

Day 55 – Apr. 14

Solomon was known for both his wealth and his wisdom. Royalty from all over the known world came to both riddle him and to learn from him. And this takes us into the realm of true wisdom as opposed to simple smarts.

We have probably all known that friend who is brilliant, but not very wise. Sure, they flew through school, tutored many along the way, and even helped out the teachers on occasion. They aced every test, captained the “bow!” teams, and read encyclopedia for fun (kids, you’ll have to look up “encyclopedia” on Wikipedia, but you have to be sure to do it ironically).

We have also probably all known that friend who is not brilliant in school, but wise beyond their years. They may have eeked by on tests, but understood people and gave great advice. Often they were considered good listeners and, while not great lab partners, were excellent friends. Some were considered “square” (yes, that one is even before my time but apropos), but they also knew how to talk with your parents and other adults well.

The bible values both smarts and wisdom. And from the evidence, it seems that Solomon was both. The riddling and hard questions tested his smarts, but being with him revealed his wisdom. I fear that we have lost this in the Church these days. There is much discussion these days about the “intellectualization” of our faith. We are enamored with facts and trivia, especially when it comes to bible verses. We see this in the pre-eminence of sermons, bible studies, and memory-verse awards. And while these things aren’t bad, they are not enough. Knowing more and more and more about the bible is good but learning how to develop wisdom is superior. And you can’t learn wisdom from a sermon or a bible study. Wisdom comes from experience, practice, and application of all the learning we do.

What if we committed to spend as much time actively putting what we learn into practice in this world as we do listening to Christian podcasts, sermons, bible studies, and yes, reading blogs?