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## WISDOM FROM GOD 1 Kings 3:1-28

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*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. 8 Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. 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. 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.*

*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 :

Today, by God’s grace, we’ll talk about Wisdom from God.

**It’s the start of the year and there were things that we did last year that we regret and we learned from it.** I pray that the mistakes we made gave us wisdom.

**There was this young man who was talking to his grandfather and asked him why was he so wise.** The grandfather replied, “It’s because I made a lot of good decisions.” Then the grandson replied, “How come you made a lot of good decisions.” Then the grandfather replied, “Through a have a lot of good experience.” Then the grandson asked again, “How do you get a lot of good experience.” The grandfather then replied, “By making a lot of bad decisions.”

I pray that the mistakes we did made us wiser. If not, we remain a fool.

*Proverbs 26:11 As a dog returns to its vomit,  
so fools repeat their folly.*

**Speaking of Proverbs, Solomon wrote most of Proverbs and also Ecclesiastes.** They are called “The Wisdom Books” of the Bible. **The other one is Job.** It makes sense that Job is part of the Wisdom book. A person who has experienced suffering gains a lot of wisdom.

By God’s grace, we’ll discuss how to gain godly wisdom through his story in 1 Kings Chapter 3.

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

## **I. ADMIT**

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;*

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

**God told David that Solomon will be king.**

*2 Chronicles 22: 8 But this word of the Lord came to me: ‘You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight. 9 But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. **His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign.***

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

**Unlike Solomon’s two brothers** – Absalom and Adonijah, they tried to even take the throne away from their father.

**Application:** It is always important to always know and follow the will of God. It’s because if it’s not the will of God, it will only fail.

**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 knew that his being king because is because of God's grace. And that's why...**

*1 Kings 3:3 Solomon showed his love for the Lord by walking according to the instructions given him by his father David, except that he offered sacrifices and burned incense on the high places.*

**That's how we show that we need and love the Lord - by obeying Him.**

Isn't that what our Lord Jesus also said?

*John 14:15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments."*

**Do you want to keep yourself humble?** Admit that without the Lord, we have nothing.

**Illustration:** One time I met a proud person and he was boasting about his wealth and then said, "I am a self-made man." That word in itself is a lie and is pure air. You cannot make your self. Did you come into this world, by your own choice?

**Since Solomon humbled himself before God, look what our Lord said to Solomon.**

*1 Kings 3: 4 The king went to Gibeon to offer sacrifices, for that was the most important high place, and Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 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."***

**Question :** If God asked you the same question, what will you ask for?

**I'm sure a lot of people will ask about paying their debts, money, happiness.**

**Illustration :** A book in Psychology, Canadian edition written by Sally Walters in 2020 shows the key takeaways that motivates us.

- We are intrinsically motivated to pursue goals that make us feel good when we achieve them.
- We are extrinsically motivated to pursue goals with external rewards, like money or recognition.

**Having known this, I conclude that if people are presented with the idea of God telling them "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." It will be in line with the two motivations.**

**But 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.

*1 Kings 3:1 Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter.*

**Usually, the marrying age for the male population at that time is around 18 to 20.**

Source : Jewish Encyclopedia on Marriage Laws by Solomon Schechter

*" It is thus considered the duty of every Israelite to marry as early in life as possible. Eighteen years is the age set by the Rabbis (Ab. v. 24); and any one remaining unmarried after his twentieth year is said to be cursed by God Himself "*

**So when Solomon said "I am a little child"**. He's saying like a little child, "I don't know anything. I don't know what to do."

**It's him saying to the Lord**, "Lord, I depend on you like a little child."

**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.

**That's why Solomon wrote Proverbs, these are instructions of father to his child and in it wrote :**

*Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

*Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

**Now, remember, Solomon was admitting these things.**

*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. 8 Your servant is here*

**In front of the Almighty God, he knows he's a servant and like a little child. It means he is humbling himself before God.**

**And to admit that you need wisdom...means to humble yourself before him and that is the beginning on how WE GAIN KNOWLEDGE AND WISDOM FROM GOD.**

**Quote :** “The more I learn, the more I realize how much I don’t know.” Albert Einstein

**So the first thing,** one must do is to Admit our lack of wisdom.

## II. ASK

**Remember, God asked Solomon whatever he wanted.** 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.**

**Biblical example :** The first time it was used was in Genesis

*Genesis 3:8 Then the man and his wife **heard** the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden.*

They were aware that the Lord was coming and that’s why they hid.

**Illustration:** It’s interesting to note that “shaw-mah” **discernment or understanding means hearing.** Do you know that a person in coma, **it is said that even though they are not reacting, they can still hear.** In short, they are still aware. Plus often times, **the last sense that goes out before a person dies is the sense of hearing.**

**This is amazing.** Why? It’s because even at the last moment, we are given the chance to share the Gospel and for the person to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

*Romans 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

**Story :** I remember the time I was here in Canada already when my Tatay was on his deathbed and breathing his last breaths. They called me over the phone. No FB messenger yet. The one thing I asked is to put the phone near my Tatay's ear. By God's grace, I was able to share the Gospel to him.

