



Part 1: The Small Thing of Wisdom

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Modern Wisdom =

Intelligence + Common Sense + Knowledge +
Principles + anything else you want to add!

Godly Wisdom =

God's Principles Applied

1 Kings 3:1-15

¹ Solomon made an alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt and married his daughter.

Solomon is a wise man but he has a relational blind spot.

Application: What is your blind spot?

He brought her to the City of David until he finished building his palace and the temple of the Lord, and the wall around Jerusalem. ² The people, however, were still sacrificing at the high places, because a temple had not yet been built for the Name of the Lord. 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.

There is always an “exception” that breaks relationship with God.

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.”

Principle: Wisdom is a valid request from man to God.

⁶ Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.

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?”

Principle: Wisdom is the ability to discern God's right and wrong.

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.

Principle: Blessing is conditional, based on obedience – always!

¹⁴ And if you walk in obedience to me and keep my decrees and commands as David your father did, I will give you a long life.” ¹⁵ Then Solomon awoke—and he realized it had been a dream.

Next Steps

Take the Proverbs Challenge — read one chapter every day in the month of May. Proverbs has 31 chapters; May has 31 days. It couldn't be simpler to stay on track! As you read, keep an eye out for all the benefits of Proverbs described in chapter 1:

The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:

- ² ...for gaining **wisdom** and instruction;
for understanding words of insight;
- ³ for receiving instruction in prudent behavior,
doing what is right and just and fair;
- ⁴ for giving prudence to those who are simple,
knowledge and discretion to the young—
- ⁵ let the wise listen and add to their learning,
and let the discerning get guidance—
- ⁶ for understanding proverbs and parables,
the sayings and riddles of the wise.

Small Group Questions

- 1) How did you celebrate Mother's Day?
- 2) What is the wisest piece of advice anyone has ever given you?
- 3) If you could ask for anything, what would it be?
- 4) What blind spot(s) do you have when it comes to obeying God?
- 5) Why is blessing always in proportion to obedience? How do you explain ungodly people who are very successful? (Check out Mark 8:36 for insight!)
- 6) What do you need prayer for today?