



WISDOM IN LEADERSHIP LESSONS FROM THE WORD

Introduction

Bible teaches us many things. Including wisdom. Knowledge can be found in the world, but true wisdom comes only from God.

The ancient Middle Eastern culture fostered “Wisdom literature” They sought after this. As this provided instruction for upright living for life under the law.

This was divided broadly into 2 categories – 1. Proverbial wisdom- E.g., Short, instructive – Proverbs 2. Speculation wisdom – Dialogues – E.g., Dialogues – Job, Monologues – Ecclesiastes

Wisdom and discernment

Wisdom and knowledge

Human wisdom and Divine wisdom

What does the bible teach about wisdom?

The books to read are Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Job and some of the Psalms. The Old Testament books Exodus and Deuteronomy also have many applications.

To state the obvious as believers and leaders “Why do we need wisdom?”. To make good decisions, best decisions, best outcomes, avoid trouble and disappointments and reap the rewards we may deserve for the efforts.

Growing in wisdom is a lifelong journey. For the Lord gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. Proverbs 2:6

Some powerful bible verses on wisdom from the bible:

1. Psalm 110:10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
2. Proverbs 3:13 The man who finds wisdom can expect to lead a blessed life.
3. Philippians 1:9 Paul’s prayer to abound in love for more and more knowledge and depth of insight. In preparation for potential persecution.
4. Colossians 3:16 Word of Christ to dwell in us to minister to others in all wisdom.
5. Hebrew 5:14 To guard against falling away need solid food. To mature in the power of discernment need practice and experience.

6. *James 1: 5 Ask for wisdom. We all need more of it.
7. James 3:17 Wisdom that comes from heaven – the qualities (the outward signs of divine wisdom – read it!)

A few practical lessons from Ecclesiastes 8: 1-8

From the book written by the wisest man who ever lived on earth. Ecclesiastes the term originates from the root Greek word which means – Preacher.

The book outwardly appears to have negative content. To understand we need to see through the lens of God and the lens of the world. The content is intended to have a practical purpose linking reality of a finite life we all live on earth to an infinite eternal life after death we are destined to reach.

1. He/she seeks to understand what is behind things and never takes anything (anybody) for granted. Vs 1,2
2. Has a happy disposition – cheerful. In Message translation “Wisdom from God lights up the face”.
3. Has high regard for authority. vs 3 In reverse leaders also should have high regard for other people and treat them with respect and dignity.
4. Has the willingness to ride out tough times without withdrawing the support. Vs 3, 4 Exception may be when ungodly practices are going on.
5. Knows the timing. Timing is crucial. Vs 6 Knows when to appeal. Vs 5
6. Aware that every person has limitations even in the highest echelons. Vs 7, 8

Expand each with further examples from scripture and real-life situations.

Samuel: Wisdom in choosing David as future king. 1 Samuel 16:7 Samuel though a prophet was human as well. Vs 2, 6

Paul: to the Colossians 2:4, 8 The false teachings removing the centrality of Jesus in revelation and salvation. Instead, human tradition as philosophy. Paul’s wisdom in pointing the people to the gospel.

Jesus Christ: Matthew 21: 23-27 The Chief Priest questioning His authority? An apt answer to a provocative question with deceptive motive.

Application:

List some of the areas now in your life that you are seeking wisdom from God.

Consider the 3 divine principles of Kingdom perspective as a leader and follower of Christ.

Eternal Perspective of life.

Kingdom culture.

Eternal rewards.

Prayer

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