

# “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”

Presented by Rev. Kristen Lowe on 07/22/18  
At Crossroads United Methodist Church  
Waunakee, WI

Scripture: 1 Kings 3: 3-15

O Lord my God, now you have made me the king succeeding my father David, but I am still a child and I don't know my way around. <sup>8</sup> And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great that there are almost too many people to count! <sup>9</sup> Give me wisdom so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. For who by himself is able to carry such a heavy responsibility?"

## 1 Kings 3:3-20

Solomon LOVED the Lord and followed ALL of his father David's instructions except that he continued to sacrifice in the hills and to offer incense there. <sup>4</sup> The most famous of the hilltop altars was at Gibeon, and now the king went there and sacrificed ONE THOUSAND burnt offerings! <sup>5</sup> The Lord appeared to him in a dream that night and told him to ask for anything he wanted, and it would be given to him!

Solomon loved the Lord and followed all of his father David's instructions except that he continued to sacrifice in the hills and to offer incense there. The most famous of the hilltop altars was at Gibeon, and now the king went there and sacrificed one thousand burnt offerings! The Lord appeared to him in a dream that night and told him to ask for anything he wanted, and it would be given to him!

In these first few verses, we see that Solomon LOVED the Lord. This indicates in the context that he placed God first in his life, above all earthly things. And, he followed ALL of his father's instructions which would have been given to David by God. This means he was obedient to his father and to God.

The scripture also tells us that Solomon was generous. Can you imagine how long it would take and how much money would be required? And the thing with offering sacrifices... at that time cattle, sheep, livestock were all currency! So, Solomon wasn't thinking, "how can I invest in the most likely mission" or, heaven forbid, "I hate to waste all that meat by just burning it." Solomon poured out his love for the Lord in spades knowing

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”

that what we give back to God will come back to us in a myriad of blessings. God tells Solomon to ask for whatever he wants.

<sup>6</sup> Solomon replied, “You were so wonderfully kind to my father David because he was honest and true and faithful, and obeyed your commands. And you have continued your kindness to him by giving him a son to succeed him. <sup>7</sup> O Lord my God, now you have made me the king succeeding my father David, but I am young and I don’t know know my way around! <sup>8</sup> And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great that there are almost too many people to count!

Solomon replied, “You were so wonderfully kind to my father David because he was honest and true and faithful, and obeyed your commands. And you have continued your kindness to him by giving him a son to succeed him. <sup>7</sup> O Lord my God, now you have made me the king succeeding my father David, but I am young, and I don’t know know my way around. <sup>8</sup> And here I am among your own chosen people, a nation so great that there are almost too many people to count!

Solomon begins by praising God. Did you catch that? Before thinking of himself, he praises God. And then he immediately humbles himself. Solomon is a little freaked out. He has been given David’s throne.

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”



Yeah... THAT David! How do you follow an act like that?!? Solomon suddenly realizes that there are a lot of people counting on him and he is in way over his head. He knows that he absolutely cannot do this by himself. He makes his choice:

<sup>9</sup>Give me **wisdom** so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. For who by himself is able to carry such a heavy responsibility?”

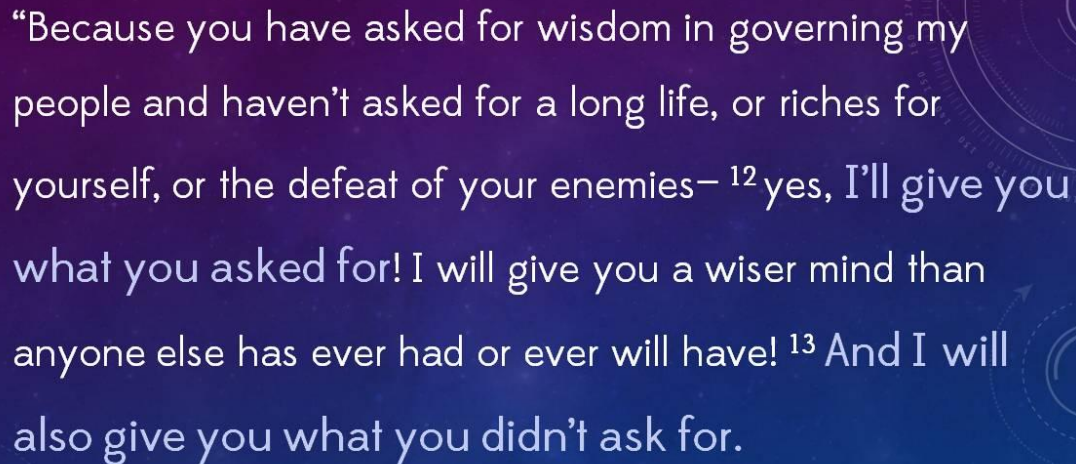
Give me wisdom so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between what is right and what is wrong. For who by himself is able to carry such a heavy responsibility?”

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”

Solomon’s choice pleases God because it is unselfish. He asks for wisdom and explains why he wants wisdom:

1. Govern God’s people well
2. Know the difference between right and wrong

Solomon humbles himself once again knowing that he cannot begin to do this without God.

