



GIVE ME AN UNDERSTANDING HEART

1 Kings 3:9



Most of us are familiar with the request of Solomon to God after he became king.

- Both YHWH and David intended for Solomon to be king (**1 Chronicles 22:7-10**)
- At Gibeon, YHWH grants Solomon anything he wants.
- Solomon requests wisdom.
- He is blessed with great wisdom, as well as wealth and fame.

In our text, **1 Kings 3:9**, his request is, “Give me an understanding heart to judge Your people...”

- Tonight, I would like to focus on that phrase. We ought to be requesting this of God regularly.
- **Proverbs 4:7**, *Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding.*
- **James 1:5**, *If anyone lacks wisdom...*
- What are some things we need a better understanding about?

We need a better understanding...

Of ourselves

- Before we can be useful to others, we must understand ourselves – physically & spiritually
- Only God would know us better

We need a better understanding...

Of ourselves

- **2 Corinthians 13:5**, *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you are disqualified.*
- **Examine** (NKJV) – to test something to determine its strength. “tempted” – **James 1:13-14, Matthew 4:1, Hebrews 4:15**; Tested – **Heb. 11:17**
- We scrutinize ourselves to see what we are made of – cf. **1 Corinthians 9:27.**

We need a better understanding...

Of ourselves

- ➡ **2 Corinthians 13:5**, *Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.*
- ➡ **Test** (NKJV) – to observe, inspect, look over. To determine genuineness.
Cf. **Luke 14:19**, test oxen
1 John 4:1, 1 Peter 1:7,
1 Thessalonians 5:21, Galatians 6:3-4
- ➡ **Romans 12:3** – do not think more highly of yourself

We need a better understanding...

Of ourselves

- The better we understand ourselves, the better prepared we will be to help others.
- One reason this is important – **Matthew 16:26** – *what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?*

We need a better understanding...

Of others

- A point of emphasis in our recent classes.
- We must understand that we are all equal before God – **Galatians 3:27-28, Acts 17:26, Genesis 1:26-27.**
God show no favoritism – **Acts 10:34-35, 2 Peter 3:9**
- We must understand that we are all unique with different needs and approaches. **1 Corinthians 9:19-23, cf. Acts 13:13ff & Acts 17:22ff** – the audience mattered.

We need a better understanding...

Of others

- The challenge is to balance these with better understanding.
- Principles we must ALWAYS apply:
 - **Philippians 2:3-5** – esteem others better...
 - **Matthew 7:12** – do unto others...
 - **James 2:8** – love your neighbor...
 - **Philippians 2:15** – let your light shine
 - **Romans 12:17-18** – live peaceably
 - **Galatians 5:13** – through love serve

We need a better understanding...

To judge righteously

- Related to understanding others
- **John 7:24** – judge with righteous judgment
- **Matthew 7:1-5** – judging with wrong motives (prejudice, hypocritical, appearance, preconceived ideas, etc.)
- **Colossians 2:16** – matters of liberty
- **Matthew 6:14-15, James 2:13** – forgiveness, mercy. It matters to God!

We need a better understanding...

Of God's will

- **Ephesians 5:17** – commanded
cf. 1 Corinthians 14:20
- Why is there so much misunderstanding concerning what God wants us to do and how?
- Because man does what he wants to do –
Matthew 15:8-9, Romans 1:18-25
- **Proverbs 14:14**, *The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.*

We need a better understanding...

Of God's will

- ➡ **2 Timothy 2:15**, instead of following man's ways, I need to be diligent to handle accurately God's word (and will).
- ➡ **Acts 17:11**, like the Bereans
- ➡ **Ephesians 4:11-15**, God has given us teaching leaders to equip us to understand His will and not be easily deceived.

We need a better understanding...

To discern between good and evil

- Applying God's word, we need understanding to choose what is good
- There is a clear difference in scripture
 - **2 Corinthians 6:14-17**
 - **Romans 12:9**
 - **Ephesians 5:11**
- The "lists" – **Galatians 5:19-21, 1 Corinthians 6:9-11, Romans 1:27-32, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, etc.**

We need a better understanding...

To discern between good and evil

- Consider Paul's prayer to the Philippians,
- **Philippians 1:9-10**, *that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and understanding...*
- **Hebrews 5:12-14**, *by this time you ought to be teachers...*
- **Proverbs 14:15**, *The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.*

We need a better understanding...

