

Apply The Word

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KINGS & KINGDOMS

Message Info

Title:

Get Wisdom

Speaker:

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Date:

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Scriptures:

1 Kings 3-4

Theme: Ask God for wisdom so that you can discern between good and evil.

Introduction: We all feel the need for wisdom in life. Wisdom allows us to navigate life well, to have competence regarding life's realities. There are many challenges and difficulties in life and we need wisdom to live well (Prov 8:11).

These chapters show us 3 lessons on wisdom:

1. Wisdom is a request that pleases the Lord (3:1-14)

What comes out of a person's heart, esp. in unguarded moments, is very revealing (cf. Mark 7)

The Lord gives Solomon an opportunity—which reveals his heart—and the Lord is pleased by what is revealed.

Solomon doesn't seek personal gain, but empowerment to fulfill his responsibilities for others. He seeks wisdom (Prov 16:16).

2. Wisdom from above is a powerful gift (3:15-4:34)

As Solomon receives wisdom, we see powerful effects: here, in arbitrating between two feuding mothers.

He is called upon to render judgment on a question that seems impossible given the information at hand. The Lord gives Solomon wisdom to bluff, and to reveal their hearts. Then he orders justice.

The fruit? Israel is built up and encouraged by his wisdom. Moreover, under Solomon, the nation flourishes and prospers (1 Kgs 4:20).

God's gift of wisdom ultimately reveals his love for his people.

3) But only true wisdom overcomes sin (3:1-4; 4:1-28)

Wisdom still has its limits, because of human sin.

Solomon did rule wisely, but he had a significant fault: he lived according to some ungodly values:

- a. He married the daughter of Pharaoh, violating Deut 7:3.
- b. He worshipped at the high places, failing to follow the Lord's clear commands
- c. His daily provision for his court shows a very extravagant amount of wealth

Solomon's failures reveal the deficiencies of hoping in man, even wise ones. Christ alone is our true and lasting wisdom (1 Cor 1:24-25).

Questions:

1. What are you seeking from the Lord?

2. How would you like to grow in wisdom? How are you pursuing it (Jam 1:5)?

3. What role do your emotions and subjective senses play in your understanding of spirituality and worship?