

"THE GREATEST NEED"

1 Kings 3:5-14

What is the greatest need in your life? Wisdom. Solomon asks God for wisdom – and changes his life – and the lives of others.

I. THE NEED FOR WISDOM

A. Life is filled with options/choices: In every choice your life can go in 2 different directions

1. **Deuteronomy 30:19** *I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;*

2. Life is filled with things we don't know! **V7** *I do not know how to go out or to come in...*

a. **New situations:** *Joshua 3:4 you have not passed this way before*

b. **New responsibilities:** *He has become King – a completely different set of circumstances*

B. The answer for the choices in life is wisdom: *Wisdom is the right use of knowledge or information*

1. **Proverbs 4:7** *Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.*

a. The Hebrew word has 2 elements: *Insight and skill...I see things correctly and know what to do with what I see*

2. **Wisdom defined:** *The God-given ability to perceive the true nature of a matter and to implement the will of God in that matter.*

a. **Knowing what to do; how to do it; when to do it**

3. **1 Kings 3:9** *Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

a. **Understanding:** To hear or perceive what is good and correct b. **Discern:** To decide between c. Judge: Make decisions

C. Wisdom determines the future!

1. **It determines your future:** Show me someone who has good things at work in their life

a. You will see wise decisions in the past: *Spiritually/relationally/financially – words/actions*

b. Someone who has negative things at work: *Unwise decisions - Spiritually/relationally/financially – words/actions*

1. **Galatians 6:7** *Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.*

2. **It determines other people's future: V9 2x to judge your people...**

a. The people in my life need help – they need me to make wise decisions/treat them wisely

1. Wife/Children/New converts/People in ministry -counsel/Disciples – shape/Changes/Crises

b. If you lack wisdom: You will fail to give people what they need that is good

1. It's possible to do active harm

II. PURSUING WISDOM

A. **Wisdom requires humility:** *Honest recognition of the truth*

1. **Pride blocks wisdom:** *Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction*

a. Often unwise people don't face the truth – in spite of the evidence

2. **V8 I do not know how to go out or come in.**

a. You need to know that you don't know things b. You need to know that in the future – you will not know certain things

B. **Wisdom must be valued:** *Proverbs 3:13-18 Silver gold/rubies...*

1. *You have to see how important wisdom is*

C. **Wisdom must be pursued:** Wisdom doesn't come automatically!

1. **Wisdom comes from asking God:** *V9 give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people...*

a. I pray for wisdom more than anything else! I ask other people to pray for me!

2. **Wisdom comes from God's word:** *Psalm 119:130 The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the simple.*

a. *Principles of wisdom b. Case-histories of wisdom or foolishness c. A Spirit released in us: You sense it/see it!*

3. **Wisdom comes from asking men who already have wisdom:**

a. Pride keeps men from asking questions: Don't want them to think...don't want to look foolish

1. I have men who have all kinds of theories – but they never ask!

b. *Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, But a man of understanding will draw it out.*

III. THE BLESSINGS OF WISDOM

A. **Wisdom blesses other people**

1. It saves people: *A child was raised with a caring/giving woman instead of a selfish/cruel lying mother*

2. It blesses people: *They are blessed spiritually/financially/relationally*

B. **Wisdom brings you into your greater future/effectiveness**

1. **1 Kings 3:28** *And all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had rendered; and they feared the king, for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.*

a. People trust you/willing to listen to you/work with you/give money to you

C. **Wisdom pleases God:** *1 Kings 3:10¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.*

1. God helps you in areas you need help with – but God does so much more than we realize