

Conversation Starters

- Malcolm Gladwell describes a tipping point as “that magic moment when an idea, trend, or social behavior crosses a threshold, tips, and spreads like wildfire.” Do any moments in your life or your family’s life come to mind when you hear that?

Discuss

Solomon was the successor to King David, the greatest king in all Israel’s history. The passage below recounts David’s transferring of power to Solomon, and provides some necessary background to understand Solomon’s tipping point.

¹ “David summoned all the officials of Israel to assemble at Jerusalem: the officers over the tribes, the commanders of the divisions in the service of the king, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, and the officials in charge of all the property and livestock belonging to the king and his sons, together with the palace officials, the warriors and all the brave fighting men. ² King David rose to his feet and said: “Listen to me, my fellow Israelites, my people. I had it in my heart to build a house as a place of rest for the ark of the covenant of the LORD, for the footstool of our God, and I made plans to build it. ³ But God said to me, ‘You are not to build a house for my Name, because you are a warrior and have shed blood.’...⁵ Of all my sons—and the LORD has given me many—he has chosen my son Solomon to sit on the throne of the kingdom of the LORD over Israel. ⁶ He said to me: ‘Solomon your son is the one who will build my house and my courts, for I have chosen him to be my son, and I will be his father.’⁷ I will establish his kingdom forever if he is unswerving in carrying out my commands and laws, as is being done at this time.’⁹ “And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the LORD searches every heart and understands every desire and every thought. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. ¹⁰ Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a house as the sanctuary. Be strong and do the work” (1 Chronicles 28: 1-3, 5-7, 9-10, NIV).

- What do you think Solomon was thinking and feeling as he listened to his father commission him to be the next king?
- Based on these verses, what do you think Solomon most wanted to accomplish for his father (and for God)?

While David’s passing of the baton to Solomon is a defining moment in the life of Solomon, it’s not his tipping point. That moment came later, when God appeared to Solomon:

MESSAGE MEDITATIONS

MECKLENBURG COMMUNITY CHURCH’S WEEKEND MESSAGE REFLECTIONS

¹ "Solomon son of David established himself firmly over his kingdom, for the LORD his God was with him and made him exceedingly great... ⁶ Solomon went up to the bronze altar before the LORD in the tent of meeting and offered a thousand burnt offerings on it.

⁷ That night God appeared to Solomon and said to him, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you" (2 Chronicles 1:1, 6-7, NIV).

- Nowhere else in the Bible does God make this kind of promise. What do you think God was up to by asking Solomon this question?
- Solomon was a young man who had just come into power at the most successful time in the history of his country. What would you expect him to ask God for?

Despite all the temptations, Solomon asks God for wisdom.

⁸ Solomon answered God, "You have shown great kindness to David my father and have made me king in his place. ⁹ Now, LORD God, let your promise to my father David be confirmed, for you have made me king over a people who are as numerous as the dust of the earth. ¹⁰ Give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may lead this people, for who is able to govern this great people of yours?" (2 Chronicles 1:8-10, NIV).

- Why do you think Solomon asked for wisdom?
- If you read past verse 10, you'll see that God was pleased with Solomon's request. Why do you think God was pleased?

The Bible has a different take on wisdom than our world.

"Fear of the LORD is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment" (Proverbs 9:10, NLT).

- According to this verse, what is the foundation of wisdom?
- What is the "fear of the Lord?"
- .What does "knowledge of the Holy One" result in?
- How do you come to that knowledge?

Knowledge of God flows out of fear of God. If we rightly look at Him in reverence and fear for what kind of power He holds, we are able to gain knowledge about who He is and what He's up to in this world. That

knowledge results in "good judgment," or knowing the right thing to do at the right time according to God. This is most clearly described in the book of James:

"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"
(James 3:17, NLT).

- How is wisdom expressed in the life of someone who fears God? Is it by knowing or doing?
- How is this different than the way we think about wisdom or knowledge most of the time?
- Who do you know or who have you heard of that might be wise according to the biblical definition that would not be considered wise by the standards of the world?

Next Steps

- What should you do in the coming week to gain more wisdom? Perhaps it would be to pray for wisdom (see James 1:5), read a Proverb a day or read the Bible regularly, study the life of Jesus, or to pursue living more in accordance with the parts of the Bible you already know.

Pray

Father, thank you for the wisdom you passed down to us through Solomon. Thank you for the insight you gave him and continue to give us through your Bible. Help us to be wiser by living out your commands and laws. Give us wisdom and insight to know who you are and what you're like so we know how best to live.