The Audacity to Choose Wisdom June 6, 2021

*1 Kings 3:1-28 Series: Cracks in the Foundation*

*“The only true wisdom is in knowing you know nothing.” -Socrates*

Intro: Realizing that you just don’t measure up

What do you need when the shoes are too big to fill?

1. Solomon became king at a young age

v. 7 *O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child.*

1. Solomon had to follow in the footsteps of his father, King David

v. 3 *Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father*

v. 6 *David my father … walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you.*

1. Solomon understood that this wasn’t a simple assignment

v. 8 *And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered*

* How do you think becoming king after David would have felt for Solomon? Would this have felt like a burden, a blessing or both?
* When have you felt like you were unable to measure up to what has come before you?

1. The humility to know what you’re lacking
2. Solomon knew he needed help to lead the people

v. 7 … *I do not know how to go out or come in.*

v. 9 *Give your servant … an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil*

1. Solomon knew who the people’s real King was

v. 9 *for who is able to govern this your great people?*

v. 8 *… your people whom you have chosen*

1. Solomon asked well and got more than he asked for

v. 10 *It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this.*

v. 12 *Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind*

v. 13 *I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you*

* What did Solomon need to realize in order to know what was best to ask for from God?
* Why do you think God gave him more than he asked for?
* If God promised to give you whatever you wanted, what would you ask for? Do you think this would please God?

1. The audacity to act on God’s wisdom
2. Wisdom is having the audacity to make a bold proposition

vv. 24,25 *And the king said, “Bring me a sword.” So a sword was brought before the king… “Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other.*

1. Wisdom is having the knowledge to make a fair ruling

v. 27 *Then the king answered and said, “Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother.*

* How do you think the two women expected Solomon to make the decision?
* How does the way that Solomon handled this situation perfectly show how he was applying the wisdom God gave him?
* In what ways do you need to have the courage or audacity to apply the wisdom that God has given you?

1. The assurance that God can open your eyes
2. Solomon was blind to the sins he was letting take root

v. 1 *Solomon made a marriage alliance with Pharaoh king of Egypt. He took Pharaoh's daughter and brought her into the city of David until he had finished building his own house*

v. 2 *The people were sacrificing at the high places … because no house had yet been built for the name of the LORD.*

v.3 *he sacrificed and made offerings at the high places*

v. 16 *two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him*

1. God opened Solomon’s eyes to what he was doing wrong

v. 15 *Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.*

1. We need wisdom far greater than the wisdom of Solomon

Luke 11:31 *she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.*

1 Corinthians 1:30 *And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God*

* Why is it important to see how Solomon changed?
* Is “the wisdom of Solomon” something we should try to attain? Why or why not?
* Which is more of a struggle for you*—*having the humility to ask God for what you need, or having the courage to apply it?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll study 1 Kings 4:20-34

Notes