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1 Kings 10:7

7but I did not believe the reports until I came and my own eyes had seen it. And behold, the half was not told me. Your wisdom and prosperity surpass the report that I heard.

King Solomon had a reputation that spread throughout nations.
He had a reputation of being a blessed people.
A reputation of having the finest things.
A reputation of doing things with excellence.
A reputation of having great wisdom.
But most importantly, it was a reputation that honored the name of the Lord.

When Queen Sheba heard about this reputation, she came to put it to the test, and what she found was not only was it true, but it exceeded what she had heard.

Everything we do, whether inside or outside of the church, is building the reputation of who we are as a church and what it is to be a Christian.

If we start praying for people and seeing them healed, we will start to have the reputation as the church that does healings and miracles and people will come to see healings and miracles.

If we preach and live what we're taught each week here, we will get the reputation as the church that teaches a pure gospel, and people will come to test if we really do preach a pure gospel.

If we will bring others to Christ we will get the reputation as the church of Salvation, and desperate, hungry people will come for Salvation.

It's the same with our tithes and offerings. Everytime we give we are building a reputation.

We're making a statement.

We're either building a reputation as a giving, generous and sacrificial church or not.

We're saying to our friends and family that the firstfruits of our time, money and talent always goes to God.

Now once our reputation gets around, there will be many that will want to come test you.

People will start watching where you spend your money, your time and your talent to test how true it is. To test if you sow, will you reap.

You see, what we do, who we are, how we live, and when and where we give no longer is about us, but it's about them, and who and what we're portraying the reputation of a Christian to be.

When it comes to the area of giving I believe we have a reputation now of being a very generous people, but it takes a decision everyday to not only live up to the reputation, but, like the kingdom of Solomon, to also always exceed people's expectation, and go the extra mile.

What about you tonight?
What type of reputation are you building?

Ask yourself tonight before we give, has where I've been spending my time, money and talent portraying what it should?

Let's pray.