

Ancient Paths

Wise Decisions

I Kings 3:16-28

July 2, 2023

Introduction: Wisdom is the art of living. The art of living well. In ancient Israel it was an art well-studied and practiced and taught. Scholars speak of the “wisdom tradition” in the Bible. But what Israel learned is that true wisdom isn’t a human invention at all. It’s a gift from God. To those who seek the ancient paths, it’s a gift God gives freely, not for their religious lives or spiritual lives but for the whole of life. For the flourishing of their lives. “Come,” wisdom calls, “ask for the ancient paths where the good way lies, and walk in it.”

Prayer: Father, we confess that we love the idea of justice, but it is often difficult to apply it with wisdom. Amen

Read: I Kings 3:16-28

Review: Who was Jeremiah? What did you learn.

Discussion:

1. How did the two women get an audience before the King? Is it significant that the two women were both prostitutes?
2. Summarize the argument of the two women. What was the evidence presented by the first woman? Did the other women provide any evidence on her behalf?
3. Is it important that the King summarized the case before him? Why?
4. What convinced the King to give the baby to the first woman?
5. Is compassion/wisdom the root of justice? Explain.

Application: This week, remember that God in compassion gave up his Son to provide eternal life for us.

Prayer: Father, we thank you for the grand gift you gave out of your compassion to the world. Amen.