

BOOK OF 1 KINGS
WISDOM IN ACTION
1 KINGS 3:16-28

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Introduction

Last week we saw here in **3:11-15** that because Solomon's requested a wise and understanding heart to be able to rule God's people when the LORD gave him a blank check, that **PLEASED THE LORD**. So God not only gave him a **wise and understanding heart**, but also gave him wealth and honor like no other king!

There are some great truths to note about this.

Setting one's sights on riches will end up leaving that one empty and never satisfied! *Ecclesiastes 5:10—He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this is also vanity.*

Only putting the Lord first in one's life will satisfy the deepest needs in that life! *Matthew 6:33—But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

Our LORD is able to do great things for us and through us for His glory! *Ephesians 3:20—Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, 21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.*

Solomon received great wisdom from the LORD, but it was up to him to apply and use that wisdom in all areas of his life!

He was basically wise when it came to governing the nation.

However, he was foolish in governing his own house.

He did not always act wisely and neither do we.

Wealth without wisdom and grace can and usually will do damage to one's life!

Because the condition of *verse 14* was not heeded, Solomon did not live a long life. He died around the age of sixty.

Not all have great wisdom like Solomon. **But the wisdom found in God's Word is ours for the gleaning if we would just take time to search the Word and apply the nuggets of wisdom that we find!**

We also have **the opportunity to be faithful to the Lord and that is really what true wisdom is all about. There is wisdom in serving Jesus Christ and putting Him first in your life!**

Colossians 2:3—In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

1 Corinthians 1:30—But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:

Let's look at Solomon's Wisdom In Action:

I. WE SEE THAT SOLOMON NEEDED WISDOM IN THIS ARGUMENT BETWEEN TWO HARLOTS! (3:16-23)

God answered Solomon's prayer and immediately he faced this test.

Two harlots came before him. Both of them were nursing mothers of small infants. But neither of them had much character! (i.e. They were both harlots!)

One child died in the night and one lived. Both of these women laid claim to the same baby. The problem for Solomon was figuring out who was telling the truth and who was lying?

II. WE SEE SOLOMON'S WISE ANSWER! (3:24-28)

Solomon's solution to the problem was to take a sword and cut the living baby in half and give each woman half! What!???

The wisdom behind this was that the true mother, even though she was a harlot, **loved her baby!** (That's called "*natural affection*")!

The attachment of parents to their children is one of the strongest in nature, and nothing can overcome it but the most confirmed and established wickedness. (i.e. A reprobate mind: *Romans 1:31*)

Natural affection is the affection that parents have toward their young, and even which the young have toward their parents. It is an affection that is common and is observed in most every class of animal! (e.g. *Mama bear, alligator, or whatever and her young!*)

Consequently, those people who are without *natural affection* are hard-hearted and brutish.

**A. It Is In The Nature Of Women To Want To Be Mothers!
(God made them that way! It is part of being a woman!)**

e.g. Sarah – Genesis 18:9-14; 21:1ff

e.g. Rebekah - Genesis 25:21 And Isaac intreated the LORD for his wife, because she was barren: and the LORD was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. [Jacob/Esau]

e.g. Rachel – Genesis 30:1ff;

e.g. Hannah – 1 Samuel 1; e.g. Elisabeth – Luke 1

B. It Is In The Nature Of A Mother To Love Her Baby!

(So how can millions and millions of women in the USA and around the world be heartless and uncaring about a living child in their womb? How can they abort their babies like they are nothing but unwanted garbage! Why is that happening in our country and in our world in general? Cf. Romans 1:24)

It is a sign of reprobation (having been given over to a reprobate mind) and it is characteristic of the end times!
(Cf. 2 Timothy 3:3)

“The world...is characterized by the subtle and relentless pressure it brings to bear upon us to conform to its values and practices. It creeps up on us little by little. What was once unthinkable becomes thinkable, then doable, and finally acceptable to society at large. Sin becomes respectable, and so Christians are no more than five to ten years behind the world in embracing most sinful practices.”

Can we not see that in our world today with regard to abortion and the LGBTQ movements especially?

"Gradually, though no one remembers exactly how it happened, the unthinkable becomes tolerable. And then acceptable. And then legal. And then applaudable."

Matthew 24:12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

C. The True Mother In The Case Before Solomon Demonstrated The Elements Of Natural Affection And Genuine Love.

Love is not selfish. It sacrifices self for the object of the one loved. The true mother would rather see her baby live and do without her than see her baby die.

The lying harlots attitude was, *"If I can't have it, nobody can."* It's ironic that the lying woman did not love or care about this child. So why did she desire it? Why rear the child of another? Why take on an unwanted expense? What is her motivation? Was it fear of reproach and being mocked as a murderer? Was it envy and jealousy of her roommate?

We know that jealousy leaves a person empty and dissatisfied, never content. Jealousy caters to self, not others. Jealousy and envy count another person's blessings instead of one's own blessings. Jealousy resents the fact that others have what you don't have. This is what the lying harlot did. She resented the other woman and looked at her as a rival.

D. The Sword Brought The Truth Out Into The Open!

The sword brought out the best in one woman and the worst in the other. It revealed what was in each woman's heart. The Bible, our God's Sword, does this too. *Hebrews 4:12—For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

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The Bible brings out the best and the worst in people. It reveals what is in their hearts. Some choke on the Word in Church and don't stay because they can't handle the Truth! Others stay and thrive spiritually! The Word of God changes lives. It is Truth!