

THE PROFOUND SEARCH *for Wisdom*

By Jan Brunette

Recently struggling with an opening story or “hook” for this Bible study, I shared my concern with a friend. Without hesitation, she responded, “We know the Lord will provide the hook . . . and the fish.” Almost instantly I realized she had given me the “hook” I needed. In contemplating the desire for wisdom to write about wisdom, God provided the wisdom I needed through a friend.

In our search for answers to our complicated lives, we constantly desire peace, understanding, and wisdom. Yet we forget that the answer to that need for wisdom rests in a book that too often sits unread in our homes. Although offered to us as God’s love letter, we overlook it as our source of true wisdom today.

Walk through the Bible, this book of wisdom, with me. It is truly the “hook” we desperately need in this world today.

Opening Prayer

I know my faith is founded on Jesus Christ, my God and Lord; And this my faith confessing, unmoved I stand on His sure Word. Our reason cannot fathom the truth of God profound; Who trusts in human wisdom relies on shifting ground. God’s Word is all-sufficient, it makes divinely sure; And trusting in its wisdom, my faith shall rest secure. (LSB #587, verse 1)

Wisdom from the Beginning

In the beginning God (Genesis 1:1). Creation was the beginning of revealed wisdom as each flower unfolded and the mountains rose to the heights. From the large, lumbering animals that walk the earth to the delicate wings of the butterfly, God’s grace and wisdom became evident. It is the wisdom that is still visible in our world today, but only the beginning of understanding the wisdom of God.

Read **Luke 12:32–34**. In this reading we learn of the wisdom that becomes ours through Baptism. It is understanding that we have been given a kingdom, a kingdom

not of this world. It is a spiritual treasure in heaven that will not be exhausted and no one can take away. Our hearts became changed and opened to His love, grace, and mercy. There we were planted with His seeds of wisdom and are continually fed and nourished through the Word and Sacraments.

Compare **John 7:37–39** to **Colossians 1:15–17** and **19–20**.

What connection do you see between creation and true wisdom in Christ? _____

Full and complete wisdom is far above every human thinking or insight. Flowing like a steady stream from Scriptures, wisdom comes through the Holy Spirit, as He provides the insight, power, and understanding of the almighty Father. It is embracing creation as only the beginning of Christ’s work, its reflection of love that covered us on the cross and culminates with joy everywhere through His resurrection from the dead. Opening the doors for the Holy Spirit to make His transformation

within us through the Word and Sacraments, He now reigns and rules our hearts. And because He does, so does wisdom — wisdom for life and for salvation.

Wisdom Discovered

Read **Psalm 107:23–31** and answer the following:

What were the seamen’s reactions to trouble? _____

How did God respond? _____

What comfort is there in knowing that He can still a storm and hush the waves? _____

What wisdom did they learn through being rescued? _____

What lessons can we learn from this when we encounter trials and difficulties in our lives? _____

Discover, in **Job 28:12–24, 27–28**, how he learned wisdom through suffering. _____

The Wisdom of Solomon

Proverbs 2:1–11 gives us incredible lessons on gaining a heart of wisdom. List as many as you can. _____

What often stands in the way of our desire for wisdom? See **Proverbs 3:5–6**. _____

What is the key word that can change our resistant struggle to that learning? _____

Powerful wisdom is granted by the Holy Spirit as we trust God even when it doesn’t make sense. It is acknowledging God as God and allowing Him the right of straightening our paths. It is discovering when to rest in Him and when to move forward with Him — and it all relies on His Word, His guidance, and His divine wisdom within us.

Applying Wisdom in Service to Others

Wisdom is viewing others through the cross of Christ, seeing them as loved and redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. It is viewing all nations and peoples as those loved by Him, desiring that all be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. In and through the Holy Spirit, wisdom can be gained: to love as Jesus loved, to see others through His eyes, and to care for them in the same manner.

Read Paul’s words in **1 Corinthians 3:6–7**. Who plants the seeds? _____ Who provides the increase? _____

As we reach out to others, it is for us to acknowledge that we are only vessels used for Him, allowing Him to pour out His wise streams of living water to others (**John 7:38**). And in His time, we begin to feed the “fish” that need to hear of His love for them.

True Wisdom

Complete, referring to **1 Corinthians 1:23–25**: Christ is the _____ of God and the _____ of God. What treasures are hidden in Christ in **Colossians 2:2–3**?

These are revealed in and through the cross and resurrection. What appeared foolish to man became the source of all redemption, for the foolishness of God is wiser than man’s wisdom. There is nothing, and no one, that can surpass that wisdom.

Remember that when our hearts and minds are focused on Jesus, we don’t just have one foot spiritually in heaven and one on earth: We are raised up with Christ in the heavenly realms. Wisdom in its truest form helps us see the riches of grace only God can provide.

*And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 2:6–7**).*

*Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise! (**Revelation 5:12**)*

Closing

Proverbs 18:4 states that *the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook*. An added footnote in *Concordia Self-Study Bible* states: “A wise man’s words are refreshing and a source of life.” Pray that, as you remain in His Word, you may become a refreshing stream and source of life for others through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Closing Prayer

Dear Jesus, I am so thankful that in You I have all the wisdom of Your heavenly kingdom. Give me the desire to seek that Wisdom — to seek You — every day. Amen.

Hymns to read or sing: “Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness” (*LSB* #578; *LW* #328) or verse 1 of “I Know My Faith Is Founded” (*LSB* #587; *LW* #354; *TLH* #381) or “What Wondrous Love Is This, O My Soul” (*LSB* #543)

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