

MSG: WISDOM

SCRIPTURE: Matthew 2:1-12 NLT

SZN 3: LEAD LIKE JESUS

Matthew 2:1-12 NLT

“Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking, “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.” King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem. He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?” “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote: ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’” Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared. Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back, and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!” After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were filled with joy! They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.”

INTRO:

Watchmen Nee speaks of learning the discipline of self-denial with the statement so simple yet profound. “Please remember that neither God nor the brothers and sisters treasure your opinion. I’m afraid that the only one who treasures your opinion in the whole world is yourself. If you think your opinion is the best, that God treasures our opinion and that brothers and sisters honor your ideas, you are living in a dream” (Nee, *Authority and Submission*, p. 112)

WISDOM- skillful, wit, to any expertise in a specific domain of knowledge or craft

James 3:13-18 NLT

“If you are wise and understand God’s ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don’t cover up the truth with boasting and lying. For jealousy and selfishness are not God’s kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.”

1. WISDOM IS FOUND IN THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH YOUR PASTORS.

Hebrews 13:17 NIV

“Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.”

Proverbs 12:14-19 NLT

“Wise words bring many benefits, and hard work brings rewards. Fools think their own way is right, but the wise listen to others. A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted. An honest witness tells the truth; a false witness tells lies. Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing. Truthful words stand the test of time, but lies are soon exposed.”

2 Timothy 4:2-4 NLT

“Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear. They will reject the truth and chase after myths.”

THIS IS NOT ENTERTAINMENT!

Example: Taking Notes...review those notes, listen back to podcast, study the scriptures, urgency to hear the word, Prepare ahead of time.

2. WISDOM IS FOUND IN HONORING YOUR PREDECESSORS

1 Timothy 5:1-2 NLT

“Never speak harshly to an older man, but appeal to him respectfully as you would to your own father. Talk to younger men as you would to your own brothers. Treat older women as you would your mother and treat younger women with all purity as you would your own sisters.”

1 Peter 5:5 NLT

“In the same way, you who are younger must accept the authority of the elders. And all of you, dress yourselves in humility as you relate to one another, for “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.””

Leviticus 19:32 NLT

““Stand up in the presence of the elderly, and show respect for the aged. Fear your God. I am the Lord.”

1 Timothy 5:17 NIV

“The elders who direct the affairs of the church well are worthy of double honor, especially those whose work is preaching and teaching.”

Example: Presbytery Meeting

David/Saul

Paul/Timothy

Moses/Joshua

Ruth/Naomi

3. WISDOM IS FOUND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

James 1:5 NIV

“If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.”

-Subversively shy away from a notion of “human wisdom” and completely surrender and submit to the wisdom of God.

- if we are truly submitted to God, we must say and think only what God says and thinks. This is in direct opposition to the cultural norm of social media, “my platform”, “my following” etc.

-Having the wisdom of God, hearing the voice of God and the Word of God to effectively lead, plan, strategize, recalibrate, adjust, pivot, stay the course, set tempo, slow down or stop all together.

- being still, listening to his voice - so that we can be our best, sanctified, consecrated, and set apart for God’s use.

-willing to let go of our wills.

-It was in the presence of God that the wisemen received divine wisdom.

Some things you can’t find in a message or from advice but only in the presence God.

We must dare to do as John prescribed **“He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)**

QUESTION:

WHO IS IN YOUR LIFE REGULARLY GIVING YOU GODLY WISDOM AND GODLY COUNCIL?