



WEDNESDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Solomon: Asking for Wisdom

Passage: 1 Kings 3:4-15

Speaker: Bro. Jeryl Mason

Introduction: Imagine if God came to you today and said, “Ask what I shall give thee.” What would you choose? Wealth? Success? A long life? When God gave Solomon that opportunity, he asked for wisdom instead. His request reveals a powerful truth: what we ask for often reveals what we value most. As we look at his choice, we’ll discover why wisdom was worth more than anything else and how we can seek it in our own lives through its nature, its worth, and the way to obtain it.

I. The Nature of Wisdom

A. Knowledge - Learning the Facts

Everything begins with knowledge. If you do not know the truth, you cannot understand it, and you certainly cannot apply it.

“The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.” (Proverbs 18:15)

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge...” (Proverbs 1:7)

Knowledge matters, but knowledge alone does not guarantee right decisions. The scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day had enormous knowledge of Scripture. They had memorized entire books of the Old Testament. And yet, many of them rejected Christ.

B. Understanding - Grasping the Meaning



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"...apply thine heart to understanding... Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD..." (Proverbs 2:2-5)

"Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law..." (Psalm 119:34)

A person may know many Bible verses. That is knowledge. Understanding allows us to see how those verses fit together and what God is actually teaching through them.

Knowledge collects the facts. Understanding connects the facts.

C. Wisdom - Applying Truth Correctly

Wisdom is the skill of living according to God's truth. It is the practical application of everything you know and understand.

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock." (Matthew 7:24-25)

"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

Solomon understood that wisdom was far more than intelligence or education.

Wisdom is the God-given ability to take what we know, understand what it means, and apply it in a way that pleases God.

II. The Worth of Wisdom

A. Wisdom is more valuable than wealth

God was so pleased with that request that He gave Solomon wisdom and the riches he never even asked for.

"For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it." (Proverbs 8:11)

"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!" (Proverbs 16:16)



WEDNESDAY EVENING
AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Wisdom is worth more than wealth because it helps us handle life correctly.

B. Wisdom protects us from costly mistakes

"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established."
(Proverbs 24:3)

Wisdom helps us choose the right friends, make sound financial decisions, avoid sinful temptations, respond correctly in difficult situations, and lead our families well.

God may bless us with opportunities, abilities, and possessions, but without wisdom, we can squander every one of them.

C. Wisdom enables us to fulfill God's purpose

"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding." (Proverbs 3:13)

Wisdom is more valuable than wealth because it protects us from costly mistakes and enables us to fulfill God's purpose. That is why Solomon chose wisdom over everything else.

III. The Way to Wisdom

A. Ask God for wisdom

Wisdom begins with humility. The person who thinks he already knows everything will never seek wisdom.

"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." (James 1:5)

God is not stingy with wisdom. He delights in giving it to those who sincerely ask. Before our next major decision, have we prayed as much as we have planned?

B. Fear the Lord



WEDNESDAY EVENING
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The Bible repeatedly teaches that wisdom begins with a right relationship with God.

Biblical fear is not terror. It is reverence, submission, and respect for who God is.

Wisdom starts when we acknowledge that God is Lord, and His ways are right.

C. Fill your mind with God's Word

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

"...Through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies..." (Psalms 119:98)

A Bible that stays closed cannot make a life wise. We cannot expect God's guidance while neglecting God's Word.

D. Walk with wise people

"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed." (Proverbs 13:20)

God often answers our prayer for wisdom by bringing wise people into our lives.

Older believers, godly mentors, faithful pastors, and mature Christians are people that can help us avoid costly mistakes we cannot even see coming.

Conclusion: Solomon could have asked for anything, but he chose wisdom because he understood it would guide every other area of life. The same is true for us. Our decisions shape our future, and many of life's greatest regrets come from a lack of wisdom. God's invitation is simple: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God." Wisdom is not knowing the future; it is trusting the God who does. The question is not whether God gives wisdom, but whether we will ask for it.