

Wise Young King Becomes Foolish Old Man – 1 Kings 1-11

Intro. Be strong and walk before the Lord with all your heart, then you will prosper (Joshua 1:7, 1 Kings 2:2-4)

- The Lord loves Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24-25)

I. A Successful King Becomes A Foolish Old Man

- 1 Kings 10:23-24, (26-29); 11:4, 6, 9, 11, 38, 40

“I remember I stuck my toe over into darkness for a second and I didn’t get caught...Sin is fun in the flesh. Soon I was dancing between light and dark. Then I went from dancing to drowning.” - Carlos Whittaker, “Kill The Spider.”

Question: Where have you stuck your toe into sin and darkness? Stop now and repent before you find yourself drowning, and then go seek God’s wisdom.

II. A Young Man Acquires God’s Wisdom

1. Love the Lord with your whole heart

- 1 Kings 3:3, 1 Kings 8:61, Matthew 22:37

Prayer: Where in your life is your heart not wholly the Lord’s? Pray he will incline your heart towards him to walk in his ways.

2. Approach God with a child’s attitude –

- 1 Kings 3:7, Matthew 18:4

Question: How would you describe your attitude towards God? What would it look like to have a child’s heart towards him?

3. Ask God for wisdom (i.e. a listening heart) -

- 1 Kings 3:9 (NASB), Proverbs 9:10, James 1:5-8
- The phrase translated “understanding mind/heart” in verse 9 literally means “listening heart” that obeys.

Wisdom in verse 9 is defined as a heart that listens to the Lord and discerns the difference between good and evil.

- Wisdom is the right application of God’s knowledge.

Fear of the Lord is to stand in awe of his greatness, knowledge, and holiness. And in response, we absolutely trust God above all others and obey him.

Prayer: Where are you bumping up against your limitations and in need of God’s wisdom? Ask with a listening heart.

4. Seek to use God’s wisdom to bless others

- (Gen. 12:2-3), 1 Kings 3:9-10, 16, 28; 4:29-30, 10:9, 24; 8:55-61
- Matthew 28:19-20

Challenge: Be strong and love the Lord your God with your whole heart and listen for his words of wisdom! Your own life will be blessed for it and so will other’s lives as you share it with them!

Wisdom Speaks – using NIV

- Proverbs 3:5-8; 4:23; 6:9-11, 27; 12:18; 16:9; 18:6-7, 22, 24
- Proverbs 21:9, 13; (23:4-5); 27:5, (Ecclesiastes 3:12-14)

Solomon Blesses us!

- 1 Kings 8:55-61