

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of April

### Only Those Who Seek Wisdom

- **Text:** 1 Kings 3:4~12 (April 9)
- **Point:** Ask for wisdom to discern between good and evil so that you can do your job well.

#### ≡ 1. Praise

(Hymn 545) Down in the Valley Where the Mists of Doubt Arise

#### ≡ 2. Prayer

God, our family comes before You with a longing heart. Please help us to know and love God more through the words we read and share together .

#### ≡ 3. The Word

Read 1 Kings 3:4~12 together (read the verse 3 times).

\* Reading the Word over and over again in different translations will help you to deepen your understanding of the material.

<ESV>

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I shall give you." 6 And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. 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?" 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you.

<NASB>

4 And the king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, because that was the great high place; Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 In Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream at night; and God said, "Ask what you wish Me to give you." 6 Then Solomon said, "You have shown great faithfulness to Your servant David my father, according as he walked before You in truth, righteousness, and uprightness of heart toward You; and You have reserved for him this great faithfulness, that You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. 7 And now, Lord my God, You have made Your servant king in place of my father David, yet I am like a little boy; I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people who are too many to be numbered or counted. 9 So give Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, to discern between good and evil. For who is capable of judging this great people of Yours?" 10 Now it was pleasing in the sight of the Lord that Solomon had asked this thing. 11 And God said to him, "Because you have asked this thing, and have not asked for yourself a long life, nor have asked riches for yourself, nor have you asked for the lives of your enemies, but have asked for yourself discernment to understand justice, 12 behold, I have done according to your words. Behold, I have given you a wise and discerning heart, so that there has been no one like you before you, nor shall one like you arise after you.

### Understanding Text

After he became king, Solomon offered a thousand burnt offerings to God, or 1,000 animals, on the high place of Gibeon. God was so pleased with Solomon that He appeared to him in a dream and told him to make a wish. Above all else, Solomon sought wisdom to govern his people. God was pleased with Solomon for asking for wisdom.

#### Understanding the text for leaders

After Solomon became king, he went to the high place of Gibeon. There, they offered a thousand burnt offerings (1,000 animals as burnt offerings) to God. The high places were originally places for the Canaanites to worship idols, but they were also used as places to worship God in the days when the temple had not yet been built. However, even after the temple was built, it was often used as a place to worship God. For this reason, the high places became a snare for the Israelites to worship idols and sin. Before the temple was built, Solomon visited the high place of Gibeon, where Moses' tabernacle and Bezalel's brass altar were located (2 Chronicles 1:3~6). It was an important place to worship God. That's why Solomon made an offering to God here. God appeared to Solomon in a dream at night and told him to ask for whatever he wanted. Dreams can also be a means of revelation from God. Solomon was more concerned with his responsibilities as a king than with his personal wealth. So I asked for wisdom to govern the people God has entrusted to me. The books of Job and Proverbs mention wisdom as essential to human life (Job 28:28; Prov. 3:14; 8:11; 9:10, etc.). God was pleased with Solomon for seeking this wisdom. So He promised to give me unparalleled wisdom. God also promised to add riches, fame, and longevity that he had not sought. This shows that Solomon's wealth and wise rule all came from God.

### 4. Sharing

1) What did Solomon ask for when God told him to make a wish? Why did he seek it? (Verses 7~9, 11)

#### Upper Grades

What did King Solomon ask God to give him? (verse 9).

#### Lower Grades

What did King Solomon ask God to do? (verse 9).

#### Question Guide

When Solomon became king, he needed many things, but the most important of them all, he asked God for wisdom. As we look at Solomon who asked for wisdom, share what is most important thing that we are to seek in our lives.

#### Comments for Leaders

Solomon, who had been the closest observer of David's reign, must have felt a great burden on the throne. So he went to the

high place of Gibeon and made offerings and sought God's face. God met Solomon and told him to ask for what he wanted. Solomon confessed his inadequacies and asked for wisdom to govern his people well. In those days, listening to and wisely settling disputes among his subjects was a big part of the king's rule. So Solomon sought wisdom for his people as a king, rather than seeking his own blessings. God was overjoyed with Solomon's appearance. So God promised Solomon that He would give him the blessings he didn't ask for.

2) Students, office workers, businessmen, housewives, ministers, etc., each has their place. Share what kind of wisdom you need to do well in your position.

#### ■ Upper Grades

What wisdom do I need in friendships, in study, or in other situations? Ask God for that wisdom.

#### ■ Lower Grades

How does a wise child worship and behave toward his family and friends?

#### □ Question Guide

Solomon was burdened with the burden of being a king, and he sought God's wisdom to handle the task well. Each of us has a heavy burden to carry. Share honestly with each other what you need God's wisdom in your life from the perspective of parents and children.

#### □ Comments for Leaders

God is the giver of wisdom (Proverbs 2:6). He promised to give wisdom in abundance and not to rebuke those who ask for it (James 1:5). The reason why people get conflicted, angry, and fight is because they lack wisdom. If you have a difficult family relationship or a frustrating problem that you can't resolve at work or school, confess it to God and ask Him for wisdom to solve it.

### ≡ 5. Thanksgiving

When our lives are hard and frustrating, thank God for showing us the way and giving us wisdom to get through.

### ≡ 6. Prayer

God, whenever we ask for wisdom, we trust in You, who do not reproach us, but give us generously. Remembering that what is big and difficult in the eyes of man is small and easy in Your eyes, please help our family to live with Your wisdom.

- End the family worship service with the Lord's Prayer

