



LIFE GROUP SERMON NOTES

“Kings & Queens: The King's Speech”

Ps James Lowe – July 13, 2014

WARM-UP (10-15 minutes)

Choose a question below to answer, or ask another. *No right or wrong answers.*

- Who was someone wise that you admired when you were growing up? Why?
- What is a wisdom saying that helped you in the past?
- Who is someone you turn to now when you need wise advice?

WORD (10-15 minutes)

Sermons can be heard online at bethelbrentwood.org/media.

1 Kings 2:1-4 ESV *When David's time to die drew near, he commanded Solomon his son, saying, "I am about to go the way of all the earth. Be strong, and show yourself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his rules, and his testimonies, as it is written in the Law of Moses, that you may prosper in all that you do and wherever you turn, that the Lord may establish his word that he spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons pay close attention to their way, to walk before me in faithfulness with all their heart and with all their soul, you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'"*

- David spoke God's Word to his son, Solomon, to prepare him for his great calling.

1 Kings 3:5-14 ESV *At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?" It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days." (1 Kings 3:5-14 ESV)*

- Solomon demonstrated that he had listened to his father, David, because he asked God for help to serve God's people well. He was humble and wanted to do good by governing well. God honored his request by granting him the wisdom he needed, plus riches and honor.
- See Proverbs 8, which is one of Solomon's great passages about wisdom from God.

Prudence

- Prudence is the application of knowledge and wisdom. It is discretion in practical affairs. Sadly, Solomon lacked prudence in his later years even though he had great wisdom. The Mosaic Law, which David taught his son, Solomon, prohibits Israel's kings from amassing personal wealth, from building a massive military (which would lead to self-reliance), and from marrying pagan wives (which would lead to idolatry); [see Deuteronomy 13]. But Solomon was guilty of violating all three prohibitions. His disobedience eventually set the stage for the division of the kingdom. We must learn from his example, imitating his early humility and desire for wisdom, but seeking to be prudent throughout our lives.

Prosperity

- Prudence practiced produces prosperity. When we actually apply God's Word to our daily lives, God's blessings will eventually come upon us. This was true for Solomon, and it will be true for us as well, since God is impartial and treats all people mercifully and justly. Solomon was known as the wealthiest man of his age. Yet he did not initially love money or seek to be rich. He desired to serve God's people well and fulfill with excellence the tasks given to him by God. We too must not love money or ultimately seek to be rich. Instead, we must value and prioritize doing God's will with our lives. If we do, and we put God's Word into practice in our normal lives, we can expect God to bless us and prosper us.

Partnership

- Solomon's first partnership at the beginning of his kingly reign was with God. He honored God and sought wisdom from him. For years he prospered as he walked in partnership with God, valuing wisdom as he sought to govern God's people well. Through his partnership with God, he walked in favor with others and entered into helpful partnerships with others, such as King Hiram, who helped him build the Temple. Sadly, he walked away from his partnership with God after he experienced great success. Instead, he partnered with many pagan wives and was led away into the corruption of idolatry. We must learn the lesson that we can achieve great success and acquire everything we could want, and yet make the grave error of turning away from God. God must always be first in our lives, more important to us than all the earthly success and blessing he can bring us.

PERSONAL APPLICATION (10-15 minutes)

Choose an item below to discuss, or introduce another related topic for discussion.

- In what areas of your life do you especially need God's wisdom at the present time?
- How has God's wisdom protected and blessed you in the past?
- How can we go about acquiring more wisdom from God?

PRAYER (10-15 minutes)

Pray for any of the following, as well as any other requests you may have.

- That God would grant us the wisdom we need to fulfill the vocations and ministries he has called us to do.
- That God would purify our hearts and purge us from any misplaced desires that put other things ahead of God in our lives, helping us to love and honor him above everything and everybody else.
- That God would give us wisdom to know how to engage those who are far from God, to establish new believers in the faith, to equip them to do God's work, and to empower them to be fruitful and advance God's kingdom in every sphere of human activity and among people of every ethnicity, social standing, age, and nationality.