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WISDOM FROM GOD 1 Kings 3:1-28

1 Kings 3: 16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 One of them said, "Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. 18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us.

19 "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. 21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne."

22 The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." And so they argued before the king.

23 The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

24 Then the king said, "Bring me a sword." So they brought a sword for the king. 25 He then gave an order: "Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other."

26 The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

28 When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom from God to administer justice.

INTRODUCTION :

Last week, we started talking about

HOW TO GAIN WISDOM FROM GOD? Admit we lack wisdom, Ask for wisdom and Apply wisdom.

Today by God's grace, we'll continue and finish to find out how do we know we are applying Wisdom from God in a situation?

Story : There's this story about the wise bus driver. Inside his bus, two women were fighting on who gets the last seat in the bus. The argument became so intense, that the bus driver shouted, "Let the ugly one take the last seat." The two women stood all throughout the ride.

So how do we gain wisdom from God? Admit, Ask and Apply

I. ADMIT

Etymology : Solomon “shalomo” from shalom which means “peace”

King David has declared his son Solomon to be king while on his sick bed. So Solomon already became king.

We have to remember that Solomon became king not because of his own skill or neither because of his birthright.

- David has many sons; around 19 sons
- Solomon was just one of the 19. He wasn't even the eldest and one of David's sons wit Batsheba. Amnon, was supposed to be heir-apparent but was killed by his half-brother Absalom.

Solomon didn't deserve that throne but it was given to him by the Lord. Why? It's because God chose to give it to him. It's by His grace.

Look at this :

2 Samuel 12:24 Then David comforted his wife Bathsheba, and he went to her and made love to her. She gave birth to a son, and they named him Solomon. The LORD loved him;

Solomon knew that he was king because of God's grace. He has chosen him.

To gain wisdom, the first thing that we need to do is acknowledge and admit that what we have comes from the Lord.

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Solomon admits he needs the Lord's help.

Why?

1 Kings 3: 7 "Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties."

First, look at what he called himself. “servant” Remember he is already highest in the land but he calls himself “servant”. He knows that he is there to serve the Lord.

Second, he called himself “a little child”. He's not necessarily a little child. It is not known how old was Solomon when he became king but we already know that he's married at this time.

This is the first step of gaining wisdom from God. It's an admission that we need Him, we need His guidance, we need His help.

II. ASK

Remember, God asked Solomon whatever he wanted.

5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

This is what Solomon asked for.

9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

There’s another passage in the Bible that tells the same story :

2 Chronicles 1: 7 That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”

8 Solomon answered God, “You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. 9 Now, Lord God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. 10 Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

So what is wisdom? What is knowledge?

Knowledge “mada” and “da’at” in Hebrew with the same root word “yada” and ginosko in Greek. It’s simply this. It means, “awareness of the facts”

This is also supported by the fact that in 1 Kings 3, the Holy Spirit wrote, a discerning heart

The KJV version translates it to “understanding”

Etymology : discerning, understanding, “shaw-mah”, to hear (perceived by the ear), used 1000+ in the OT.

We gain awareness by hearing. (It’s important to remember this, because we’ll talk about this later on.)

Illustration: It’s interesting to note that “shaw-mah” **discernment or understanding means hearing.**

So remember :

Knowledge = awareness, you are aware.

“**Wisdom**”, “hakam” in Hebrew (which means skill) and “Sophia” in Greek (study) we’re talking about WISDOM FROM GOD here, **it means, the skill/ability/intelligence to distinguish between right and wrong.**

That’s why in 1 Kings, the Holy Spirit wrote:

9 So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”

*10 The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. 11 So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, 12 I will do what you have asked. **I will give you a wise** and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.*

Quote : Wisdom is the power to see and the inclination to choose the best and highest goal, together with the surest means of attaining it. – J.I. Packer (Knowing God)

And in order to gain Godly wisdom, you have to ask.

James 1:5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

You don’t know what to do in a given situation? Ask God to give you wisdom.

Before, we go to the last part of gaining Wisdom from God, I mentioned that by God’s grace, I will tell you the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom.

Note : Remember wisdom is defined as discerning what is right and wrong. **It means, wisdom is knowing the best course of action! Making the best decision in a given situation. That’s wisdom.**

But there’s worldly, demonic wisdom and Godly wisdom. We will see it from the letter of James.

