

WISDOM VS. KNOWLEDGE

WITH MICHELLE MYERS

All quotes are from class speaker unless otherwise noted.

- Wisdom will never have formulas or algorithms.
- Wisdom will never be the result of circumstance – like finishing a book, an article or even a degree.
- Wisdom cannot be Googled.

#1: Wisdom is from God, in God, and points back to God.

Wisdom is exclusively available from God.

Proverbs 9:10

Proverbs 2:6

James 3:17

Wisdom will not exist without God.

Reminder: where God is not, wisdom is not.

Issue to overcome: pride

In order to pursue wisdom, pride has to be laid down.

#2: God is insanely generous with His wisdom.

James 1:5

Reminder: Wisdom is asked for, not accumulated.

Wisdom is available to each of us if we're willing to ask Him for it.

Issue to overcome: prayerlessness

Prayerlessness reveals the pride.

How often, how quickly, how dependently are we turning to God first, most often and begging Him to move?

1 Kings 3:6-9

Solomon has a posture of humility.

Recognize God's place which puts you in your place.

Beware of false humility that says, “I know I can’t do this, so I won’t try so I can’t fail” vs. real humility: “This is so far beyond my capability, I must depend on God, not myself.”

1 Kings 3:10-14

vs. 13: This is the OT Matthew 6:33 – “Seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

“all these things” in perspective:

We have to wrestle with how culture’s expectations and definitions can mess with how we perceive “rich” – people who are “rich” in the world’s minds always have a little more than we do – maybe it’s a bigger house or fancier vacations or a private jet to get to a private island. It will be relative how we define rich because typically, rich is always going to be seen by us as more than we have, no matter how much we have

Reframe the definitions and culture expectations. Culture teaches rich is just more than we currently have.

From the Red Cross:

“If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation...
... then you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend any meeting you want—political, religious, social...
... then you are luckier than 3 billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head and a place to sleep...
... then you are richer than 75 percent of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace...
... then you are among the top eight percent of the world’s wealthy.”

All these things:

- Philippians 4:19: “And my God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.”
- 2 Peter 1:3: “His divine power has given us everything we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.”

1 Kings 3:16-28

“Bring me a sword”

- Solomon’s solution to the problem at first looked foolish – even dangerous. The wisdom of his approach was only understood when the matter was settled.

- The wisdom of God often first seem strange, foolish – or as Somer said when we were talking yesterday “crazy.” Patience, though, shows it to be perfect wisdom.

Knowledge gathers facts.

It’s easier to react or research than to wait on wisdom or to wait on God to reveal that something is wise.

“She is his mother:” Solomon knew that the offer to cut the child in two would reveal the true mother, and he rewarded the mother’s love accordingly.

- It is SO much easier to react or research than to wait on wisdom or to wait on God to reveal it was wise. This one was quick – it won’t always be that fast.
- Wisdom won’t always look the same way twice.

What is wise now may not be what is wise forever. It’s a constant dependence on God.

Wisdom is not one size fits all.

Wisdom isn’t enough by itself.

- Having God’s wisdom doesn’t mean you won’t have weakness.
- Solomon’s turn away from the Lord was slow and went unchallenged – we will never be wise enough to let sin go unchallenged
- Greed, foreign entanglements, lust, small compromises to want God and what the world offers too – all of these things took pieces of Solomon’s heart away from God. What was a divine gift became something he used to serve himself.

Proverbs: a collection of Solomon’s wisdom sayings that are not 100% cause and effect – but do guide us in the choices we can make that will help us avoid life’s most common mistakes.

It begins by letting us know the value of wisdom and the danger of sin. Basically, it lets us know if this world wasn’t broken, this is how everything would always work itself out.

Ecclesiastes: also written by Solomon but drastically different in tone. It’s Solomon at the end of his life – he’s had it all and he’s tried it all, and the world has left him unimpressed. He refers to all of his life’s pursuits outside of God as “chasing after the wind.”

- Chasing after wind: you can feel it and see what it does, but you can’t catch it or keep it
- Because the world is broken, this is what you must know – and he begins with the futility of wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 1:16-18

Wisdom can analyze the problems around us, but it cannot solve them. Jesus does that.

Ecclesiastes 2:16

Wisdom does not grant eternal life – Jesus does that.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-14

If you lack direction, don't go to a book. Go to Jesus.

If you lack direction, do not go to God + Google.

Learn what matters.

I want to be wise, but I don't want to stop at wisdom. I want Jesus.

You can go so deep into the pursuit of wisdom that you stop pursuing God. What happened to Solomon could easily happen to any of us. We have to let wisdom be a byproduct of our pursuit of God – not the pursuit.

If we go to God, we'll get wisdom. Wisdom is a by-product of going to God. If we stop at wisdom, we can miss God.

Wisdom can win debates, but the gospel wins souls.

We need God exclusively.

It's easy to cheapen wisdom to knowledge.