



St. Michael's Church  
CHARLESTON, SC

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019

1 KINGS 8: 54-61  
LUKE 24:44-53

PREACHER: THE REV. AL ZADIG, JR.

HELP US LORD TO BE SO CONNECTED TO YOU THAT WE MIGHT BECOME THE SERVANTS  
OF OTHERS.

TAKE OUR LIPS AND SPEAK THROUGH THEM,  
OUR MINDS AND THINK THROUGH THEM,  
AND TAKE OUR HEARTS, AND SET THEM ON FIRE.

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Hurricanes are such mental torture aren't they?

If you've dealt with enough of them, you cringe at just how many hours you've spent  
glued to the weather channel where you torture yourself with:

- Spaghetti models
- European Models,
- American Models
- until your mind **feels like** Spaghetti!

You know you've watched too much weather channel when:

- You start humming their theme music
- Realize you know every word to every commercial!
- And You strive to get Jim Cantore's autograph

BUT in the beginning of every hurricane, when you're not sure where it's going to go...

**There comes that magic moment when you have to leave the tv and make a critical decision..**

**Will I say or will I Go?**

You're getting all those calls from relatives and friends from all over the country saying get out!

A decision has to be made:

- In the heart
- That then tells the mind what to do which then
- Directs our legs and arms!

Whether you stay or go though, you have to be: **"All in!"**

Sweet Debra Greene, one of our good friends and basket weaver on Meeting Street told me last week how her husband **had** HIS "All In" moment.

Hurricane Hugo was just beginning to hit, they were going to leave their house and go to a shelter, so they open their front door to leave and literally see their neighbor's roof blow off.

That one visual was his immediate tipping point to be **ALL IN!**

Right at home.

What were your ALL IN! hurricane moments this past week?

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Did you know that God

Is:

ALL IN!

For you?

No, he doesn't have it in for you...

God is **All IN!** For you!

The book of First Kings is proof!

Out of God's love for creation and being **All IN!** for His people...he asks Solomon to **build a temple.**

This temple would be THE place where heaven would meet earth.

The Temple: The great meeting-place between God and his people.

It's where the Jews would go to reconcile their relationship with God, be forgiven and restored to Him!

It was the place where through:

- The sacrifices of animals
- Burnt offerings,
- They could be forgiven, and set free..

The Place in other words that they become:

AT-ONE with God..

This:

- at-one-ment
- atone-ment happened in the temple, .

The Temple was God saying to His people:

I love you!

I will not abandon you..

I'm ALL IN!...for you.

Therefore God would not waste any detail on this temple.

As a symbol of God's heart, it was the most beautiful and largest building in the world at the time!

It took 7 years to build and it required:

- 200 thousand laborers
- 80,000 quarry workers
- 70,000 timber and stone workers
- 30,000 loggers

- And 3,600 foremen to manage the crews!

All for the purpose of God telling the world:

- **I'm All in! For you!**
- **I'm not an absentee God!**
- **This is my home away from heaven!**

It's Where he reveals his plan for us through the Ark of the Covenant that housed the 10 Commandments.

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God is ALL IN!..

Solomon the builder is ALL IN!!

Yes, Solomon who we've studied now for several weeks on Sundays and in our Gospel Project devotionals...

Quick Review:

- Solomon is Made King when his father King David dies
- Solomon asks for one thing-Wisdom!

After he receives wisdom, Solomon:

- Appoints his leadership team
- Builds cities
- Builds A navy
- Builds an Army
- Builds a palace..

This guy is ALL IN!!

HE THEN BUILDS:

- The Temple
- Then Dedicates and blesses it...

And yes, in his spare time would

Write 3 books:

1. Song of Solomon
2. Proverbs
3. And Ecclesiastes

**ALL** IN UNDER 40 YEARS, What many call:  
Israel's golden age-

The greatest years because Solomon's heart:  
Was ALL IN! for God.

