

Character Qualities: Wisdom

1 Kings 3:1-28

Ask: If you had one wish, what would it be?

Intro: Solomon had one wish from God.

What could he have asked?

I. Solomon Gets Wisdom (3:1-15)

^{3:1}Then Solomon formed a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt, and took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her to the city of David, until he had finished building his own house and the house of the LORD and the wall around Jerusalem. ²The people were still sacrificing on the high places, because there was no house built for the name of the LORD until those days. ³Now Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of his father David, except he sacrificed and burned incense on the high places. ⁴And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place; Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. ¶⁵In Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what *you wish* me to give you." ⁶Then Solomon said, "Thou hast shown great lovingkindness to Thy servant David my father, according as he walked before Thee in truth and righteousness and uprightness of heart toward Thee; and Thou hast reserved for him this great lovingkindness, that Thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as *it is* this day." ⁷And now, O LORD my God, Thou hast made Thy servant king in place of my father David, yet I am but a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And Thy servant is in the midst of Thy people which Thou hast chosen, a great people who cannot be numbered or counted for multitude. ⁹"So give Thy servant an understanding heart to judge Thy people to discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Thine?" ¹⁰And it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. ¹¹And God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing and have not asked for yourself long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, ¹²behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you. ¹³And I have also given you what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that there will not be any among the kings like you all your days. ¹⁴And if you walk in My ways, keeping My statutes and commandments, as your father David walked, then I will prolong your days." ¹⁵Then Solomon awoke, and behold, it was a dream. And he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered burnt offerings and made peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

What did he ask? (3:6-9)

What did he receive? (3:10-14)

II. Example of Solomon's Wisdom (3:16-28)

^{3:16}Then two women who were harlots came to the king and stood before him. ¹⁷And the one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth to a child while she *was* in the house. ¹⁸"And it happened on the third day after I gave birth, that this woman also gave birth to a child, and we were together. There was no stranger with us in the house, only the two of us in the house. ¹⁹"And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on it. ²⁰"So she arose in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your maidservant slept, and laid him in her bosom, and laid her dead son in my bosom. ²¹"And when I rose in the morning to nurse my son, behold, he was dead; but when I looked at him carefully in the morning, behold, he was not my son, whom I had borne." ²²Then the other woman said, "No! For the living one is my son, and the dead one is your son." But the first woman said, "No! For the dead one is your son, and the living one is my son." Thus they spoke before the king. ²³Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son who is living, and your son is the dead one'; and the other says, 'No! For your son is the dead one, and my son is the living one.'" ²⁴And the king said, "Get me a sword." So they brought a sword before the king. ²⁵And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other." ²⁶Then the woman whose child *was* the living one spoke to the king, for she was deeply stirred over her son and said, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means kill him." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide *him!*" ²⁷Then the king answered and said, "Give the first woman the living child, and by no means kill him. She is his mother." ²⁸When all Israel heard of the judgment which the king had handed down, they feared the king; for they saw that the wisdom of God was in him to administer justice.

III. Definition of Wisdom: What is wisdom?

Looking at life from God's perspective.

Tracing problems to violations of God's principles.

Responding to situations with God's principles.

Practical application of knowledge.

Other possible answers: **Discretion, humility, experience, discernment**

Note the difference between earthly and heavenly wisdom. (See James 3:15-18)

IV. Needing Wisdom?

Ask: Do you have wisdom?

V. Getting Wisdom Proverbs

Pr. 1:20-31 - ²⁰Wisdom shouts in the street, She lifts her voice in the square; ²¹At the head of the noisy streets she cries out; At the entrance of the gates in the city, she utters her sayings: ²²"How long, O naive ones, will you love simplicity? And scoffers delight themselves in scoffing, And fools hate knowledge? ²³Turn to my reproof, Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. ²⁴Because I called, and you refused; I stretched out my hand, and no one paid attention; ²⁵And you neglected all my counsel, And did not want my reproof; ²⁶I will even laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, ²⁷When your dread comes like a storm, And your calamity comes on like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come on you. ²⁸Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they shall not find me, ²⁹Because they hated knowledge, And did not choose the fear of the LORD. ³⁰They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. ³¹"So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way, And be satiated with their own devices.

Pr. 2:1-10 - ²¹My son, if you will receive my sayings, And treasure my commandments within you, ²Make your ear attentive to wisdom, Incline your heart to understanding; ³For if you cry for discernment, Lift your voice for understanding; ⁴If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵Then you will discern the fear of the LORD, And discover the knowledge of God. ⁶For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. ⁷He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, ⁸Guarding the paths of justice, And He preserves the way of His godly ones. ⁹Then you will discern righteousness and justice And equity and every good course. ¶ ¹⁰For wisdom will enter your heart, And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; ...