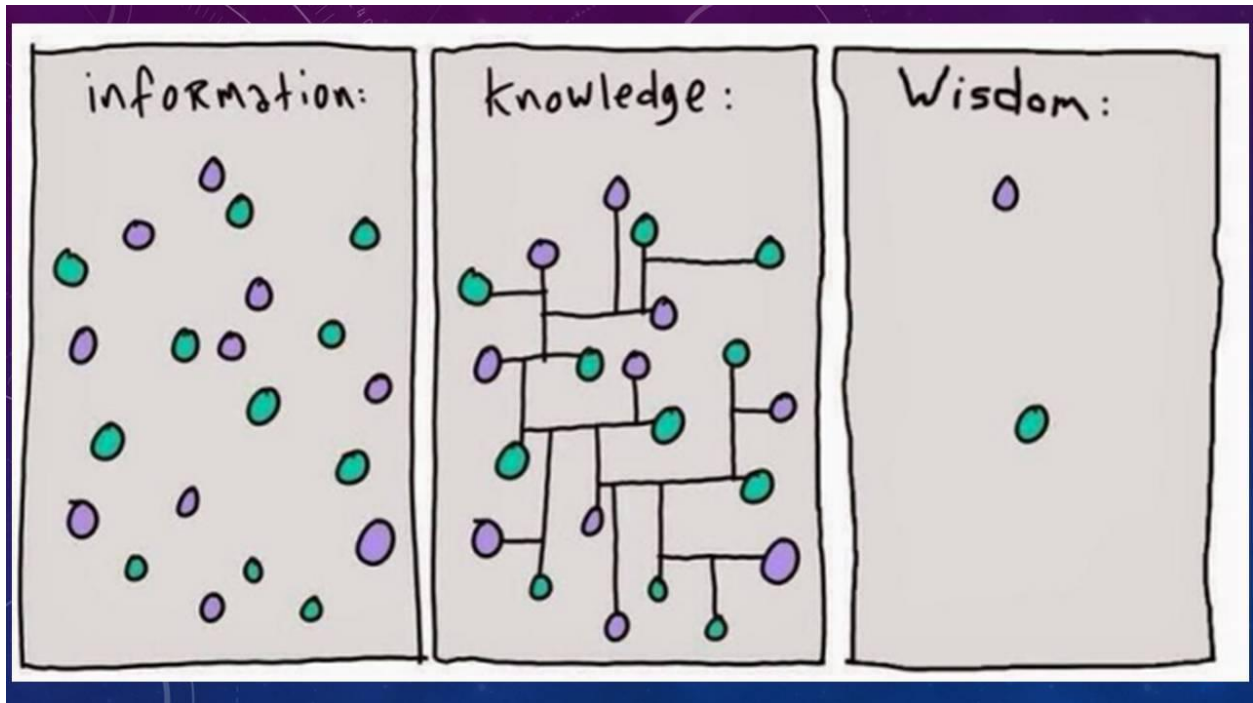


“Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and haven’t asked for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the defeat of your enemies— <sup>12</sup>yes, I’ll give you what you asked for! I will give you a wiser mind than anyone else has ever had or ever will have! <sup>13</sup>And I will also give you what you didn’t ask for.

The Lord was pleased with his reply and was glad that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So he replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people and haven’t asked for a long life, or riches for yourself, or the defeat of your enemies— yes, I’ll give you what you asked for! I will give you a wiser mind than anyone else has ever had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you didn’t ask for—riches and honor! And no one in all the world will be as rich and famous as you! And I will give you a long life if you follow me and obey my laws as your father David did.”

Because Solomon puts God first in all things and humbles himself with such an unselfish request, God tells him that he will give him everything else as well! Scripture tells us to seek first the kingdom of God... when we do this, all these things will be added on.

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”



Solomon, the King's son, would have grown up in the palace and would have been very educated. But he realized that intelligence is not equal to wisdom.

Then Solomon woke up and returned to Jerusalem and went into the Tabernacle. And as he stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, he sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings.

Then he invited all of his officials to a great banquet.

Then Solomon woke up and returned to Jerusalem and went into the Tabernacle. And as he stood before the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord, he sacrificed burnt offerings and peace offerings. Then he invited all of his officials to a great banquet.

When Solomon wakes up - where does he go first before anything else? And then, what does he do? He thoroughly expects God to fulfill his promises! He praises God in faith.

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”

Then... he invites everyone to celebrate the greatness of God. God gave Solomon a gift – this is a light that needs to shine before all people. Solomon models for us that we must celebrate our gifts and then share them with the world.



James 1:5 tells us what Solomon modeled for us: Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will Exalt you.

- Honor God by putting him **FIRST**
- Humble yourself
- Make your request in line with God's will
- Expect that God will bless you
- Celebrate

Summarizing what Solomon did to gain wisdom:

Honor God by putting him FIRST

Humble yourself

## “Where Does Wisdom Come From?”

Make your request in line with God’s will

Expect that God will bless you

Celebrate

These are the things that Solomon did to gain wisdom. This is the path the scripture models for us to gain wisdom.



James 4:10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord and he will lift you up.

Amen