

WISDOM OF SOLOMON

I Kings 9:10 – 11:43

Lesson Memory Verse: Daniel 12:3 – “And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.”

Lesson Aim: Take God's wisdom and bring sinners to Jesus; this is more honorable than being a king.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Have you ever wanted to win a race? I am sure that you want to win the games that you play with your friends or with your family. Maybe you wanted to draw a picture that would win first place and earn you a prize. Why did you want to win? (It made you feel that you did something well.) There is nothing wrong with trying to win or to be the best, but what is the danger of being the best? (You have to be careful not to get proud.) God said there is something more important than winning races or games or getting the highest prize. It is found in our memory verse for today.

HE (for Authority): Our memory verse for today is Daniel 12:3. Let's find it in our Bibles. (It would also be good to have this verse printed on a large poster so it could be used to explain the verse to the whole class.) This verse tells us that we are wise, if we bring people to Jesus so He can get rid of their sins and save them from Hell. If we do that, God will make us shine like the stars. We call people stars that are good in playing sports. Christians are stars in God's sight that bring people to Jesus Christ so He can make them righteous. Jesus is righteous because He never sinned. When He makes sinners righteous, it means He takes away all of their sins, so they are righteous. **Difficult words and thoughts explained:**

“**Shine**” – to be highly honored in the sight of others

“**Brightness of the firmament**” – bright light of the heavens, especially the sun

“**Turn many to righteousness**” – turn sinners to Jesus; He will remove their sins & make them right.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. In our story today we will see how Solomon succeeded and failed to be wise in witnessing for God.

I. The Wisdom of Solomon (10:1-13)

The Queen of Sheba traveled many miles to see Solomon because she had heard so much about his wisdom. She talked to Solomon about all that was on her mind and asked him many questions. Solomon answered all of her questions using the wisdom which God had given him. When Solomon used God's wisdom to answer the questions of the Queen of Sheba, he was showing her the wisdom and goodness of God to him and to Israel.

WE: We find God's wisdom in the Scriptures. For example, the Scriptures tell us how to be saved from the penalty of our sins and how to overcome the power of sins in our lives. It tells us how to love God by obeying His commands and how to love our neighbors by telling them of God's great gift of salvation. It tells us how to have money and not love it – it is impossible to love God and money, so it tells us to give all our money and possessions to Him and let Him tell us how to use them. These are some of the most important matters where the Scriptures give us God's wisdom. There are many other areas in our lives where the Scriptures give us wisdom. They will help us make the right decisions in life.

II. The Wealth of Solomon (10:14-29)

Solomon collected taxes of gold from the travelers and traders until he had so much gold that even his drinking cups and his throne were made of gold. People came from many places to see the wealth of Solomon and to hear of his wisdom which he had received from God. All of the people knew that Solomon had more riches and wisdom than any other king on the earth. God had kept His promise to Solomon. He gave Solomon the wisdom that he had asked for, but there was an added blessing given to him when he used the wisdom that God gave to him. By using God's wisdom, he was given riches and honor that he did not expect.

WE: We are given wisdom from God as we learn what is in the Bible. There are several ways that we can learn about God's wisdom from the Bible. Tell me, some of the ways we search the Scriptures and find God's wisdom? (We can hear it, we can read it, we can memorize it, we can study it and we can apply it

to our lives.) How many of these ways are we using in our class? (Probably we do all of them except to study it. If we truly studied the Bible in our class, we would be looking for answers in the Bible about questions that you would be asking.) The Scriptures are the wisdom of God and this wisdom can be ours as we discover what is in the Bible. But wisdom is more than knowing the facts of the Bible; it is using those facts to do something that is good. Solomon used the wisdom of God to rule Israel in a good way. He also used God's wisdom to make himself and Israel very rich and with the riches came much honor. We can use the wisdom of God to introduce sinners to Jesus Christ so they can be saved and then God will honor us and make us important in His Kingdom. I hope that you are ready to believe that God will bless you like He blessed Solomon.

III. The Wives of Solomon (11:1-13)

Solomon had many wives. Many of his wives were from countries that did not love God, and these women did not love God. Solomon's wives turned his heart away from worshipping the Lord God as the one and only God; they convinced him to worship their false gods and idols along with them. If Solomon had been wise, he would not have married these ungodly women. He showed God that these women were more important to him than He was. This proves that he was not using God's wisdom in his decisions.

Then he was unwise by not confessing and departing from this sin. The Holy Spirit had led him to write Proverbs 28:13 – "He that covers his sins shall not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy." Maybe he confessed the sins that he did with his wives, but there is no evidence of it in the Scriptures.

If Solomon had confessed his sins and departed from them, he would have been wise to tell his wives about the one true God that had given him the wisdom to bring peace and riches to Israel, but there is no record in the Bible that he ever did this. His wives were a better witness to him about their false gods than he was to them about the true God. He was wise in many areas of his life, but the wisdom of God left him when he disobeyed God and depended on the wisdom of his own heart. Jeremiah 17:9 says the heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. Solomon should have followed the wisdom of God instead of the wisdom of his mind.

WE: We need to use the wisdom of God for decisions in our own lives as well as using it to help others make right decisions. Decisions that we make by our wisdom will lead us into trouble and finally into defeat. We must not follow the example of Solomon when he disobeyed the Lord, trusting his wisdom to be just as good as God's wisdom. Our wisdom will destroy our witness for the Lord; God's wisdom will make us good witnesses for the Lord.

BE (for Action): Solomon was a good witness to the Queen of Sheba about the wisdom and goodness of God to him and Israel. He was a good witness to the nations about the wisdom and power of God in making Israel a very rich nation. Now God wants you to be a wise witness to those that you know, He wants you to tell His plan of salvation to unsaved children that you know. He wants you to tell unsaved members of your family about His love for them and how He wants to give them eternal life. Will you do this for God? If you do, you will be wiser than Solomon. (He failed to witness to some of his wives about the Lord and now they are in Hell.) I will show you how you can be wise. Here is a tract that explains God's plan of salvation (give them a simple tract that is easy for children to understand). If you are already saved, I want you to give it to someone and tell them that Jesus Christ loves them and wants to save them from going to Hell. If they ask you questions and you do not know the answers, invite them to come to church with you next Sunday and we will find someone to answer their questions. Do not argue with them; be a polite witness to them.

If you are not saved, I want you to read this tract carefully and then ask Jesus Christ to be your Savior and remove all your sins from your records. If you believe that Jesus saved you, tell someone about the salvation He gave you.

Next week I would like you to tell us what happened when you passed out this tract and witnessed for the Lord Jesus Christ. (Close the lesson by praying for them.)