What is worldly, demonic wisdom?

James 3: 14 But if you are selfish and have bitter jealousy in your hearts, do not brag. Your bragging is a lie that hides the truth. 15 That kind of “wisdom” does not come from God but from the world. It is not spiritual; it is from the devil.

Worldly demonic wisdom is making the best decision in a given situation only for yourself. You’re only thinking about yourself. In short, it’s the best decision you are making but selfish.

What is Godly wisdom?

17 But the wisdom that comes from God is first of all pure, then peaceful, gentle, and easy to please. This wisdom is always ready to help those who are troubled and to do good for others. It is always fair and honest.

Godly wisdom is making the best decision in a given situation for everyone. You’re thinking about what’s best for everyone and it’s not selfish.

Which brings us now to the last element of GAINING WISDOM FROM GOD.

III. APPLY

How do we know we're applying wisdom from God? LISTEN AND LOOK.
Remember, God has granted wisdom already to Solomon and it was put into use immediately.

16 Now two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. 17 One of them said, "Pardon me, my lord. This woman and I live in the same house, and I had a baby while she was there with me. 18 The third day after my child was born, this woman also had a baby. We were alone; there was no one in the house but the two of us. 19 "During the night this woman's son died because she lay on him. 20 So she got up in the middle of the night and took my son from my side while I your servant was asleep. She put him by her breast and put her dead son by my breast. 21 The next morning, I got up to nurse my son—and he was dead! But when I looked at him closely in the morning light, I saw that it wasn't the son I had borne." 22 The other woman said, "No! The living one is my son; the dead one is yours." But the first one insisted, "No! The dead one is yours; the living one is mine." **And so they argued before the king.**

Now, here's how you know you are applying wisdom in a given situation.

1. LISTEN TO UNDERSTAND. The first thing that you're doing is you're LISTENING!

How do we know that Solomon was listening?

23 The king said, "This one says, 'My son is alive and your son is dead,' while that one says, 'No! Your son is dead and mine is alive.'"

The reason why we know Solomon was listening is that he was able to repeat and summarize what the argument is all about.

Illustration : There are times my wife and I are watching TV. But while we're watching, I'm scrolling on Facebook. I didn't notice that she was telling a story to me and then she noticed that I'm not listening and she'll tell me, "Hindi ka naman nakikinig e." (You're not listening to me.) And I will say to her, "Of course, I'm listening!" And then she'll tell me, "Ok, can you repeat what I just told you..."

If a person is truly listening, they will be able to repeat and summarize what the other or others are saying. That's what Solomon did.

Tip on listening: To show people that you're listening, make sure you repeat to them and summarize quickly what they said. Start with something like this, "This is what I understood from what you said" or "Correct me if I'm wrong with what I heard..." and then summarize.

To apply wisdom...make sure we are listening.

Look at what James wrote :

*James 1:19 My dear brothers and sisters, take note of this: **Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry,***

Usually in an argument, we are not really listening, we're already thinking of what to respond...

Tip again : Listen, not to respond but listen in order to understand.

Proverbs 18:2 Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.

13 To answer before listening—that is folly and shame.

In short, it's foolish (not wise), if we're not listening to understand but to respond.

Illustration : My teacher would say to me before, "That's the reason God made us with two ears and one mouth."

Another thing when it comes to listening specially if you want to make the right decision...LISTEN TO BOTH SIDES!

Isn't that what King Solomon did? He heard both sides of the story before he made a decision on what to do.

Quote: Do not judge people only based on one thing, every coin has two sides

Another thing also when it comes to listening... LISTEN WITHOUT PARTIALITY.

Note : remember these were both prostitutes and they were able to get an audience with the King!

Please be aware that we have what you call a "subconscious bias".

For example : In politics, when I hear someone is a democrat, I already have a bias. Or sometimes when I hear someone is a Moslem or a Jew, we already have a bias.

You know how to get rid of bias in our life? Remember, that we are all sinners!

Biblical Illustration : Isn't that what Jesus said when He made a wise judgement regarding the adulterer in John 8. The Pharisees brought a woman caught in the act of adultery and they said that she should be stoned. So they asked the Lord's opinion. Jesus wasn't replying and wrote something in the dust with his finger.

