



## The Way of Wisdom

- A hard head makes a soft behind.
- The Bible has a word to describe the person who navigates life well; that word is “wise.”

1 Kings 3:5-12 (NIV)

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon during the night in a dream, and God said, “Ask for whatever you want me to give you.”<sup>6</sup> Solomon answered, “You have shown great kindness to your servant, my father David, because he was faithful to you and righteous and upright in heart. You have continued this great kindness to him and have given him a son to sit on his throne this very day.”<sup>7</sup> “Now, Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.”<sup>8</sup> Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number.<sup>9</sup> So give your servant a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”<sup>10</sup> The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this.<sup>11</sup> So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice,<sup>12</sup> I will do what you have asked. I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.

- What you are rooted in will determine what fruit is produced.

## What is wisdom?

James 1:22-25 (NIV)

*Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.*<sup>23</sup> *Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror*<sup>24</sup> *and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like.*<sup>25</sup> *But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.*

- Proverbs provides profound gospel practicality.

Proverbs 1:1 (NIV)

*The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel:*

- Wisdom is royal.

Proverbs 1:2-3 (NIV)

*for gaining wisdom and instruction; for understanding words of insight;*<sup>3</sup> *for receiving instruction in prudent behavior, doing what is right and just and fair;*

- Wisdom follows the instructions.

Proverbs 1:4 (NIV)

*for giving prudence to those who are simple, knowledge and discretion to the young—*

- Wisdom is better embraced sooner than later.

Proverbs 1:5-6 (NIV)

*let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance—*<sup>6</sup> *for understanding proverbs and parables, the sayings and riddles of the wise.*

- Wisdom will always be a work in process.