**So remember :**

**Knowledge** = awareness, you are aware.

**In order to understand it better, let's look at the opposite.**

**Knowledge is the opposite of ignorance.**

**Illustration :** Usually, in a Filipino setting, someone approaches us and says, "Hey, you didn't even say hi to me. Isnabero." And then you would say, (if you're sincere) "Oh I'm sorry, I wasn't "aware" that you were there." But if you're insincere, you say to yourself, "Oh sorry" and then you mutter under your breath, "I really ignored you."

**Note :** By the way, the Bible says, everyone knows in their heart that there is a God, but people are just ignoring or not acknowledging His presence.

*Romans 1: 18 The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, 19 since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. 20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.*

*21 For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools*

**Remember, knowledge means "awareness of the facts"**

**"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.*

**Illustration: On the difference between knowledge and wisdom.**

One day, Henry Ford ran into a serious issue at his River Rouge plant. A massive generator had malfunctioned, and none of Ford's top engineers could figure out what was wrong. So, Ford called in Charles Proteus Steinmetz.

When Steinmetz arrived, he asked for three things: a notebook, a pen, and a cot. Then he spent two full days and nights in the plant, listening to the generator and scribbling mysterious calculations.

Finally, he asked for a ladder, a tape measure, and some chalk. Slowly, he climbed to the top of the generator, measured a spot, and marked it with a chalk "X".

Then he turned to the engineers and said: "Take off this panel, unwind the coil from this exact point, and remove 16 turns of wire."

They followed his instructions — and just like that, the generator was humming again, good as new.

A few days later, Ford received an invoice from Steinmetz:

\$10,000. Remember this was in 1913. So this is around \$330,000 today in 2026.

Surprised by the steep fee, Ford asked for an itemized breakdown.

Steinmetz replied and itemized.

- Making chalk mark: \$1
- Knowing where to put it: \$9,999

Ford paid the bill.

**Note :** The other engineers have knowledge, they were "aware" something was wrong. Steinmetz had knowledge and wisdom – He was "aware" something was wrong but he knew the right thing to do.

**That's why it is important to have wisdom!**

**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.**

**Now remember, I asked you earlier, what will you ask God if He said this to you.**

*"Ask for whatever you want me to give you."*

**Story :** There's this story about a man who found a genie while he was walking. The genie came out of the lamp and said, "Thank you for releasing me from this lamp. Now I give you two choices and I'll give it to you. Here's the choice, "I will give you lots of money or I will give you wisdom." The man thought for a second and said, "I take wisdom."

So the genie said, "Very well, abracadabra...now you have wisdom! You are now a wise person." Since the man is now a wise person, the first thing that came out of his mouth was, "I should have chosen the money."

**Illustration:** I'm sure a lot of people will ask for wealth. Some will even ask to win the \$80M lotto. But do you know 70% of those who win the lotto go bankrupt within the first 5 years. **Why? It's because they don't have the wisdom and the knowledge to handle it.**

**That's why after God has given Solomon wisdom and knowledge, here's what he said, *1 Kings 3: 13 Moreover, I will give you what you have not asked for—both wealth and honor—so that in your lifetime you will have no equal among kings.***

*2 Chronicles 1: 11 God said to Solomon, "Since this is your heart's desire and you have not asked for wealth, possessions or honor, nor for the death of your enemies, and since you have not asked for a long life but for wisdom and knowledge to govern my people over whom I have made you king, 12 therefore wisdom and knowledge will be given you. And I will also give you wealth, possessions and honor, such as no king who was before you ever had and none after you will have."*

**You know why God has given him this?**

**We'll continue next week about "asking God for wisdom and applying wisdom"** For the meantime, in order to gain Godly wisdom, admit that you lack wisdom and ask for wisdom from the Lord.

**That's why Solomon who was the wisest and wealthiest king that ever lived said, *Proverbs 16:16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold!***

**Now let conclude on why it's important that we have wisdom and knowledge.**

**(Show video of Battleship vs lighthouse)**

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the North to avoid a collision.

Canadians: Recommend you divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the South to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the Captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No. I say again, you divert YOUR course.

Americans: This is the aircraft carrier [USS Lincoln](#), the second largest ship in the United States' [Atlantic fleet](#). We are accompanied by three destroyers, three cruisers and numerous support vessels. I demand that YOU change your course 15 degrees north, that's

one five degrees north, or countermeasures will be undertaken to ensure the safety of this ship.

Canadians: This is a lighthouse. Your call

That's ONE OF THE reasons why we need to humble ourselves before God and ask him that we will be given wisdom and knowledge in this life. If we don't have the wisdom and the knowledge, it prevents us from having a major disaster in our life.

You know one of the difference between a wise and foolish person. They are humble enough to accept correction.

*Proverbs 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates correction is stupid,*

Again, our lesson, the first thing to gain wisdom is by Admission that we need wisdom...it's a humbling of one's self and someone who doesn't like to be corrected just shows they have a lot of pride and you know what happens when a person has pride.

*Proverbs 16:18: "Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall"*

The enemy wants us to have pride, because he wants to destroy us. But God loves us so much that he doesn't want us to fall into tragedy or to fall. He wants to give us life to the full and it starts by humbling ourselves before God and others.

**S.G.D**