father.

When we spend time with Him, we realize that we are sinners and that He was dying for people who were guilty. These are ordinary people, like us, whose sins are of the everyday kind, but which condemn us. We have not lived for the glory of God but have been prayerless and careless about serving Him. We are generally impure and not sufficiently pro-righteousness. We are not passionate about the glory of God.

But the evidence against us of our moral and spiritual failure He makes His own. He has our crimes put to His charge. He personally takes the discredit of our guilt, shame and sin.

3. The half was not told us.

Conversion brings us so much realization and knowledge. But there is so much more to know. We have to humble ourselves so that we have no spirit left (v5). We then find that there is so much more to Him than we first realized (v6). We can make the mistake of thinking that being saved from hell and sin is all there is. Or that we just do religious duties and really not expect much to happen.

But our Lord keeps making an impact on our lives. He destroys the power of sin. We learn more about Him and His great love (Ephesians 3:17-19). We gain insights into ourselves, the world we live in, and the people we meet. We see there is glory to come which we shall share in in heaven. We can ask Him for many things and not exhaust His power or His wisdom. We will see that the half was not told us.