Of the church

- ➡ **Matthew 16:18-19** – built by Jesus
- ➡ **Ephesians 3:10-11**, *a manifestation of His wisdom*
- ➡ Contrary to man's philosophies, we need the church (each other). A group that seeks to stand true to His will. A support group with our same standard and interests – to get to heaven!

We need a better understanding...

Of the church

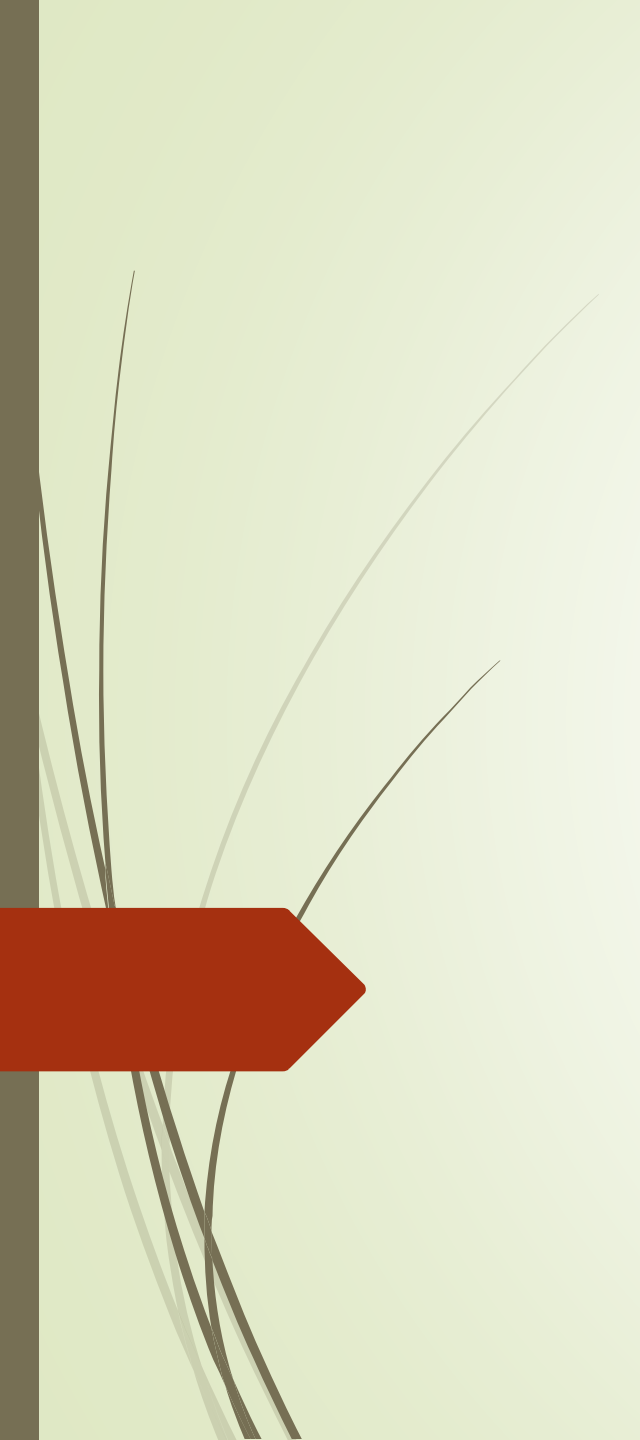
- ➡ WHY is there so much division?
- ➡ As above, it is placing man's desires above God's will
- ➡ **1 Corinthians 1:10, Ephesians 4:1-3**, He desires unity
- ➡ PRAY for an understanding heart – seeking to follow His pattern in all things. Seeking fellowship with God, Jesus and one another based on “walking in the light” (**1 John 1:3ff**)
- ➡ Lack of unity is NOT a hallmark of virtue!
- ➡ We CAN know His will!

Concluding thoughts:

- ▶ We know that Solomon's prayer was answered.
- ▶ God will answer our prayers that are properly directed toward Him (cf. **1 John 5:14-15**).
- ▶ Let us pray, not only to understand His will, but also to do it – **James 1:22, 25**
- ▶ AND, unlike Solomon, let us remain faithful to Him unto the very end.
Revelation 14:13



**Do you have an
understanding heart?**



Let us pray