



HOMEWORK FOR AUG 29

Lesson 13 – KINGS: Wisdom Literature

Readings: 1 Kings 3:4-15; 4:29-34; Psalm 1; 139:23-24, Proverbs 1; 12:1; Ecclesiastes 1-2; 12:13; Song of Songs 8:6-7; Luke 2:40-52; 1 Corinthians 1:18-31, 3:18-23, James 3:13-18

Read 1 Kings 3:4-15. Why did Solomon ask God for wisdom and why was God pleased with his request?

Read 1 Kings 4:29-34. Describe the kind of wisdom that Solomon had. What does this tell us about the kind of wisdom which comes from God?

Read Psalm 1. Compare and contrast the wicked and the righteous according to this Psalm.

Read Proverbs 1. How does this Proverb contrast the voice of sinful men and the voice of wisdom? How do you see those two conflicting voices calling out to you in your life?

Why is the fear of the Lord the beginning of wisdom? What do you think Proverbs means by "fear" of the Lord?

Read Psalm 139:23-24. What does David's prayer tell us about him, and what does it tell us about God?

Read Proverbs 12:1. How does this verse connect to the verses you just read in Psalm 139?

Read Ecclesiastes 1-2. How did Solomon try to find meaning in the world and why was he disappointed?

What did Solomon ultimately find was the only way to find satisfaction in life?

How does Solomon's experience compare to most people in our modern culture? How does his experience compare to your own?

Read Song of Songs 8:6-7. How does Solomon describe love?

Why do you think wisdom literature would include a book about marital love?

Read Luke 2:40-52. What does this passage tell us about Jesus's wisdom? What does this tell us about Him?

If Jesus was God, how could He *grow* in wisdom?

Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 and 3:18-23. How does the wisdom of the world compare to the wisdom of God?

What does this tell us about trusting in the Lord's wisdom?

What does this tell us about trusting in worldly wisdom?

Read James 3:13-18. What is the difference between the way the wisdom of the world tells us to treat people and the way God’s wisdom tells us to treat people?

How does this compare to your personal experience of the “wisdom” of the world?

APPLICATION: Throughout the Bible, both the Old Testament and New, Scripture compares and contrasts the “wisdom” of the world with true wisdom which comes from God. The world tells us to look out for number one, to acquire as much power, wealth, and possession for ourselves as possible, and to do what feels good. The wisdom of God tells us to humble ourselves, pursue righteousness, and serve others in selfless love. Wisdom begins with “fear of the Lord” because true wisdom means trusting in what God says is true, right, and good, not trusting in our own human wisdom, desires, or passions. Because God created us and the world around us and because He is our loving Father, He know us better than we know ourselves, He knows what is best for us, and He knows the best way to live in this world He has created. When we trust in His wisdom, we will find the safest and best paths in life.

The wisdom literature in the Old Testament helps us understand God’s wisdom, but we still God’s wisdom most fully made manifest in the life of Jesus. Scripture tells us that Jesus not only has the wisdom of God, He *is* the wisdom of God. As the Word made flesh, Jesus is the wisdom of God incarnate. So if we want to know how God would react to a situation or how God would treat certain people or what He would do, all we have to do is look to Jesus. If we want to have godly wisdom, we need to abide in Christ, and walk by His Spirit.

James tells us if we want to have wisdom, we just need to ask God, who gives wisdom to His children generously. God isn’t trying to keep His wisdom secret from us. He isn’t trying to make it hard to figure out, like a riddle. He doesn’t only give out His wisdom to those who are extra-special or do something above and beyond to try to be “next level Christians.” God wants to give His wisdom to all of us. He has given us His wisdom in His word – all we have to do is read it! He promises to give us wisdom supernaturally whenever we ask Him in prayer. God has given us His Spirit of wisdom to dwell in our hearts all the time. We just have to keep seeking His will, abiding in Christ, and walking by the Spirit, and we will grow in wisdom.

All of Scripture, both Old and New Testaments urge us – pursue wisdom. Chase after it with all your heart. Wisdom is more precious than anything else you could ever desire (Proverbs 3:13-15). Those who have wisdom know how best to live and walk in this world. That’s a priceless gift. And those who know the wisdom of God incarnate – Jesus – have the gift of eternal life.

Those who have godly wisdom have joy and abundant life here on earth as well as eternal life in heaven.

Take some time now to reflect on how you have grown in wisdom since you came to know Jesus.

- How has your thinking changed to reflect God's wisdom instead of the ways of the world?
- What experiences, spiritual practices, or people have helped you grow in wisdom?
- How has understanding God's ways changed the way you live? How have you *applied* His wisdom to your life?
- In what ways does your life look different from the world around you?

Then reflect on any particular circumstances, situations, issues, or relationships about which you need to seek God's wisdom right now. Take some time to pray about those situations, specifically asking God for wisdom, then spending time in meditation, listening for His voice. Take some time to search the Scriptures for His written wisdom about the situation. Seek the advice of a godly friend or mentor who will point you to godly wisdom. Continue reflecting on wisdom throughout your week, seeking God's wisdom in every situation you encounter.