Message #26 **Ecclesiastes 7:23-29**

Solomon discovered the more he sought for wisdom "under the sun" the farther away it seemed to be getting. We can walk on any path we want, but without God being at the center of one's life, we will never find what we are looking for.

APART FROM _GOD_ GRANTING A PERSON WISDOM, HE WILL NOT FIND IT NO MATTER HOW _HARD_ HE LOOKS, NO MATTER _WHERE_ HE LOOKS AND NO MATTER WITH _WHOM_ HE LOOKS.

HEADING #1 – Solomon's _desire_. **7:23-24**

Solomon desired to be wise. He had looked in every possible place to try to find meaning and fulfillment in life and now he was coming full circle. He realized that meaning was found in being wise so he made a human decision–"I will be wise."

He was willing to work hard. He was willing to dream big and he wanted wisdom.

However, what he ended up discovering was wisdom was "far from" him. It was very "remote." He learned there was a great "mystery" to having wisdom and it could not be found just because a man says, "I'll become wise." In fact, he ended up saying, "Who can discover it?"

There is a remarkable text in the book of Job which asks the question of where wisdom can be found–Job 28:12-28. The answer is wisdom is found in God and it begins when one fears Him (28:23, 28).

In fact, without Jesus Christ in a person's life, one cannot ever become wise because He is the wisdom of God (I Cor. 1:30). So without faith in Him, one will never be wise.

HEADING #2 – Solomon's _direction_. **7:25**

Solomon directed his mind to know, to investigate and to seek wisdom. He sought to give an explanation for everything. He even searched evil things and why people did them. He looked at things foolish and tried to figure out things that drive people mad. He was the ultimate psychiatrist. Solomon had a creative and brilliant mind. I love the words of Dr. Leupold on this–"There was nothing superficial about the attempt. It was not a mere mental process. The heart was in it. Besides, the three infinitives, 'know, investigate, seek,' indicate careful study from every angle of the case" (Leupold, p. 172).

Solomon was on a passionate quest. He was out to make himself wise. He was trying to understand everything about life with all of its secrets and meaning. He tried to even understand sin. In fact, he did get to the point where he saw evil as folly. Solomon realized there was a madness to sin that would never fulfill. He at least saw all this, but he still lacked wisdom.

HEADING #3 – Solomon's discoveries . **7:26-29**

Discovery #1 - The discovery concerning certain women . **7:26**

If ever there were a man who had fallen under the spells of women, it was Solomon. Solomon had been seduced by all kinds of women who had actually turned his heart away from God (I Kings 11:1, 4). Solomon had 700 wives and 300 concubines (I Kings 11:3) and they so twisted Solomon that God became very angry with him (I Kings 11:9-11).

Now, let us realize and observe that Solomon did not believe every woman was bad. In fact, later in this very book he will tell us that there is nothing wrong with enjoying life with a woman. The woman he describes here is a very dangerous type of woman. This woman has the instincts of a hunter and she is out to trap and ensnare a man. This type of woman is one of the most dangerous creatures on earth.

In fact, Solomon is very clear to point out that only the man who pleases God will escape from this kind of woman, but the sinner will be captured by her every single time.

When God grants a person wisdom, God will deliver a man from a strange woman who is trying to ensnare him (Prov. 2:10-11, 16-20). In other words, the ability to escape the seductress is a granted ability from God. Now look very carefully at Ecclesiastes 7:26–"one who is pleasing to God 'will' escape her." God will not let one who pleases Him fall. But when one is dabbling around sinful things, he will be captured.

Discovery #2 - The discovery concerning a lack of wisdom . **7:27-28**

Solomon also discovered that people who are wise are rare. In his search, he only found one man in 1,000 who was wise and he did not find one woman among all those he knew. Of course, it is pretty obvious that most of the women Solomon knew were not women of God who were interested in understanding the Bible or fearing God. Most women he knew were luring him away from God, not pointing him in the ways of God's wisdom.

Men or women who fear God and love His Word are rare. In fact, as we near the coming of Jesus Christ we will discover that most will not "endure sound doctrine" (II Tim. 4:3).

By the way, it is interesting to note that Solomon, in this context, puts himself in a class of those who had not found God's wisdom **(7:23)**. So he wasn't even one of the thousand men who had it.

Wisdom is rare in a man and it is rarer in a woman. Finding men and women who are truly wise in the ways of God is a rare discovery.

Discovery #3 - The discovery concerning the problem with humans . **7:29**

God originally made man upright. Men are the ones who choose to walk a different direction. When one does evil or sins, when one does what is foolish, he is making his own choice.

This is why man, in and of himself, cannot ever become wise or find meaning and fulfillment on his own. Man has a problem–his nature prompts him to do evil, to make the wrong choices. In fact, man is capable of choosing the worst kinds of evil.

Are we people who want to become wise? Are we people who want meaning and fulfillment? Then believe on Christ, fear God and obey His Word.