



Stuff They Didn't Teach Me In Sunday School



Episode 074 - The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly (Part Two) 1 Kings 11

There frequently was tension among the twelve tribes of Israel. Even King David found it difficult to hold them together. When Solomon comes along and shows favoritism to the tribe of Judah, a division grows that will result in the nation being shattered in two.

- When have you seen favoritism divide a family, a classroom, a workplace or a church?
- How do you try to strike a balance and be fair with your friends and family members?

The pride and sinful human natures of Jesus' own twelve disciples led them to be jealous of and resentful toward one another, which threatened to divide them (Matthew 20:20-28). Jesus patiently taught them to humble themselves and look for opportunities to serve, even as He humbled Himself to serve us and give His life as a ransom for many.

- How can remembering Jesus' death on the cross help refocus our attention and heal the divisions between us?

Solomon may have been gifted with discernment and wisdom, but he still disobeyed God's directions. He took many foreign women into his harem and was led astray to worship their gods, rather than leading his people to Yahweh.

- How do you decide which friends you let into your inner circle?

After the exiles returned from the Babylonian captivity many of them were guilty of marrying foreign women. Nehemiah the governor used this point from Solomon's life to convict them of their sin (Nehemiah 13:23-27).