Pr. 4:1-13 - ⁴¹Hear, O sons, the instruction of a father, And give attention that you may gain understanding. ²For I give you sound teaching; Do not abandon my instruction. ³When I was a son to my father, Tender and the only son in the sight of my mother, ⁴Then he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; Keep my commandments and live; ⁵Acquire wisdom! Acquire understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶Do not forsake her, and she will guard you; Love her, and she will watch over you. ⁷The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding. ⁸Prize her, and she will exalt you; She will honor you if you embrace her. ⁹She will place on your head a garland of grace; She will present you with a crown of beauty." ¹⁰Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. ¹¹I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. ¹²When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble. ¹³Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life.

Pr. 7:1-4 - ⁷¹My son, keep my words, And treasure my commandments within you. ²Keep my commandments and live, And my teaching as the apple of your eye. ³Bind them

on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. ⁴Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your intimate friend;

Pr. 8:1-21 - ⁸¹Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice? ²On top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, she takes her stand; ³Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: ⁴"To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men. ⁵O naive ones, discern prudence; And, O fools, discern wisdom. ⁶Listen, for I shall speak noble things; And the opening of my lips will produce right things. ⁷For my mouth will utter truth; And wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the utterances of my mouth are in righteousness; There is nothing crooked or perverted in them. ⁹They are all straightforward to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰Take my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choicest gold. ¹¹For wisdom is better than jewels; And all desirable things can not compare with her." ¶ ¹²I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And I find knowledge and discretion. ¹³The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate. ¹⁴Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power is mine. ¹⁵By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. ¹⁶By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge rightly. ¹⁷I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. ¹⁸Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness. ¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield than choicest silver. ²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, ²¹To endow those who love me with wealth, That I may fill their treasuries."

Pr. 8:32-36 - ³²Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways. ³³Heed instruction and be wise, And do not neglect it. ³⁴Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts. ³⁵For he who finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD. ³⁶But he who sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love death."

Pr. 9:1-6 - ⁹¹Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ²She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine; She has also set her table; ³She has sent out her maidens, she calls From the tops of the heights of the city: ⁴"Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks understanding she says, ⁵"Come, eat of my food, And drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Forsake your folly and live, And proceed in the way of understanding."

Pr. 9:9 - ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser, Teach a righteous man, and he will increase his learning.

Pr. 9:10 - ¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

How / where do you get wisdom? **Reproof, parents, instruction, passion to find it, seek it, ask for it (James 1:5), read the Scriptures! (esp. Psalms and Proverbs), the fear of the Lord, experience, watching others make wise and foolish choices**

VI. Benefits of Wisdom

^{3:13}How blessed is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding.

Long life

^{1:32}“For the waywardness of the naive shall kill them, And the complacency of fools shall destroy them.”

^{3:2}For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.

^{4:10}Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, And the years of your life will be many.

^{9:11}For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

^{10:27}The fear of the LORD prolongs life, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Blessed life (peace, safety, success, honor, riches, hope, confidence)

^{1:9}Indeed, they are a graceful wreath to your head, And ornaments about your neck.

^{1:33}“But he who listens to me shall live securely, And shall be at ease from the dread of evil.”

^{2:21-22} - ²¹For the upright will live in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; ²²But the wicked will be cut off from the land, And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

^{3:21-26} - ²¹My son, let them not depart from your sight; Keep sound wisdom and discretion, ²²So they will be life to your soul, And adornment to your neck. ²³Then you will walk in your way securely, And your foot will not stumble. ²⁴When you lie down, you will not be afraid; When you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. ²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden fear, Nor of the onslaught of the wicked when it comes; ²⁶For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

^{3:35}The wise will inherit honor, But fools display dishonor.

^{4:12}When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.

^{6:22}When you walk about, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you.

^{8:35}“For he who finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD.

^{14:26}In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And his children will have refuge.

^{19:8}He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; He who keeps understanding will find good.

^{19:23}The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

^{22:4}The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD Are riches, honor and life.

^{24:14}Know that wisdom is thus for your soul; If you find it, then there will be a future, And your hope will not be cut off.

Sin prevention

^{2:11-22} - ¹¹Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, ¹²To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; ¹³From those who leave the paths of uprightness, To walk in the ways of darkness; ¹⁴Who delight in doing evil, And rejoice in the perversity of evil; ¹⁵Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways; ¹⁶To deliver you from the strange woman, From the adulteress who flatters with her words; ¹⁷That leaves the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God; ¹⁸For her house sinks down to death, And her tracks lead to the dead; ¹⁹None who go to her return again, Nor do they reach the paths of life. ²⁰So you will walk in the way of good men, And keep to the paths of the righteous. ²¹For the upright will live in the land, And the blameless will remain in it; ²²But the wicked will be cut off from the land, And the treacherous will be uprooted from it.

^{7:5}That they may keep you from an adulteress, From the foreigner who flatters with her words.

^{22:3}The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, But the naive go on, and are punished for it.

Other

^{29:3}A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad,...

As parents, we should not only be seeking wisdom ourselves, we should also be leading our children to seek it.