

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

1 Kings 3 :5-12

August 16 & 17, 2014

LORD, give us the wisdom to ask for your wisdom!

- ❖ The wisdom of Solomon is still renowned!
 - An idiom: *That calls for the wisdom of Solomon.*
 - His wisdom - world renowned - Queen of Sheba and others came to see
 - Illustrated in the account that follows - 2 women disputing over 1 boy
 - ❖ Solomon - merely the story of 1 man or more?
 - Clear: see what our God can do, his care, and support of his servant
 - Unique - special, but not isolated and exclusive
 - Listen to Solomon's wisdom
 - *The beginning of wisdom is this: **Get wisdom.** Though it cost all you have, get understanding.* Proverbs 4:10
 - Be instructed by the prayer of Solomon, our brother in Christ.
- LORD, give us the wisdom to ask for your wisdom!**
- ❖ Start here.
 - *The fear of the LORD is the **beginning** of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.* Proverbs 9:10
 - *Fear of the LORD* = respect and reverence of him as God alone
 - Modeled by Solomon - breathlessly standing in awe of Yahweh
 - Humility that is not self-destructive.
 - Begin here:
 - God is God. I am not god. It's foolish to try to be my own lord/master.
 - My rebellion and disobedience makes me unworthy of God's kindness.
 - Reverence for God never discounts that he has declared me *Fully Forgiven - his child.* Foolish to call God a liar! His servant - an honor
 - Such wisdom only comes with the gift of faith - living faith.
 - ❖ So are we saying unbelievers don't have any wisdom? Evaluate.
 - Life experience knows that some unbelievers have a lot of wisdom.
 - Benjamin Franklin for example - his *wisdom* is still quoted
 - Parable of the Shrewd Manager: ⁸ *"The master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly. For the people of this world are more shrewd in dealing with their own kind than are the people of the light."* Luke 16
 - **But wisdom is proved right by her deeds.** Mt 11:19
 - Wisdom is judged on how it ends up in **the end.**

- The ultimate test of wisdom - the end results in eternity.
 - It is foolish to say God is not good. Sin (separates from God) is better.
 - A fool says, *"I can take care of my self."* *"I did it my way..."*
 - *Christ's cross is foolish. I despise his gifts of forgiveness & eternal life.*
 - Compare eternity. Clearly it's not wise to be an enemy of Jesus!
- Parts of the wisdom of unbelievers can be a blessing to all. It has limits!

¹⁵ ...you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you **wise for salvation through faith** in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷ so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Tim 3

- ❖ Seek the wisdom that comes through faith in Christ Jesus!
 - Wisdom that **gets real - knows real reality** - the facts revealed by God.
 - Wisdom that **knows how things work** - the nature of things.
 - The nature of God - character/reputation, will, heart, power, etc.
 - The nature of a fallen and corrupt world and its people
 - Ex. Solomon's way of discovering the real mother
 - The nature of God's word - of law and gospel
 - James teaches us:
 - *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.* 1:5
 - *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom.* 3:13
 - Long for it. Pray for it. ✕ Wisdom acts. Live wisely. Practice wisdom.
 - Wisdom comes through Jesus and the Spirit of Wisdom.
 - You need God's head and heart to be wise, a spirit of wisdom - faith
 - You need God's ears. Wisdom listens carefully. It's discerning.
 - Apply in our relationships - building one another up
 - Apply in seeking wisdom for our congregation's ministry.

LORD, give us the wisdom to ask for your wisdom!