

WISDOM OF HAVING AN UNDERSTANDING (HEARING) HEART **Proverbs 4:1-13; 1 Kings 3:1-28**

INTRODUCTION: As a student in school we can all remember back to pulling an all-nighter cramming & jamming inside our head everything so that you can pass the next day's test. Taking care to be properly caffeinated (so you don't fall asleep in the middle of things, you don't want anyone to talk with you, or to touch you, or even to look at you for fear that everything that has been crammed inside of you will accidentally spill out—and you will forget everything. You may have some facts and ideas inside that you hope you access so you can spit it back out—but you don't really know how it all fits together. You don't have wisdom—or skill in that area. You are acting like a student parrot. HAVN'T LEARNED IT! You can't apply it—and chances are it will all be forgotten inside of a week" We all have stories of what life was like back in H.S. – College – Seminary.

SOLOMON'S TESTIMONY OF WHAT LIFE WAS LIKE IN THE PALACE Proverbs 4:1-13

4:1-2 Solomon's Present Burden for His Own Son's – (1) HEAR – (10) HEAR

Deuteronomy 6:3, 4 → Hear and do what you hear

1 Samuel 3:9 "Speak Lord for thy servant heareth" – I'll listen & I'll do

4:3-9 Memory of David as a Mentor

4:5 Wisdom Hochmah life skills = what works and what doesn't
Understanding Binah Insight (experience/instruction—other's (God's)
Isaiah 29:24 = hidden blessing of learning from mistakes

4:5-9 DAVID Prioritizes something for Solomon → Wisdom

- Get wisdom – don't forget
- Don't forget (5)
- Don't forsake (6) – Solomon does forsake wisdom in his mid years
- Love Wisdom (7) – Understanding → attention to detail
- Exalt wisdom (8) – You'll be promoted exalted/lifted up
- Embrace wisdom (8) – You'll be honored
- Ornament = wreath = crowned with grace (approval, favor, charm)
- Crowned with glory (distinction, honor, respect)

4:10-13 (10) Hear my son → hear and do = live many years

(11) I have taught thee in the way of wisdom. . . right paths. → Absalom's life was cut short—he rebelled from authority & wisdom of David

(12) thy steps not straightened (cramped, restricted) fruitful & effective
"thou shalt not stumble" – fall short

(13) Hold on tight to "instruction" (discipline, correction) → she is thy life!

1 Kings 3:1-28

(1-2) Pharaoh's daughter – Sacrificed in high places = Future trouble for Solomon.

(3-4) Solomon loved the Lord → went to Jerusalem → offered 1,000 sacrifices

(5) God tells Solomon to "ask what I shall give thee"

(6-7) Testimony of God mercy & grace with David – I am your gift to my father. God made Israel into a great kingdom -- & I am like a "little child: I know not how to go out or come in" **HIS HUMILITY** → pleased the Lord.

Psalm 138:6 “Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off.

1 Kings 3:9 Solomon asks for an “understanding heart” = “HEARING”

#1 PRIORITY IS LISTENING TO & OBEYING GOD Solomon was saying the same thing that Samuel was saying. . . My heart is to do what you say.

Proverbs 3:5–6 “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. ⁶ In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” How does God direct our paths? Primarily through his Word

PERSONAL DEVOTIONS: PRAYER

- Give me direction → take that path
- What attitude do you want me to change?
- What do you want me to stop doing – start doing?
- Who do you want me to speak to today?
- What truth have I not been living?
- Lord, Forgive me for not listening more attentively.
- Give me something Lord that will help me to be a better husband & father—neighbor—friend—son—servant.
- My problem is not with passages I don’t understand—but with passages I know what it says BUT with Bible passages and H.S. promptings I don’t want to do.

1. We are to love God (heart, soul & mind) → OUR HEART NEEDS TO HEAR GOD

2. We are to love our neighbor as our self. → OUR HEART NEEDS TO HEAR OTHERS

Hearing heart so he could rule well all the people who would come to him bringing unresolved issues & wanting the king to make a decision or make a policy in their favor.

1 Kings 3:16-28 we meet two women—both had recently given birth—one baby died and they are arguing over who is the rightful mother on the living child.

1 Kings 3:24-28 This is Mother’s Day. What mother wouldn’t willingly give up a child to another if it meant the child would live? What kind of a mother would say cut the child in two? Solomon heard the words of these woman—but his hearing heart also heard their hurt/aspiration/goals.

Some who are listening may be in a position of authority (parent, coach, supervisor, teacher, administrator). Let me suggest you humbly ask God to give you a “hearing heart” because the decisions you make the direction you take will impact individuals & families.

- People bring complaints—but what is their real issue? What’s going on behind the scenes? What did they ask and why would that ask that of you? There is nothing magical about this—but we have to listen & then we have to ask some questions.
- As parents very rarely is a child’s outcry as simple and as straight forward. Billy hit me? What did you do/say to Billy? We need to untangle the mess. This is true of families, churches, companies, communities, and nations – give us listening hearts.

Let me ask—have you been hearing God this week? Have you made a decision? Or is there something you need to do—but you’ve put it off. Maybe someone brought something to your attention & you flew off the handle because you took it wrong—and you need to make it right by asking forgiveness—because you said or did somethings you’re not proud of.