

Week 3: The Life and Wisdom of King Solomon

Small Group Lesson

Key Scriptures:

- 1 Kings 1:4-14
- 1 Kings 3:23-27
- Proverbs 9
- 1 Kings 11:1-4

Introduction:

We each have the opportunity here on earth to build a life. How we build that life is up to us. The choice before us is to build on wisdom or folly. When Solomon became king he offered one thousand burnt offerings to the Lord. The sacrifice pleased God so much that he appeared to him in a dream and said, name anything that you wish, and I'll give it to you. Solomon could have asked for fame. He could have asked for power. He could have asked for wealth, anything, but instead he asked God for an understanding heart. His request pleased the Lord greatly. God responded by not only giving him a wise and understanding heart but riches and fame as well.

Three Parts of Wisdom

1. The Reward of wisdom

(1 Kings 3: 16-28) When we choose wisdom there are certain benefits that follow. When faced with the dilemma of the two mothers battling for the life of a child Solomon exemplified clear judgment that amazed those who were observing. Wisdom will help you see order in the midst of chaos. Solomon's prolific writings and architectural achievements were heard of around the known world. God's wisdom guided him to make right decisions about who to align himself with. With proper management of people and resources Solomon saw his wealth become unrivaled by any king on earth.

Question: Share with the group a situation where using wisdom has brought clarity where there was confusion or set you apart from others.

2. The Pursuit of wisdom

(Proverbs 9) In Proverbs Solomon urges the reader to get wisdom. In chapter nine he reveals to us seven pillars that this “house” of wisdom is built upon.

- Fear of the Lord - reverence and alignment with God's will
- Humility - acknowledging our need for help
- Ask for wisdom - constantly seeking wisdom from God
- A listening Heart - develop a heart that listens to God
- Godly Counsel - surrounded with wise, godly advisors
- Receive Instruction and Correction - Accepting guidance and correction
- Pursue knowledge and understanding - Gaining knowledge while maintaining humility and love.

Question: Of these seven pillars which one speaks to you the most and why? Share with the group.

3. The Neglect of wisdom

(1 Kings 11:1-4) There are of course consequences of turning away from wisdom. God had clearly instructed the people of Israel not to intermarry with foreign women yet Solomon chose disobedience. These wives turned his heart away from God and caused him to worship other Gods. His example highlights for us the importance of making sure that we choose relationships that do not draw us away from the Lord.

Question: How can wrong relationships turn us away from following the Lord? Have you experienced this in your life?

Conclusion

Solomon's life started well but ended poorly. In his later years instead of staying fully devoted to the Lord, he did what was evil in the Lord's sight. Wisdom is not a one-time pit stop in life's journey but should be a daily practice of seeking the way of wisdom and it all begins with the fear of the Lord.