

**Discussion Questions for “Overlooked Wisdom: Avoiding Failure”**  
*1 Kings 11:1-43(Reading: 11:1-8), Pastor Tom Olson, Weekend of August 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025*

Sermon Outline

1. What do I do to avoid failing like Solomon?
  - a. Believe God’s warnings are for you (vv. 1-3, 9-10).
  - b. Watch your “weddings” (vv. 1-4).
  - c. Deal with sin now (v. 4).
  - d. Worship God (vv. 5-8).
2. What do I do if I’ve failed like Solomon? And, of course, the answer starts here:
  - a. Confess your sins (vv. 1-43).
  - b. Trust God’s character (vv. 11-13, 36, 39).
  - c. Tear down the high places (vv. 5-8).
3. What do I do if I’ve been let down by someone who failed like Solomon?
  - a. Look to the ministry, not the minister (v. 11).
  - b. Look to the King who came in Solomon’s line (v. 36).

Sermon Questions

1. Why are the events of 1 Kings 11 *relatable* to people like you and me?
2. Is there anything in your life...
  - a. ...that functions like *Solomon’s wives*, tempting your heart to turn away from God?
  - b. ...that functions like *Solomon’s high places*, tempting you to worship it instead of God?
3. What can you do to deal with these temptations *now*?
4. Why is it important to deal with sin and temptation *now* instead of waiting until *later*?
5. When you do fail, why can you be confident that confessing your sins is going to go *well*?
6. Why does *worship* help us battle sin and temptation?
7. How can we worship God – not just at worship services – but throughout the week?
8. Today’s message highlighted two things to do when you’ve been let down. What else has helped you that you’d add to the list?
9. Why are you grateful that chapters like 1 Kings 11 are in the Bible? Or, in other words, what would we lose out on if God’s Word didn’t tell us these true stories?
10. Any other takeaways from this passage or message?