

Wisdom

BOCF, 26th July 2009

- If you could ask God for anything this morning, what would it be? Money, job, peace in relationships, a loved one to know Christ....? Solomon had this opportunity and asked for wisdom, and it pleased God: 1 Kings 3:5-14 (2 Chr 1:6-12)

So what is wisdom? 1 Cor 12:8

Is there a difference between wisdom & knowledge? Is it being clever, having 3 degrees and a PhD, being old, serious, widely read, etc...?

Quotes: Which ones are “wise” or...Who would you go to?

Finley Peter Dunne: Ye can lead a man up to the university, but you can't make him think. (www.wisdomquotes.com)

Abraham Lincoln: Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe. (www.wisdomquotes.com)

(Unknown): A good deal of trouble has been caused in the world by too much intelligence and too little wisdom. (<http://choicequotations.com>)

Douglas Adams: Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so. (www.wisdomquotes.com)

Let's look at 2 examples of wisdom in action:

Solomon (1 Kings 3:16-28): a word of knowledge here may have achieved the same, correct result, but the women would probably have continued arguing. Solomon's word of wisdom convinced everybody (women and onlookers) immediately. The next 7 chapters of 1 Kings speak of Solomon's wisdom and wealth.

Jesus (Mt. 22:15-22): background - Pharisees and Herodians did not get on with each other. A “Yes” from Jesus would have alienated Himself from the Jews, a “No” could have been regarded as treason against Roman rule. Inscription on the coin read: Tiberius Caesar Augustus son of the divine Augustus. Reverse: Pontif maxim = highest priest. Jesus' answer satisfied both groups!

In both incidents, the answer was unexpected, people were amazed. People listen to the wise.

What is wisdom? A practical application of knowledge in a righteous way.

Characteristics of a wise person (from Proverbs).

Godly – the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: Prov 9:10. (Fear = respect and reverence). To fear the Lord is to hate evil (Prov 8:13). Righteous (we can be, only because of what Jesus has done for us).

Humble – perhaps the reason God was pleased with Solomon (1 Kings 3:10)
Prov 3:7, Prov 26:12

Creative: Solomon - Temple: Jesus - carpenter
Prov 3:19, Exod 28:3 (KJ version – “whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom”)

Willing to listen, learn: teachable (Prov 1:5)
Listen to counsel, accept discipline (Prov 19:20)
Blessed (Prov 3:13)
Long life (Prov 3:16)
Security (Prov 3:21-26)
Peace (Prov 3:17)
Control temper (Prov 29:11)
(Fruit of the Spirit: Gal 5:22-23)

Who can acquire it?

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.

The opposite of the wise is a fool: the fool says in his heart that “there is no God” (Psalm 14:1). Can wisdom be seen in un-Godly people then? (Rom 1:20-23)

A person with a desire: Prov 4:7

A person with a need: James 1:5

As a spiritual gift, could be a child that exhibits it... (Jesus as a child: Lk 2:41-47)

Fuller Definition: A practical application of knowledge in a Godly, righteous way, resulting in the building up of the church.

Read quotes again: so who would you go to?

Practical:

Let’s pray for those who need a word of wisdom in their lives. Pray for the Leadership of the church. Encourage those with the gift to talk and pray with people.