John 8: 7 They kept demanding an answer, so he stood up again and said, “All right, but let the one who has never sinned throw the first stone!”

That’s why make sure

- listen to understand,
- listen to both sides of the story,
- listen without partiality.

*Proverbs 2:2 turning your ear to wisdom
and applying your heart to understanding—*

2. LOOK FOR THE TRUTH.

24 Then the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So they brought a sword for the king. 25 He then gave an order: “Cut the living child in two and give half to one and half to the other.”

This is how you know King Solomon was applying wisdom. He was looking for the truth. That’s the reason why he asked for a sword to cut the baby into two. Since he knows one of them is the real mother, he needed to determine which one is telling the truth.

Illustration : Four friends decided to be late for school because they wanted extra time to study for the exam. When they came in, the professor asked what happened on why they missed school. One of them said, “We had a flat tire in the middle of the road and we needed to change it.” The other friends agreed. So the professor said, “Oh ok, I’ll just give you a make up exam.” The four agreed. So they got their papers and the professor said, “If you answer this one question for your make up exam, all of you will pass.” The four were happy and the professor asked them to be far from each other and just focus on their pen and blank paper to make sure there’s no cheating. Then the professor said, “Here’s the one question. Which tire became flat?”

Again, remember the reason why you’re listening so that you can understand thoroughly the situation and from there you will be able to be given wisdom to search the truth.

That’s why the Bible says :

*1 Thessalonians 5:20 Do not despise prophecies,²¹ **But test everything...***

Illustration : Last Friday, we had wonderful Bible study led by Kuya Tony. It was very free-flowing, the Spirit was moving. We had a discussion if we should pray, “Lord, ‘sana’...” (Lord, I wish) After testing it with Scripture and with logic, by God’s grace, we concluded that when we pray, we don’t say, “Lord, sana...” As Vicky said, “When we say “sana”, we’re still asking for confirmation but when we ask directly, that’s praying with affirmation.”

That’s why Martin Luther said when pressured to recant his idea about the Bible. He said,

Quote: Unless I am convinced by Scripture and plain reason – my conscience is captive to the Word of God – Martin Luther.

As Christians, we have been given a gift to know if something is true or not – THE WORD OF GOD.

Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

So you know when you are applying Wisdom from God when we are listening to understand and we are Looking for the truth.

And when we're looking for the truth...LOOK DEEPER... AS WE HAVE JUST READ...DON'T ONLY LOOK AT THE WORDS AND ACTION OF A PERSON... LOOK AT THE THOUGHTS AND ATTITUDES OF THE HEART...

That's what Solomon was looking for and this is what happened.

26 The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son and said to the king, "Please, my lord, give her the living baby! Don't kill him!"

But the other said, "Neither I nor you shall have him. Cut him in two!"

27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

Now you see how he made Solomon made his decision here.

Remember earlier, we mentioned the difference between worldly wisdom and godly wisdom?

Worldly wisdom (demonic) is making decision based on what's good for one's self. While Godly wisdom is making decisions based on what's good for others.

By the way, this is the reason why abortion is demonic because a person is making a decision based on their own convenience.

Solomon knew who the real mother was because *The woman whose son was alive was deeply moved out of love for her son*

While the other woman, didn't care. In fact she's ok that the baby should be cut in two.

Usually, one knows if a person is acting rightly, if they are doing it out of love. If their thoughts and attitude about the situation is love.

1 Corinthians 16:14 Do everything in love.

Illustration: You will see that even in marriage counselling and the couple has a problem, you will definitely see after you listen, you will see who is the one acting selfishly and who is the one acting out of love.

And we know the ruling afterwards

27 Then the king gave his ruling: "Give the living baby to the first woman. Do not kill him; she is his mother."

And here's the ultimate test if what you have done was out of godly wisdom.

*28 When all Israel heard the verdict the king had given, they held the king in awe, because they saw that he had wisdom **from God** to administer justice*

People around you know without any doubt that it comes from God. They held the king in awe but the real credit and glory goes to God...otherwise, they would have said.. that he had wisdom...but the Scripture said.. "wisdom from God"

So remember, in order to gain Godly wisdom.

- Admit that you need wisdom.
- Ask for Wisdom
- Apply the Wisdom God has given you by listening to understand and looking deeper into the truth.

S.G.D