

What did Solomon do when he came back to Jerusalem?

What should we seek first? **The Kingdom of God.**

Think—

God has chosen me; have I chosen him?
God is chosen when I think first how I can help.
God always gives more than I ask.

LESSON OUTLINE.

The Choice of a Lifetime.

I. AN OFFERED CHOICE.

God said, Ask, v. 5.

Ye shall ask what ye will. John 15. 7.

What would ye that I should do? Mark 10. 36.

II. A KING'S CHOICE.

Has made thy servant king, v. 7.

Washed us....made us kings. Rev. 1. 5. 6.

A chosen generation, a royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2. 9.

III. A YOUNG MAN'S CHOICE.

I am but a little child, v. 7.

Yet young and tender. 1 Chron. 29. 1.

Who is sufficient? 2 Cor. 2. 16.

IV. A WISE CHOICE.

An understanding heart, v. 9.

Happy....that findeth wisdom. Prov. 3. 13.

Lack wisdom....ask of God. James 1. 5.

V. AN ACCEPTABLE CHOICE.

The speech pleased the Lord, v. 10.

Not as pleasing men, but....God. 1 Thess. 2. 4.

Working in you....well-pleasing. Heb. 13. 22.

VI. A REWARDED CHOICE.

Given thee that....not asked, v. 13.

All these things....added. Matt. 6. 33.

Trust in the Lord....shall be fed. Psalm 37. 3.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

The reign of Solomon began with a great religious service, which was the last ever celebrated at the doors of the old tabernacle. It took place at the height of Gibeon, six miles north of Jerusalem, where for a generation the sacred tent and the brazen altar had stood, while the ark of the covenant was resting in its temporary shrine on Mount Zion. At Gibeon were assembled all the nobles of the realm, and a thousand burnt offerings smoked upon the ancient altar, while the trumpets of the Levites accompanied the chanting of the psalms of David. Under the splendor of the outward rites, true worship was not wanting. Day after day the young king continued in prayer before the altar, and at night the spirit of communion with God entered into his dreams. He seemed to see the form of Jehovah by his bedside, and a Voice bade him make his choice for life. He was a youth, with youth's fiery blood throbbing in his veins, with the world's visions rising in his sky; yet his choice was not of outward things, as most men choose now, and as most men chose then; it was not of pleasure, or of wealth, or of prosperity. He remembered the mighty trust reposed to his care, and forgetting himself, asked for wisdom to execute it. Only one higher choice could he have made, the aspiration after God, the highest good, and likeness to his character. The King of kings accepted the decision of the young monarch, and well pleased, promised that it should be granted. Wisdom should be his, and as its result would come prosperity, and riches, and honor. One hint only was given of his danger, in the admonition to walk in the ways of God, and gain thereby long life and enduring success. The vision faded, and Solomon knew that it was a dream. Yet it was a dream which revealed the young king's character, and pointed onward to his destiny.

Verse 5. In Gibeon. A hilltop six miles north of Jerusalem, where the ancient altar and tabernacle were standing in the days of Solomon. Hither Solomon had come to offer sacrifices, when the Lord spoke to him. **The Lord appeared.** Solomon's mind had been uplifted by the devotions of the day, and at night his thoughts were still fixed upon the subject of his prayer; and in his visions God met him. **In a dream.** This was but one of the many forms in which God had made himself known before the full revelation of his will in the Scriptures. **Ask what I shall give.** God knew both Solomon's needs and his desires,

but he gave him the privilege, as a test of his character, and as a lesson to others. (1) *Our dreams by night are often the reflection of our thoughts by day.* (2) *Every young man, like Solomon, makes his own choice of an ideal in life.*

6. Solomon said. He rests his petition upon the mercy which God had shown to his father, which now encourages him to ask like blessings. **Unto thy servant David . . . great mercy.** To David God had given prosperity, success, wide conquests, and a settled empire. **Walked before thee in truth.** David had indeed served God with an earnest heart. He had sinned, but his