

**Wisdom, the King, and the Cross**  
**1 Kings 3; 6; 11; 1 Corinthians 1:18-30**

Intro: What's the secret to having true wisdom? Just ask God.

- i. The king asks for *a listening heart* (1 Kings 3:4-15)
  - a. An audacious offer
  - b. A wise response
  - c. Why the LORD was pleased

The first big "if": "If you walk in obedience to me..." (1 Kings 3:14)

- ii. The king acts wisely – 3 examples stretching over the years
  - a. The case of the two prostitutes (1 Kings 3:16-28)
  - b. Sharing words of wisdom (1 Kings 4:29-34; Pr. 1:1-7)
  - c. Building the temple of the LORD (1 Kings 6:1)

Another big "if": "If you follow my decrees..." (1 Kings 6:11-13)

- iii. The king acts foolishly
  - a. When enough isn't enough (1 Kings 10:14-29)
  - b. When the heart strays from God (1 Kings 11:1-8)
  - c. When even the wisest acts like a fool (Psalms 14:1-3)

"Solomon did not keep the LORD's command." (1 Kings 11:10b)

- iv. Even the wisest needs the "foolishness of the cross" (1 Cor. 1:18)
  - a. "Prone to leave the God I love" (1 Kings 3:3)
  - b. "Saved by His redeeming blood" (1 Cor. 1:30)
  - c. Jesus Christ is our wisdom (Mt. 12:42; 1 Cor. 1:24, 30)

Close: When you ask God for wisdom, He takes you to the cross. To live wisely is to have a heart that listens to God—and His Word—to the very end.