For Small Group Discussion.

-You are a young person who finds a magic lamp. A genie appears and grants your three wishes. What are they? Be honest. Discuss your answer.

-Explain wisdom as being the ability to hear God, to understand God and to apply God. Where in these three aspects of wisdom are you the strongest, are you the weakest?

-In what ways have you seen the wisdom of God trump the wisdom of man in your own life (see 1 Cor. 1:19-21).

-Why did Paul describe Jesus as being God’s wisdom? (see 1 Cor. 1:30)

Have a great week.

We love you. Jay and Mona

“Asking for a Heart of Wisdom” Pastor Jay Cave

Text: *1 Kings 3:1-15 , esp. 3:9* BPCC 06/07/15

Sermon Notes:

For Your Consideration:

Over the next four weeks, we are going to look at the life of King Solomon. Homework: 1 Kings 1-11.

Today’s text deals with Solomon’s famous request for wisdom. It is hard not to remember the classic tale of *Aladdin’s Lamp* where a young lad encounters a mighty genie and is offered three wishes. In our story today, God appears to the young Solomon and offers to grant the young ruler’s wishes.

Solomon requests wisdom, which has three basic components as seen in verse 9: *Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?* Solomon asks for the ability to ***hear*** God (the Hebrew word for understanding is *shama,* or the ability to hear). He asks for the ability to ***understand*** what he hears (the gift of discernment). He then asks for the ability ***to apply*** what he hears to the circumstances in his own life (in this case, the ability to govern well). Wisdom, therefore, is the ability to hear God, to understand what is being said, and to apply that insight to one’s own personal life.

God says yes to Solomon’s request. Solomon became the worlds wisest man and inherited the riches and fame as a result. In fact, at the peak of his earthly influence, Solomon composed the book of Proverbs in which he praised wisdom as being the source of all his blessing. He writes: *Blessed is the one who finds wisdom, and the one who gets understanding. For the gain for her is better than gain from silver and her profit better than gold. She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed (3:13-18*

What would you ask for if you had just one wish?. Riches? Fame? Influence? There is nothing necessarily wrong with these answers. But todays story reveals that everything comes to us through the supernatural gift of wisdom. Listening to, understanding, and applying God’s Word is the source of our greatest treasure.

As the people of God, as Solomon’s offspring, we have inherited the ability to conduct a wise life. Wisdom is a part of our DNA. We have been given the ability to hear (see John 10), to understand (see 1 Corinthians 2:11-16) and apply God’s word (James 1:22; Matthew 7:24-27). However, I do believe that God tests our hearts at times to discover how wise we are behaving. We have a tendency not to live up to our potential!

Therefore, God asks us to request a heart of wisdom. God will never refuse a godly request (Matthew 7:2-11). Three thoughts about asking for a heart of wisdom:

1. Wisdom is supernatural and must be granted by God.
2. God’s wisdom isn’t like the world’s wisdom (1 Cor. 1.19-21).
3. God’s wisdom is found in Jesus, who is greater than Solomon (Matthew 12:42; 1 Cor. 1:30)