

Message Four, Our Great Need, The Wisdom of God

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

SYNOPSIS:

This series of messages is going to help the children of God understand that Jesus has turned every opportunity for sin into an opportunity to win. Every challenge we face in life is a door for which God's wisdom can be manifest in our life so we can know the plan He has for us to achieve victory.

In the process, we get to see the glory of God manifest in our lives.

INTRODUCTION:

I want you to repeat this statement after me, **Councilors determine the destiny of kings.**

I want to take some time to develop this idea with you this morning.

Some thirty years ago there was an Olympian competitor named Ben Johnson that won a gold medal in the 100-meter dash.

However, he tested positive for anabolic steroids.

He was stripped of his medal and returned to his home country of Canada in shame.

At that that point he was banned from competition for life in his home country.

This was a great tragedy, because he paid a price for something he did when he acted on someone else's advice.

Because of a hamstring injury, he was evidently counseled to get a steroid treatment and was told that it would be out of his system by the time the Olympics started.

So, he is left to pay the price for a decision that he had made based on the council he had received.

Take a guess at what has become one of the most powerful councilors in our lives today.

It's television.

You know how I know?

Think about this truth for a moment.

Counseling is based more on listening than talking.

If we spent as much time in God's word and in prayer as we do watching TV, we would be a whole better off, don't you think?

How many different ways does God, the Greatest Counselor, speak to us?

- 1. An audible voice, the exception, not the rule!**
- 2. The written word, the rule, not the exception.**
- 3. Prophets.**
- 4. Spirit to spirit, whereby we cry Abba, Father.**
- 5. Gifts of the Spirit.**
- 6. Angels.**
- 7. Dreams.**
- 8. Visions**
- 9. Circumstances.**
- 10. Godly Counselors.**



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One of the reasons why there is such a need for counselors in the church today is because there is a drought of prayer and study of the word.

This why the best counselors you can ever have are the ones that point you in that direction and answer your questions with the word of God.

What we are going to do today is dive into the word and find out if the principles we have laid out so far have their foundation in Godly counsel.

Turn to ***Proverbs 4: 7-8 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.***

8 Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her.

The KJV says, ***“Exalt wisdom and she will promote you.”***

One of the greatest stories in the Bible that illustrates the working of God’s wisdom in the life a person is found in the book of Genesis chapter 39 beginning with verse 1.

Genesis 39: 1-10 Now Joseph had been brought down to Egypt, and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, the captain of the guard, an Egyptian, had bought him from the Ishmaelites who had brought him down there.

2 The LORD was with Joseph, and he became a successful man, and he was in the house of his Egyptian master.

3 His master saw that the LORD was with him and that the LORD caused all that he did to succeed in his hands.

4 So Joseph found favor in his sight and attended him, and he made him overseer of his house and put him in charge of all that he had.

5 From the time that he made him overseer in his house and over all that he had, the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; the blessing of the LORD was on all that he had, in house and field.

6 So he left all that he had in Joseph's charge, and because of him he had no concern about anything but the food he ate. Now Joseph was handsome in form and appearance.

7 And after a time his master's wife cast her eyes on Joseph and said, "Lie with me."

8 But he refused and said to his master's wife, "Behold, because of me my master has no concern about anything in the house, and he has put everything that he has in my charge.

*9 He is not greater in this house than I am, nor has he kept back anything from me except you, because you are his wife. **How then can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?"***

10 And as she spoke to Joseph day after day, he would not listen to her, to lie beside her or to be with her.

Notice that Joseph's first concern was not how can I do this and get away with it?

His first thought was not of himself and what he could get away with, but his concern was about his relationship with God.

What would this do to that relationship?

Honestly, when people begin to live as if they don't have a primary relationship with God, and feel as though they can do anything they want as long as they can get away with it, that is not true.

The basic issue is not what you can do and get away with it in the sight of God, it's what you can do and still be in the fear of the Lord.

And the fear of the Lord is not an awesome dread of God, but a fear of the Lord not to displease Him, but to please Him in everything you do.

Remember the fear of the Lord is the restraint to do evil.

Joseph did not want to displease God and what did it get Him?

It got him thrown into prison.

Of course, Potiphar's wife lied about Joseph because she had suffered rejection and wanted revenge.

And because people are negative by nature, it's easier to believe a lie than it is to believe the truth.

If someone across town starts a lie about you, by the time it gets to this side of town, it has a cow attached to it.

Keep in mind that Potiphar knew Joseph's character and still convicted him on circumstantial evidence.

And when Joseph was put in prison there were three who knew the truth, Joseph, Potiphar's wife and God.

However, if you exalt wisdom, she will what, she will promote you.

So, even in prison he was promoted to being in charge.

Now let's abbreviate the story a little for time's sake.

Genesis 41: 1-16 After two whole years, Pharaoh dreamed that he was standing by the Nile,



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2 and behold, there came up out of the Nile seven cows, attractive and plump, and they fed in the reed grass.

3 And behold, seven other cows, ugly and thin, came up out of the Nile after them, and stood by the other cows on the bank of the Nile.

4 And the ugly, thin cows ate up the seven attractive, plump cows. And Pharaoh awoke.

5 And he fell asleep and dreamed a second time. And behold, seven ears of grain, plump and good, were growing on one stalk.

