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Substance of ~~the~~ Sermons preached by our Pastor
on Sunday, ~~October~~ 2. 1975. Mr. J.W. Spaulding-Tyler
November at The Dickler

Morning Lesson. 1 Kings 3. 1-15.

Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad: for who is able to judge this thy so great a people?. 1 Kings 3. 5-9.

You will be aware, possibly you found the last Hymn and read it before divine service, and now you will be confirmed in one thing. As it may please the Lord the main point in the message and subject according to His grace, will be the essential blessing and faculty of divine wisdom: holy, spiritual wisdom that the Lord Jesus so kindly imparts, and God the Father and God the Holy Ghost. For where will you find wisdom? How can it be simply and wonderfully and infallibly defined? True wisdom excelleth in this way: it is a constituent of the Spirit of Christ which is given to every believer. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." but in the Spirit of Christ is all that is vital. Spiritual faculties, grace and virtue include therefore the spiritual faculty of wisdom. I shall not begin this morning with wisdom, but develop the subject.

How wonderful is wisdom, especially for those who are taught of God, who are advanced in age and experience and have come to a deeper sense of their ignorance and foolishness. I will go aside to say this: we know far less at fifty than at twenty. The people of God feel they know far less at seventy than they did when under twenty-five. This is a mysterious thing. You would think with all the passage of years, especially if you feel the Lord has given you a degree of wisdom, that you would know much more, and if the Lord is your Teacher you do, and you realise how little you know. A child of God comes to the end of life and feels he is only standing on the threshold of knowledge. Our apostle was taken up to Paradise, (and one could never have greater knowledge than a man who was transported to Paradise) and he heard unspeakable words, but his knowledge was celestial knowledge. Yet he said; "That I may know Him." This is a wonderful point to begin our meditation on. The further you go in the path to heaven, the longer you live and the deeper your spiritual knowledge, the more you will realise your ignorance and your unwisdom, or lack of wisdom. In every branch of life soul, family, business, Church, one of the most essential faculties and blessings needed is wisdom. I am sure the word reaches out a blessed hand to us in compassion; "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him"

It is a healthy place to be in, to feel to lack wisdom and go and ask God for it: wisdom to know what to think; how to think aright; to know how to speak aright or to be silent: and to know how to act, every moment of the day, and the night if you are conscious, or in emergencies.... to know how to frame motives, speech, judgments and decisions. Wisdom to know how to speak aright. What tremendous responsibility rests on us in the use of the tongue! Dreadful it is to have the tongue removed, as some have because of a malignant state, and they never speak again. "Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men." Think of the use of that little member in one's life: it moves up and down, forming sounds. So, wisdom to know ^{what} to say, and how to say it. Then wisdom to know what to do: when to stand still, sit still, be still, or to go forward: wisdom to know what to do. I pause. Is there not with you knowledge that it is a daily matter to pray for wisdom in all your relationships, responsibilities, and all matters that concern you, spiritually, providentially, earthly, heavenly? Wisdom to know God; to discern His hand; to walk aright; to please Him. That is the subject, and I hope the Lord will help me in it, or it will be a sorry business. I know I am not on the wrong track because all of you who fear God know your need of wisdom. People of integrity on the earth feel their need of wisdom. The reason why it is so important is because we are nothing but foolish people. We lost wisdom in the fall. We are people of folly, foolishness, blunders, sins, mistakes. We think, say, and do wrong things so often because we are fallen, and there is a realisation of it in life. When you get into bed you mourn and regret and feel sorry that you have done, thought, ^{as} said that, or you were silent when you should have spoken. This lack of wisdom is bitter: folly is bound up in the heart of fallen creatures. So you pray for wisdom.

It is a kind look of the dear Lord's through James; "If any of you lack wisdom." That is the first step of wisdom, to realise one's lack of it. "let him ask of God." It is something that is not restricted. If mothers, sisters, wives, husbands, fathers, brothers feel their lack of wisdom, as they will do thousands of times, they may go on their knees, or stand in the kitchen, and lift up their hearts to God and ask for wisdom,- in the hospital, the office, or on the bed. The Throne of Grace is never closed. There are no seasons when the Throne of Grace is closed to needy sinners. You may come at all hours, in the day or night, in all phases of life and go to the Lord and ask Him to give you wisdom: to give wisdom to your husband, wife, children, parents. The path of wisdom is a path the sun perpetually shines on. The path of wisdom is the path where the Lord's approbation is felt sweetly and powerfully in the soul. It is honouring to God and edifying to others, and the issue is praise. All that is of the Lord issues in praise. The path of wisdom is wonderful, and the end is

good, right, blessed. It increases more and more until the perfect day.