I know this because of our reading from today out of Kings, Solomon's prayer of blessing over the Temple. The temple is now done..and in 1 Kings 8, verse 61....

Solomon looks at his people and says:

**Your** hearts

MUST BE Wholly-True:  
ALL IN!...

Some translations say:

- Fully Committed
- Fully Devoted
- Completely Faithful
- Totally obedient

**ALL IN!**

In this prayer over the temple, Solomon gives '4' key ingredients that make up what being ALL IN! means:

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**First ingredient...**

Verse 54: Solomon begins the blessing by standing up and speaking boldly with a loud voice.

There is a powerful confidence in the work he's doing..

Being all in! requires a posture of boldness...

The Bible says Solomon stands and blesses the people loudly using the **second ingredient**:

Praise!

Praise God!

Why?

God answers prayer! Not one promise has God missed in all His promises going back to Moses!

What were those promises?

God promises Moses in Deuteronomy 12:10:

“Moses, you will settle in the land I am giving you as an inheritance,

I will give you rest from all your enemies around you so you will live in safety!”

It’s why Solomon with boldness can say: Praise God who has given us safety “AS HE PROMISED!”

ALL IN!

- Boldness
- Praise from Kept Promises

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Ingredient:**

A hunger to be intimate with God...

Listen to the tenderness of the heart of Solomon:

“God, may you never leave nor forsake us, may my words in fact be near to you Lord day and night...Just be with us, at our side.”

Can you feel the intimacy of this language?

Interceding:

“God, please be fully present with us...”

I remember two weeks ago after moving our son Christian into his college dorm room.

On the way home in the car, we were on i-26,

It was such a sad scene.

- Everyone in the car was crying:
- Even Jaz the family dog I think was crying

- I was just trying to keep the car on the road!

It was a coolish evening, so I had the windows open.

But when we got to about 25 miles west of Charleston..

This blanket, this sweater of humidity  
envel-oped my arm--- Like...  
I had just driven through A humidity shield!

I immediately thought, what a symbol of the:

- Warmth
- Closeness
- And Intimacy with God...

God’s presence like that thick humidity totally saturating us. Next time you’re in the high humidity, think of the humidity as God’s presence.

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So, Being all in means a:

- Boldness
- Praise from Kept Promises
- And this hunger to be enveloped in the full presence of God.

All For the purpose of the 4th ingredient as Solomon continues in prayer, that:

“All the world, near and far might be saved! That the world would know there is no other name under heaven by which mankind can be saved!”

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That’s what being ALL IN! means!

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But lest we think we can generate this tipping point ourselves...

Solomon is clear that we can’t be ALL IN!, unless God Himself orients our heart...  
As Solomon prayed:

**May God turn our hearts to Him!**

**May HE incline our hearts to Him.**

God must do this in us, we can't generate it on our own.

So, being ALL IN! comes from God's initiative...

- Who gives us boldness
- Praise for kept promises
- A Hunger to be near
- A hunger that the world-beginning with our own family would know the Lord is Sovereign...

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### **The Temple is God's proof He's ALL IN!-for us...**

But YET...

God goes deeper-In-Still!

Words from John 3 come wafting up like hot chocolate on a hurricane day..

“God so loved the World,  
so ALL IN!  
for the world

that He

gave His only Son,

That all who believe in Him would not die but have everlasting life!”

- From Solomon's temple made from brick-
- To a human temple from amniotic fluid!

Jesus, born in a feeding trough in a Bethlehem Stable-

### **To be that BEING**

between heaven and earth to whom we go to be at-one-with God...

Ephesians Chapter 2:

“In Jesus the whole building is joined together and rises to become a Holy Temple in the Lord, built to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit!”

Jesus is the New Temple! Who dies to take our sin upon Himself!

How much more ALL IN! could God be-than Sacrificing His only Son that we would live?

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**Could God be any more all in than the**

**IN-**

**Carnation?**

The answer is YES..

