

Text: (V13-16):

What wisdom is Qoheleth teaching us this evening? What should first come to mind from this sacred text is; HERE is another instance of the wisdom of God being so much “BETTER” than the wisdom of men. (It transcends the wisdom of men). What is man’s wisdom to the WISDOM of God? Foolishness! Remember the words of the Apostle Paul, “the foolishness of God is wiser than men”.

“BETTER is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king, who will no more be admonished”

The first thing to consider here is the uncommonness of what is presented to our minds; wisdom in a poor child (or young person) and foolishness in a king or ruler; and on top of that, a king or ruler who no longer takes good advice or heeds warnings from his counsellors.

What is Solomon teaching us? What should we see in this text?

The character/attributes/personality of a child or someone who is young is not typically one of wisdom, but foolishness!

In fact, the scriptures teach us that foolishness is bound in the heart of a child! But that is not an absolute exclusion; meaning, that doesn’t mean a child CANNOT be made wise unto salvation at a young age, making that young person WISE. Solomon speaks of a child who is an exception! And then, there is the old king or ruler whom Solomon writes is an AGED FOOL who no longer listens to his counselors’ warnings and admonitions.

We should EXPECT WISDOM in the elderly and the aged, but especially so in kings and leaders.

Job 32:4-9

Leviticus 19:32: “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honor the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD”

We read: “For out of prison he cometh to reign (as a king); whereas also he that is born in his kingdom becometh poor” (V14):

Who is this “HE” who comes out of prison to reign? And who is “he” that is born in his kingdom, who becomes poor?

The poor young wise man, I believe to be the same “he” who comes out of prison and is exalted to the throne even though he was born as a poor man in the kingdom that was ruled by the old and foolish king.

What are we to learn from Solomon’s wisdom in this text?

First, elderly and aged kings or leaders (and really, the elderly & aged in general) ought to be full of wisdom; they ought to be the wisest in our families and in our society; but sadly, this is VERY OFTEN not the case.

Title, rank, and a position of leadership DOES NOT exclude the one who has it from being a fool. Again, one of the MARKS of an old fool is that they will not hear reproof or be admonished. I always admire King David’s immediate reaction when Nathan the prophet sharply rebuked him for his secret sin with Bathsheba. 2 Samuel 12:7-14

The OLDER we become IN THE LORD, the wiser we should be; IF the wisdom of God is in us, we ought always to be graciously ready be admonished or counseled or warned by a fellow brother or sister in Christ or a friend. OR anyone for that matter!

And then, there is the “poor wise child”; what we might learn from his lot in life? For one thing, just because one is “poor in this life” that doesn’t mean that he or she is excluded from being or becoming wise.

The truth is, this young man’s poverty and imprisonment was probably the engine that drove his heart and mind to be fertile ground for the wisdom and discernment which he had gained.

Ecclesiastes 9:13-18, Consider young Joseph: Genesis 41:33-46, 50:15-21

The WISDOM of God is ALWAYS BETTER than anything that originates in this world:

These saints of God were able to walk with God CONTENT in every situation of life because they trusted in God’s wisdom and providence for their lives by faith, and NOT in their own wisdom or in their own hearts.

Look at the wisdom of God in the life of Daniel, Ruth, Abigail, Joseph, and Elihu. And

of course, we can't forget Solomon.

If we learn anything from this passage, let it be that WE NEED the WISDOM of God in our hearts and minds and in our lives MORE than we need anything else! WHY? Because it's BETTER than anything else that this world has to offer. The wisdom of God is eternal!

Proverbs 2:1-11, 3:13-24, 4:5-9, 8:11