

Scripture: 1 Kings 3-11

I. Worldly Wisdom VS Godly Wisdom: An Old Testament Example  
(Solomon)

**A. Solomon Entreated for Godly Wisdom**

1. What he sought (3:9)
  - a) Obedient heart and discernment
2. What he got (3:12-13)
  - a) Wisdom, riches, and honor

**B. Solomon Exercised Godly Wisdom**

1. Two mothers (3:16-28)

**C. Solomon Experienced the Blessings of Godly Wisdom**

1. Peace (4:23; 5:12)
  - a) With his neighboring kingdoms and even those who were far off
2. Popularity (4:34; 10:1-4, 24)
  - a) Everyone had heard of his wisdom and everyone in power sought his wisdom
3. Productivity (6)
  - a) He built the most magnificent temple ever
4. Prosperity
  - a) An elaborate palace (7:1-12)
  - b) Immense wealth (10:4, 23)
    - (1) Gold and silver as common as ordinary stones (10:27; 2 Chron. 1:15)

**D. Solomon Exchanged Godly Wisdom (10:26-27; 11:1-13)**

1. The Exchange
  - a) Gradual
    - (1) It is important to once again see the patience and long-suffering of God
  - b) God's commands for kings
    - (1) Deut. 17:16-17
      - (a) War machines (16)
        - (i) Trust in military might instead of God's protection
      - (b) Wealth (17b)
        - (i) Trust in monetary might instead of God's provision
      - (c) Wives (17a)
        - (i) Turn to man's gods (knowledge/traditions) instead of God's precepts
2. The End Result
  - a) An end to peace
  - b) An end to one kingdom
  - c) An exile for all Jews

Last week we saw how the Pharisees had exchanged God's truth and wisdom for the knowledge and traditions of man. Their actions were ultimately a response to Solomon doing the same thing. Solomon's decision led to the Jewish people being exiled from their Promised Land. In an effort to get back, the Pharisees made a similar mistake.

In other words, we see a repetition of the same mistake: People whose hearts started in the right place but ended up in the wrong place because they fell for one of Satan's schemes, replacing godly wisdom with man's knowledge and traditions. The same can be said of the church. Church history retells this story with different settings and players but with the same result. This should serve to emphasize the effectiveness of this particular scheme of Satan and it should motivate us to learn. Anytime, we replace God's truth and commands with man's knowledge and traditions, we are headed down the path of failure.

It's also important to see that in both of these examples we have leadership under attack. As the king, Solomon set the example for the kings that followed and for the people. As religious leaders, the Pharisees served as teachers with their words, attitudes, and deeds. Christian leaders must always be on guard; not only for themselves but for those who follow them. This is certainly true for pastors, deacons, teachers and other leaders within the church. However, all Christians are called to lead others. Husbands are to lead wives, parents are to lead children, grandparents are to lead grandchildren, employers are to lead employees, employees are to lead other employees, and we're all to lead our fellow man to God through Jesus.

This truth is why no Christian can dismiss Ezekiel's instruction to watchmen (**Ezekiel 33:1-6**) nor can we forget Peter's exhortation to **"Be serious! Be alert! Your adversary the Devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for anyone he can devour. Resist him and be firm in the faith, knowing that the same sufferings are being experienced by your fellow believers throughout the world."**

So will you use our time of invitation this morning to dedicate yourself to remaining vigilant and diligent watchmen in your own lives, in the lives of those you love, and for the benefit of the world we're called to serve?