

Chapter Thirteen:

Serving

With

Wisdom

Day 1
Value Wisdom
(Proverbs 4:7)

What is most valuable to you? How do you know? What would you do to get it and/or keep it? How many things have you lost that you once thought had great value? Why? How would you define wisdom? How important is it to you? Would those closest to you agree with your answer? Why? How are wisdom and understanding related? Can you really have one without the other? Explain.

It can be easy to say we value certain things, however our actions often reveal a more accurate story of what we really give value to. Each of us have different things that we would do almost anything in order to get or keep it. In fact, many times we say we value wisdom and understanding yet we give up both of them in order to pursue the things we really value. In order to serve with wisdom, it is imperative that we value it to the extent that we put it into practice in all of our thoughts and actions. When we value wisdom, we will do whatever it takes to not only obtain it but to put it into practice also.

As you pray, ask God to help you be honest about the value you place on wisdom. Pray that you would not just value wisdom with your words, but with your actions as well.

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Day 2

Wisdom That is Righteous and Just

(Psalm 37:30)

What makes something righteous? How is that related to being just? How easy is it to always serve in ways that are righteous and just? Why? How would wisdom from God help with that? Is it always easy to use words that are righteous and just? Why? Why is wisdom necessary to truly speak that which is righteous and just? Can you serve people well if your words are not righteous and just? Explain. How has wisdom from God helped you be righteous and just when you serve?

There are many competing voices in our world claiming to be right and just, yet it should be obvious in listening to them that not all of them are. Some things are very noticeably lacking in being righteous and just but other things are more difficult to discern. It is when we seek wisdom from God that we can begin to understand more fully what true righteousness and justice looks like. It is this wisdom that helps us serve people in ways that are both right and just.

As you pray, ask God to give you the wisdom necessary to see beyond the human views of righteousness and justice in order to know God's perspective. Pray that those you serve would know of God's righteousness and justice through you.

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Day 3

Wisdom In Your Words

(Psalm 49:3)

What makes words wise? Is it the words themselves or the way they are used? Explain. Can the same words spoken in two different situations be wisdom in one and not so wise in the other? Why? What does it take to always have wisdom in your words? Is it possible? Explain. What is the source of words of wisdom. How often do you go to that source before you speak to those you serve? Why? Would your serving be more effective if you were more diligent in sharing wisdom with your words? How?

Wisdom isn't a formula that we can use to apply a cookie-cutter answer to every situation we face. In fact, wisdom will often seem very fluid as it takes into account the application of the words even more than the words themselves. Wisdom knows not only the right words to use in each situation, it knows the proper times and ways to share those words . . . and when not to share them. Wisdom from God helps us to serve well as He directs how we use our words.

As you pray, ask God to help you speak words of wisdom as you serve. Pray that the things you speak as wisdom would always be a wisdom that comes from God.

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Day 4

Wisdom In Truth

(Psalm 51:6)

What is truth? How do you know? How are wisdom and truth related? Are there ways that truth can be harmful? Explain. Why is wisdom necessary for truth to be effective as you serve? Have you ever been hurt by truth? Was the hurt caused by the truth itself, or by the way it was used? Explain. How would your view of truth change if you were to filter everything through the words of Jesus stating that He is the way, the truth, and the life? How active are you in sharing the wisdom of that truth with those you serve?

James writes and tells us that wisdom from God is filled with the things of God. Too often we attempt to do life, including our acts of service, using the wisdom of man rather than the wisdom of God. When we turn to God for His wisdom, He instructs us in the ways of truth that are beneficial to those we serve. Most of all, serving with wisdom will always call us to share Jesus as the Truth that sets each of us free.

As you pray, ask God to give you the wisdom necessary to use truth in ways that are beneficial to those you serve. Pray that it is God's truth that you not only hold fast to, but that you share with everyone you serve.

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Day 5

Wisdom From Its Source

(Psalm 111:10)

Have you played “the telephone game” lately? How accurate was the final message compared to what began? Why? How much importance do you place on seeking things from their source as much as possible? Why? Are there different kinds of wisdom? Explain. What is the source of wisdom that will be of the greatest benefit to both you and those you serve? How often do you go to that source in obtaining wisdom? How accurate is the wisdom you are currently sharing with those you serve?

When we copy a copy and then repeat that process off of the resulting copies, it isn’t long before the result isn’t as accurate as it could be. The same is true for wisdom. God wants us to always go to Him as the true source of wisdom so that those we serve can see Him for who He is. When the wisdom we use in serving comes from God, it will always be filled with the characteristics of God.

As you pray, ask God to help you not be satisfied with the wisdom of man, but to help you always seek Him as the source. Pray that your fear of the Lord would always direct you toward the source of true wisdom.

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Day 6

Wisdom That Protects

(Proverbs 4:6)

Have you ever done something that put you or others at risk only to have someone tell you that you should have known better? How did it make you feel? Should you have known better? Why? Have people with great wisdom ever been harmed? Why? What do you think God means when He says wisdom will protect you? Explain. How does using godly wisdom protect you as you serve?

I suspect most of us have had more incidents than we care to admit of facing the consequences for something that we did even though we knew better. Wisdom is an incredible attribute in that it not only helps us see situations with a microscope, it also helps us see them through wide-angle binoculars. Too often our first response after a painful situation is “if only I had known”. Yet, when we pursue and obtain wisdom from God, and put it into practice, we find a protection that watches over us and guides us as we serve.

As you pray, ask God to help you apply the wisdom that He provides so that you would know its protection. Pray that not set aside wisdom, but that your love for His wisdom would watch over you in all you do.

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Day 7

Wisdom That Comes Through Discipline

(Proverbs 29:15)

Do you like correction? What would your life look like if you were never corrected? Why? Is there a difference between discipline and punishment? Explain. How well do you respond to punishment? To discipline? Why? How does your experience with both punishment and discipline influence how you serve others when they do something wrong? Why? How often do you learn from your mistakes? How freely do you allow, and help, others learn from their mistakes? Why?

Few of us really care to be corrected as often as we need it, but God's desire is that we learn wisdom through the discipline we receive. Not only is that God's desire for us, but He wants us to keep that in mind as we serve others who also need correction from time to time. When we serve with wisdom, we will not only accept correction as needed but we will be involved in using wisdom in the discipline of those we serve so that they would grow in the wisdom that comes from God.

As you pray, ask God for the humility necessary to accept the discipline which brings wisdom. Pray that you would use wisdom in correcting, rather than punishing, those you serve so that they would learn wisdom in their life.

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