

WISDOM #2 A KEY TO WISDOM

INTRODUCTION: We men have a problem with ego. I am a pastor, husband, father, teacher, and a boss. I am supposed to know! Ha

Wise people know when they don't know. They find people who do.

Wise people know **when there is too much emotion** connected to an issue to make an evaluation.

Solomon the wisest man who ever lived had a gift of wisdom. Other than Christ, he was the wisest man who has ever lived. He **has more to say about seeking counsel than anyone in the bible. Wise people seek counsel.**

1. Many decisions that you make privately will become public.

ILL. If you are going to move, buy a house, go on a date etc. People will know it.

2. Decisions you make privately will be judged by those around you.

“Can you believe she went out with him?”

“How can they afford that? Don't they owe us money?”

“Why did he marry her?”

3. Decisions you make privately will be judged by those around you and will affect other people.

“Why is daddy leaving us?”

“Why did she have an abortion?”

“Why did he resign at a time like this?”

“Why did he buy that when we don’t have money for heat?”

Why not get other in on the decision. Why make decisions without counsel?

Proverbs 19 ²⁰ Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise. NIV
KJV uses the word “counsel” where the NIV uses the word “advise”.

Genesis 41 we have the story of Joseph interpreting Pharaoh’s dream.

Remember Pharaoh is considered to be God.

Pharaoh is “the law”. He could change it at any time.

Pharaoh’s has a dream and wants the interpretation. His cupbearer is remembers that Joseph interpreted his and give him Joseph’s name.

Joseph informs Pharaoh that there will be 7 years of plenty and 7 years of famine. Watch what happens.

Genesis 41 ³¹ The abundance in the land will not be remembered, because the famine that follows it will be so severe. ³² The reason the dream was given to Pharaoh in two forms is that the matter has been firmly decided by God, and God will do it soon.

³³ “And now let Pharaoh look for a discerning and wise man and put him in charge of the land of Egypt.

This prisoner, an accused rapist, etc begins to offer advice to Pharaoh.

It could cost him his life.

Do you like it when someone begins to give you advice?
Especially when you didn't ask for it?

³⁴ Let Pharaoh appoint commissioners over the land to take a fifth of the harvest of Egypt during the seven years of abundance. ³⁵ They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the authority of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food. ³⁶ This food should be held in reserve for the country, to be used during the seven years of famine that will come upon Egypt, so that the country may not be ruined by the famine.”

Pharaoh listened.

³⁷ The plan seemed good to Pharaoh and to all his officials.
³⁸ So Pharaoh asked them, “Can we find anyone like this man, one in whom is the spirit of God?”

Pharaoh was wise because he listened to advice and accepted instruction.

³⁹ Then Pharaoh said to Joseph, “Since God has made all this known to you, there is no one so discerning and wise as you. ⁴⁰ You shall be in charge of my palace, and all my people are to submit to your orders. Only with respect to the throne will I be greater than you.” NIV

Wise people aren't afraid to hear what is true.

Wise people know the truth when they hear it.

“Advice is what we ask for when we already know the answer but wish we didn't.”

Erica Jong quotes (American writer and feminist, 1942)

Because Pharaoh listened to wise counsel he ended up in the time of famine owning everything. He increased his wealth.

Even nations would come to him for food.

⁵⁴ and the seven years of famine began, just as Joseph had said. There was famine in all the other lands, but in the whole land of Egypt there was food. ⁵⁵ When all Egypt began to feel the famine, the people cried to Pharaoh for food. Then Pharaoh told all the Egyptians, "Go to Joseph and do what he tells you."

⁵⁶ When the famine had spread over the whole country, Joseph opened the storehouses and sold grain to the Egyptians, for the famine was severe throughout Egypt. ⁵⁷ And all the countries came to Egypt to buy grain from Joseph, because the famine was severe in all the world.

NIV

THREE THINGS WE MUST LEARN

1. No one is so wise they don't need counsel.

If Solomon and Pharaoh needed counsel we too need counsel.

2. You will never reach your full potential without wise counsel.

Tiger Woods has a coach!

Proverbs 15 ²² Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. NIV

3. Wise people do not discount the source.

I made the mistake that the person must have more experience, be more successful, and ahead of me before I would accept the advice.

Big mistake.

ILL.

A truck was stuck under an overpass near an asylum. It is wedged because it is an inch too tall. Wreckers and engineers are attempting to get it from under the bridge. A person across the fence in the asylum yard said, "I am here for being crazy but why don't you let an inch of air out of each tire." When they did they could drive the truck out from under the bridge.

Are you in an emotionally tense situation? Get counsel in the midst of it from a wise person.

The question is, "based on your past history and where you are going in your future is this the wise thing for you to do?"