So this is wisdom, and I know as I speak to you in all phases of life the majority of you feel your need of wisdom. How shall we answer this letter? What decision shall we make concerning various things? What about the family, sons and daughters? And the Lord gives this wisdom, spiritually, providentially, relatively. Wisdom is needed in every act, in every word, and every thought ramifying through the mind. O the wonder of wisdom! I have realised for long the order of things: all deeds begin with thoughts, then speech, then perpetration. There is a thought in the mind, and there is speech, and the thing is done, and it emanates from thought. So how we need wisdom in our thoughts! One wise thought, one wise sentence, one wise deed, and see what springs up from it! If it was wise for you to go to the altar of God, see what has developed from it! What deliverances have been effected by one wise speech, one act of wisdom. It is true that sometimes you are in the place Jehoshaphat was; "Neither know we what to do," It is not a question of feeling any intuition or knowledge of what to do. That is not the end; "but our eyes are upon thee," There is wisdom there. You have two facets of wisdom. "Neither know we what to do," That is wisdom. The folly or unwisdom of Jehoshaphat was when he knew what to do as king. He joined affinity with Ahab: he thought he knew what to do. We should be very cautious. If you have made up your mind as a creature, the Lord prevent it. It is folly and foolishness. Jehoshaphat nearly lost his life and the Lord saved him and he did not know what to do. That is wisdom. "Neither know we what to do." I wish you could realise the three 'stills' in Scripture that I have referred to: stand still: sit still: be still. If you get one of these 'stills' from God you will surely see the unfolding of His divine purposes. "Sit still, my daughter, until thou know how the matter will fall for the man will not be in rest, until he have finished the thing this day" "Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever. The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace." "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge."- Three blessed 'stills'.

So Jehoshaphat did not know what to do. The other side of wisdom is, his eyes were upon the Lord, and the Lord soon gave the answer. He was afraid of the great host, and the Lord said; "Go out against them." and he put the singers in front; praising the Lord. Whoever heard of an army going to battle with singers going before, praising the Lord? That is wisdom: it is God; it is the Lord's way; it is His glory and honour manifested. Do you go forth with singers in front praising the Lord? There was no uncertainty about the issue. Why? "Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God. Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished

It was accomplished at Calvary. It is not hanging in doubtful scale, as something yet to be decided. When Christ said; "It is finished,"- tell her "that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the Lord's hand double for all her sins." Did you ever hear of anything so wonderful? You, a poor sinner, come to the Lord with your sin and confusion, and the Lord gives you double for it! I cannot expound it adequately: it is fathomless.- mercy, grace, pardon, peace, glory: but bring your sins and He gives you twice as much divine blessing. There is nothing more wonderful than for a poor sinner who feels sorry by the grace of God, and the Lord gives him double! This is the magnitude, the dimensions of grace and eternal love. When we think of the sins of our lives,- what a volume! and the Lord gives twice as much. You had better prove Him on it. You bring your sins and confess and mourn over them as the Spirit helps you, and He gives you double. Do you think you will be happy? will you have an intense desire to go Home? I feel I am glad to have this to look forward to; to be with Him. It is wonderful! Soon we shall be called to the heavenly Mansions. Have you this prospect? Do you feel happy as you think of it? do you feel the blessedness of looking forward to it? I believe the Lord has given this to us. Wisdom; we shall need it a few more days, through to the last step, to the river.

Wisdom. What a wonderful favour to be blessed with! I will make a brief reference to what had gone before. David had gone to be with the Lord. He had reigned over Israel forty years, and we read; "So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the city of David." That was the end of a chapter; the end of a reign. God's work must go on. There is the end of a pastor, but the Lord's work must go on. There is the end of a deacon's life you will come to the end of your life, but the Lord's work will go on. We are living in depressing, desolating times. You get two of the Chapels in London, one closed, and the other to be closed in a week's time; what sort of news is that? Golders Green closes in a week, It makes one feel terribly despondent when one has felt the unction and inspiration of the Spirit in the place. The deacon goes out and locks the doors and that is the end. The Lord's work must go on till the end of this dispensation. David had a divinely appointed successor. He loved Solomon, and when he came to the throne the auspices were good and favourable. He was the Lord's anointed, the Lord's choice, and the kingdom was to enjoy for a long while a large degree of prosperity. The Lord gave to him a special favour. Does He to you He went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, and "in Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night." He had a visit. Could you put your finger on the last time you had a visit from the Lord? on your bed, in your room, in the Sanctuary? The Lord appeared to him, and His speech was wonderful to him. It was very concise, wonderfully important, beautiful and blessed. He just said; "Ask what I shall give thee." Amen.