

# A Dying Father's Charge to His Son

1 Kings 2:1-4

Introduction:

- A. Solomon is selected to succeed his father on Israel's throne.
- B. David, old and near death, gives Solomon a solemn charge.
- C. David's charge involved two important facets of Solomon's life — personally and professionally.

Discussion:

## I. His Character (v. 2)

- A. "Be strong."
  - 1. Challenges of his life and office would require strength.
  - 2. Christians are to be strong (1 Cor. 16:13; Eph. 6:10-17; 2 Tim. 2:1).
  - 3. Strength cannot be maintained without food and exercise.
    - a. Responsibility of preachers and elders to feed. (1 Cor. 3:2-3; Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:2)
    - b. Responsibility of all to feed self as well (1 Pet. 2:2; Acts 17:11)
    - c. Responsibility of all to exercise (1 Tim. 4:7-8)
- B. "Show thyself a man" (cf. 1 Cor. 16:13; NKJ= "Be brave").
  - 1. Implies courage and strength (cf. 1 Sam. 4:9)
  - 2. Also implies maturity.
    - a. Need to be as children in some ways (Matt. 18:3).
    - b. Need to be men in many ways (cf. Matt. 11:16; 1 Cor. 13:11; Eph. 4:14)
    - c. Church suffers when people don't know when to be children and not to be.

## II. His Faithfulness (vv. 3-4).

- A. "Keep the charge of the Lord..."
  - 1. Solomon's prosperity as a person and king depended on this.
  - 2. Christians must keep the Lord's command (1 Cor. 11:2; 1 John 2:3,4; 5:2-3)
  - 3. Apostolic writings are commands (law) not mere "love letters" (1 Cor. 14:37).
- B. "As it is written" (cf. 2 Tim. 3:16,17)
  - 1. Jesus recognized the value of "it is written" (Matt. 4).
  - 2. Christians must learn not to go beyond what is written (1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18, 19).
- C. "Walk before Me in truth" (cf. 2 John 4; 3 John 3-4)
- D. "With all their heart and all their soul" (cf. Matt. 22:37; John 14:15, 21)

Conclusion:

- A. Solomon did not always follow his father's advice — he and nation suffered.
- B. If we would follow these principles we would be better for it.