

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

March 19

### MONDAY

There at Gibeon, Solomon goes to sacrifice to the Lord and God appears to him in a dream. God asks Solomon what he might want? Solomon tells God that he feels as if he were a child and that the task of leading Israel is too great for him. He asks God for wisdom to help him govern the people well.

**READ: I Kings 3:5-9**

Solomon is a perfect example of one who has not allowed the thinking of the world to become his thinking. It's not money that's most important; it's not a long and happy life; and it's not winning battles and gaining glory. No matter what the world around us tries to tell us, it is simply doing what God wants us to do in the best way we can, relying on Him to perfect the job in ways we cannot. What we need of the Lord is wisdom for the day. One day at a time.

### TUESDAY

God was pleased with Solomon's request for wisdom. He told Solomon that because he did not ask for long life or wealth or victory in battle, God would give him wisdom - so much so that Solomon would be the wisest of men.

**READ: I Kings 3:10-12**

*Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these other things shall be added unto thee.* Solomon's life demonstrates that. God will do that in your life and mine! It may not be wealth, long life, or victories, but there will be areas where God blesses us even beyond our imagination! You say, "I don't know. I have a good imagination!" And I that what God will do for you, in you, and thru you is far too astounding to even dare to dream! He is the Giver of every good gift! And He giveth, and giveth, and giveth again!

### WEDNESDAY

In a dream, God promises Solomon extraordinary status during his reign, and, if he follows after the Lord as David had done, a long life, as well. After waking up, Solomon goes to the Tabernacle and sacrifices to the Lord.

**READ: I Kings 3:13-15**

Solomon's response to what God had told him is remarkable! Basically, he worshipped. Worship is when we declare God to be worthy of all our praise, attention, adoration, and obedience. Wouldn't that be a great way for us to respond to the Word of God as we read it today? All glory and honor and power and praise to God - for He alone is worthy!

### THURSDAY

Two prostitutes come to Solomon with conflicting stories. One of them

explains how both women gave birth, but the other one's baby died, so she took the other's. So now, the mother whose baby was stolen from her wants Solomon to order the living child, the one rightfully hers, to be returned to her.

**READ: I Kings 3:16-21**

The heart of man is deceptively wicked. It is more wicked that man himself would ever guess! How wicked was this woman! First, she stole the child from the other woman. Then she laid her own dead baby there next to her. Next, she coldly lied about the whole thing. And then she agreed to Solomon's judgment that the living baby should be killed and cut in half. Can you even imagine that kind of wickedness and evil? Say YES, because except for the grace of God and His work in our hearts, that would be you and me! What wondrous grace is this, O my Lord! That you would save me!

### FRIDAY

The second woman contradicts the account of the first woman at every point, and Solomon hears two totally opposite stories. He was not there, of course, and has no way to personally verify one or the other.

**READ: I Kings 3:22-23**

What strikes me here is the way Solomon puts the situation into words. I think it maybe helped him evaluate the case. We do well to put into words the things that bother or trouble us. We usually just worry about them or get angry. But if we would verbalize them, we might actually hear how foolish it is for us to worry about the things we do! Are you worried about the economy? Say aloud, "I'm thinking that if the economy keeps getting worse and worse, God may not be able to feed or clothe me." Saying such a thing aloud accents the foolishness of any worry. Solomon verbalized his problems.

### SATURDAY

Solomon raised a sword, and announced his judgment: the child would be cut in half so each woman could have part of the child. One woman told the king to go ahead and do that - it sounded fair enough. The other begged the king not to kill the baby even if it meant giving it to the other woman.

**READ: I Kings 3:24-26**

Solomon's legendary wisdom got jump-started here with his wise handling of a case that seemed, on the surface, to be past knowing. What we need to remember is that Solomon's wisdom came from God! And you and I have the promise that God will give us wisdom, too. Not in the same measure He gave it to Solomon, but enough to meet today's need. He is the God who supplies one day at a time. Wisdom, strength, and more.

#74