Ephesians Chapter 5: Husbands love your wives as Christ loved---

THE CHURCH

and gave Himself up for her...

The Church, we together...are the Bride of Christ..

After Jesus died on the cross, he didn't leave us alone when He ascended.

Jesus left us with the power of the Holy Spirit, and called on us as a people, the church-to be His bride!

He is that ALL IN!!

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- God
  - All IN!
- Solomon:
  - ALL IN!
- Jesus:
  - ALL IN!
- The Church:
  - ALL IN!

My friends, do you see God's love for you, woven into the continuous thread of the SALVATION story over time?

Do you see how we're not part of a random universe with an absentee landlord!

God-JESUS-THE CHURCH... All IN!

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WE here today are the bride of Christ, and I stand before you after a long hot summer of preparation and planning to say yes, St. Michael's church is all in!

- We are ALL IN! For the Gospel
- We are ALL IN! To reach each one of you in your pew
- And we are ALL IN! to reach the same world that Solomon prayed over!

Who's the We?

- Your Vestry, your united board of 12 men and women..
- Your 12 Task forces, their chairs, liaisons and members
- All Your 26 Adult and Children Sunday School and Super Wednesday teachers
- All Your Life Group leaders
- Your entire staff..
- Every one of us in the pews!

ALL IN!

I think of David Richardson, chair of Congregational Care who has led the ALL IN! Charge of presenting a plan for how we care for each other!

I think of Hal Frampton, working all summer with our Children and Family Task Force to continue to build our ministries of discipleship from the youngest to the oldest.

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Logically, the next crazy question is this: Are you ALL IN!?

Crazy because only the Holy Spirit can turn our hearts to the Father.

So, a better question is:

Do you want to be ALL IN?

So many of you are, I'm just here to say:

You're needed!

And there are so many places to plug in!

- 1 of 12 task forces
- Sunday School for all ages
- Super Wednesday ministries
- Life Groups...

Being ALL IN!:

- It comes from God
- Who gives us boldness
- Praise for kept promises
- A Hunger to be intimate with Him
- A desire that the world-beginning with our own family would know the Lord is All In!

Quick disclaimer.

It's not easy to be or stay ALL IN!

Every time we pour out in ministry, we get a bit more drained...

Without the regular: God, fill me again, enable me to be all in...we can drift away...  
I've seen this drifting 'in' myself.

We can go from **all in** very quickly to: All OUT!

Solomon did.

Oh he began so well but as we said last week, Solomon ended up marrying 700 wives and began worshiping their gods.

Author Peter Kreeft writes that Solomon made three mistakes:

1. Too many women
2. Too many gods
3. And he let his:

- a. women choose his gods
- b. rather than letting God choose his **wo-man.**

- Either we are ALL IN! Evangelizing,
- Or the world is ALL IN!, evangelizing us.

It happened to Solomon, it can happen to any of us. To those who might be drifting, I say:

“We’ve all been there...”

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with an

- All-In Boldness,
- Praise
- A hunger for intimacy
- And a desire to tell the world!

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Finally, I think of the story of Rick Husband.

Rick was the commander of the Space Shuttle Columbia and one of the 7 astronauts on board the expedition to outer space. What you may not know about Rick was that he was All-In! For Christ-And All-In! for making faith in his family the most important commitment of his life. Before the launch,

He said:

“If I end up at the end of my life as an astronaut who sacrificed my family to be one, or lived my life not glorifying God, than I will look back with great regret.” One week before launch, Rick made a video tape for both of his children, Laura and Matthew. On each he recorded a separate Bible devotional for each of the days he was going to be in space.

He wrote:

“I’m doing this because I love you so much.”

On February 1, 2003, the shuttle exploded killing all on board, including: Rick Husband.

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Can you imagine how much those videos mean to Laura and Matthew today?

Rick's faith was his most important and lasting  
ALL-IN legacy.

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God:  
All in

His Son Jesus:  
All in for you

We the church:  
All in.