6 And behold, after them sprouted seven ears, thin and blighted by the east wind.

7 And the thin ears swallowed up the seven plump, full ears. And Pharaoh awoke, and behold, it was a dream.

8 So in the morning his spirit was troubled, and he sent and called for all the magicians of Egypt and all its wise men. Pharaoh told them his dreams, but there was none who could interpret them to Pharaoh.

9 Then the chief cupbearer said to Pharaoh, "I remember my offenses today.

10 When Pharaoh was angry with his servants and put me and the chief baker in custody in the house of the captain of the guard,

11 we dreamed on the same night, he and I, each having a dream with its own interpretation.

12 A young Hebrew was there with us, a servant of the captain of the guard. When we told him, he interpreted our dreams to us, giving an interpretation to each man according to his dream.

13 And as he interpreted to us, so it came about. I was restored to my office, and the baker was hanged."

14 Then Pharaoh sent and called Joseph, and they quickly brought him out of the pit. And when he had shaved himself and changed his clothes, he came in before Pharaoh.

15 And Pharaoh said to Joseph, "I have had a dream, and there is no one who can interpret it. I have heard it said of you that when you hear a dream you can interpret it."

16 Joseph answered Pharaoh, "It is not in me; God will give Pharaoh a favorable answer."

You know the rest of the story.

Look at ***Deuteronomy 1: 9-15 "At that time I said to you, 'I am not able to bear you by myself.***

10 The LORD your God has multiplied you, and behold, you are today as numerous as the stars of heaven.

11 May the LORD, the God of your fathers, make you a thousand times as many as you are and bless you, as he has promised you!

12 How can I bear by myself the weight and burden of you and your strife?

13 Choose for your tribes wise, understanding, and experienced men, and I will appoint them as your heads.'

14 And you answered me, 'The thing that you have spoken is good for us to do.'

15 So I took the heads of your tribes, wise and experienced men, and set them as heads over you, commanders of thousands, commanders of hundreds, commanders of fifties, commanders of tens, and officers, throughout your tribes.

This tells me that my lack of wisdom can be a barrier to my advancement and promotion.

The one quality that Moses looked for in promoting 70 people to help him adjudicate justice among the children of Israel was wisdom.

Now look at *1 Kings 3: 5-14 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,



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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.

13 I give you also what you have not asked, both **riches and honor**, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days.

14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will **lengthen your days.**"

Now compare what God just said to Solomon with **Proverbs 3: 16-17** **Long life** is in her right hand; in her left hand are **riches and honor**.

17 Her ways are ways of **pleasantness**, and all her paths are **peace**.

Now go back to **I Kings 3: 16-28** **Then two prostitutes came to the king and stood before him.**

17The one woman said, "Oh, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house, and I gave birth to a child while she was in the house.

18 Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. And we were alone. There was no one else with us in the house; only we two were in the house.

19 And this woman's son died in the night, because she lay on him.

20 And she arose at midnight and took my son from beside me, while your servant slept, and laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast.

21 When I rose in the morning to nurse my child, behold, he was dead. But when I looked at him closely in the morning, behold, he was not the child that I had borne."

22 But the other woman said, "No, the living child is mine, and the dead child is yours." The first said, "No, the dead child is yours, and the living child is mine." Thus they spoke before the king.

23 Then the king said, "The one says, 'This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead'; and the other says, 'No; but your son is dead, and my son is the living one.'"

24 And the king said, "Bring me a sword." So a sword was brought before the king.

25 And the king said, "Divide the living child in two, and give half to the one and half to the other."

26 Then the woman whose son was alive said to the king, because her heart yearned for her son, "Oh, my lord, give her the living child, and by no means put him to death." But the other said, "He shall be neither mine nor yours; divide him."

27 Then the king answered and said, "Give the living child to the first woman, and by no means put him to death; she is his mother."

28 And all Israel heard of the judgment that the king had rendered, and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him to do justice.

You only know the depth of love by the degree of giving and that is how Solomon knew who the true mother was.

Do you remember how this message started?

Repeat after me, **Councilors determine the destiny of kings.**



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1 Chronicles 22: 6-13 Then he called for Solomon his son and charged him to build a house for the LORD, the God of Israel.

7 David said to Solomon, "My son, I had it in my heart to build a house to the name of the LORD my God.

8 But the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have waged great wars. You shall not build a house to my name, because you have shed so much blood before me on the earth.

9 Behold, a son shall be born to you who shall be a man of rest. I will give him rest from all his surrounding enemies. For his name shall be Solomon, and I will give peace and quiet to Israel in his days.

10 He shall build a house for my name. He shall be my son, and I will be his father, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever.'

11 "Now, my son, the LORD be with you, so that you may succeed in building the house of the LORD your God, as he has spoken concerning you.

12 Only, may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

13 Then you will prosper if you are careful to observe the statutes and the rules that the LORD commanded Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Fear not; do not be dismayed.

Now look at *1 Chronicles 29: 1 And David the king said to all the assembly, "Solomon my son, whom alone God has chosen, is young and inexperienced, and the work is great, for the palace will not be for man but for the LORD God.*

Now I want to give you the paraphrase for this passage of scripture,

A palace does not a king make.

Where you live does not make you important,

What makes you the person you are, is the character of your life.

Not in the circumstances or the material possessions that you have.

Now, David knew that he needed to sow into Solomon the seed to make the correct request of God.

And, God was pleased.

Let's let this series of messages make us hungry for the wisdom of God.



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