

Extreme Wisdom

So, I think they did a fantastic job showing us what extreme Wisdom is really about.

So, this morning, I think we have all understood that we are on to another of the Old Testaments big heroes. Solomon. He was David's son, from his infamous union with Bathsheba, and he was only thought to have been 12 when David died, leaving him to be a very young king.

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Crowned King at 12

Reigned for 40 years

wrote 3000 proverbs

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wrote 1005 songs

Wisest man in History (until Jesus)

Built the temple that David was supposed to for the Ark

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Had 700 wives and 300 Concubines (that ended up being his undoing)

I won't focus too much on his folly today, but there was a large part of politics involved in his decision making here, and not all was in the best interest of God's Kingdom. But today I want to focus on Wisdom, and the gift that Solomon was given.

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Link to Jesus-

Solomon was 12 when he asked for Wisdom, Jesus was 12 when we lost himself in Jerusalem and proved his wisdom to the Jewish leaders in the Synagog.

And we can see this in our own lives. 12 is the start of our teenage years, it is the beginning of when we stop taking things for granted and start looking at the world around us in more detail, asking the questions that we had just accepted the answer to when we were just children.

If you ask any of the leadership team, they will tell you how I will constantly correct them when they group the children and the youth in together. There is a very big difference, and as adults we need to realise these differences as the youth become youth.

As we all grew up before, there was a point when we stopped being satisfied when our parents said, 'Because I said no'. Our curiosity grows, and we start to test. That doesn't mean that self control goes out the window, but it's an important part of life as we are all trying to make sense of the world around us. This is where wisdom has its place, this is where we can learn from Solomon.

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For Solomon, he had no parents at 12, and to top it off, he was King of Israel, and very spiritual. He burnt many many offerings with the priests, and some biblical commentaries talk of this as sinful that he did too much, and was talking the role of a priest, but he was already a faithful young person. And God could see that. He could see his heart.

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Then in a dream, God gave him a choice. (In a dream is when God can talk to us a lot, maybe our dreams mean more than we think.). He ask him what gift do you want... most 12 yr olds would have gone for health or wealth, or the maybe even fame or a play station, some things that the world would see as hugely powerful, but no, we went for discernment between right and wrong, he went for wisdom. And he was rewarded for that. He gave up the need to be rich and healthy, for something much more important. And God rewarded him with the others.

His heart was in the right place. As we saw from David's calling, God sees the heart. He sees what other people don't. And this set up Solomon to be the wisest man in history, until Jesus anyway.

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So what is Wisdom, or what is extreme Wisdom...

Now the game show we saw today is talking about Extreme Wisdom, and in each scenario, there were 4 different ways to deal with it. 2 foolish, one of which was very self centred, and 2 wise answers, but only one was extremely wise.

You see there is a difference between intelligence and wisdom, and while praying about this this month, I realised there is a common mistake we make when looking at wisdom and intelligence, and it's something which points to God character, and God's plans

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Intelligence is about facts, it is about the maths and science of it all... which is important, but wisdom is about relationship. It's about the heart and how we relate to each other in life. Wisdom is more than knowledge, it's about what to do with that knowledge.

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I have been watching the TV series House M.D. recently, and the main character is a genius doctor, Gregory House (played by an English actor), he knows people, he knows medicine, but he sucks at relationships, he constantly does wrong things, and messes up peoples lives around him. Even when he starts to sort his life out, he always ends up hitting the self destruct button. In the end he learns how to be a good friend, but there was a cost.

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You might be the most intelligent person in the world, but not have wisdom. Most of you might have thought that Steven's options were the best way forward, and when writing it, I thought I would have done that too, but it was Sally's option that won because she was all about the bigger picture, the relationship and the love.

There are people who claim to know every word of the Bible by heart, but haven't applied any of it to their lives, and they have kind of missed the point there.

And this is the gift Solomon was given. He probably didn't understand it when he first got it. He didn't even know he had the gift when it was first tested.

When we get given gifts, or when we pray for them, there will more than likely be a test to see if we have them. We'll get a chance to use them.

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Solomon had this chance shortly after the dream. Scripture says 'He went and sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, and then had a feast' Back to normal.

So There he was, probably thinking about the weird dream he had, when he was interrupted by 2 prostitutes arguing over a baby as one of them had crushed their own in their sleep. And out of nowhere, he had an idea to test a mothers love, or to bring out a mothers love.

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Confirmation! And he went on to speak 3000 proverbs, and write 1005 songs, and was known as the wisest man they had ever seen, and people travelled from all nations to hear his wisdom, which in todays world would probably be most hit youtube channel or TED channels. He was a big deal....

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We can do the intelligent thing, or we can do the wise thing and a lot of the time, we will do the foolish thing because we are human. When we look at Wisdom in the Extreme, it makes even the intelligent thing the foolish thing.

To have extreme wisdom, to have this gift of wisdom, it means looking at the world from a different point of view, and having a greater insight. A lot of this we get with age when we learn from our mistakes and a lot of wise people we see are older, and have experienced many seasons of life. Thats why many people seek advice of older people, who have had experience. There is no use asking for wisdom from someone much younger and who hasn't been through what you have. When I spend time with people who are newly parents, they don't ask me for advice of taking care of babies, and I've only ever changed one nappy in my life anyway. I couldn't give him advice on caring for a baby in any way what so ever. We need to trust in the wisdom of people with experience.

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I am going to finish with a Proverb that Solomon wrote about the beginning of wisdom...

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of Wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

This proverb has it all, knowledge of God is understand, but the beginning of Wisdom, the first step to Extreme Wisdom is to fear God.

Fearing God is not about being petrified of God, but to take on his Word, and respect what his plan is for us. It is to follow in his ways, and not just go our own way, its to turn back to him when we have gone and been foolish, it's to accept the forgiveness he offers. It is to care what God thinks.

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Solomon's other book of wisdom in the Bible is Ecclesiastes. He wrote this book at the end of his life, and he concludes: Fear God and Keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.

I think he was on to something here.

Maybe a lot of you are in situations where you just can't see the light of day, or you have made mistakes recently that could have been avoided by following some of God's wisdom. Either way, God is here for you. It is never too late to turn back to God and say sorry for where we turned off the path, and it may be hard. But God is interested in the bigger picture of our lives. We might not get instant satisfaction, but God has bigger plans for you than you could ever imagine, but even more than that, God is bigger than you could ever imagine, and for that reason, we'd be a fool not to trust him.

Or maybe you would like to receive this gift that Solomon was given, to discern the right from wrong, to be wise.

So during this next song, just spend some time asking for wisdom in whatever situation you are in, ask for a new perspective.

Pray