

1 Chronicles 22:12

Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.

Today's verse is when King David was talking to his son, Solomon, giving him instructions on building the temple for GOD. King David explained to his son Solomon that he (David) could not build the temple himself because God told him he was a man of blood, meaning he killed so many people in the wars that he fought over the years.

† **1 Chronicles 22:8** *but the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 'You have shed much blood and have made great wars; you shall not build a house for My name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in My sight.*

But even though he did shed much blood, King David was commended for his heart to build the temple for God, and God wanted to honor King David's heart and told him that his son, Solomon would build the temple instead of him. And King David was totally fine with this because his heart's desire was going to come to pass, even though it was done by someone else, who was his son Solomon. So once again this is part of that conversation between King David and his son Solomon.

But when you read today's verse, did it sound familiar to you? Well, if you have read your bible and you are familiar with the story of God talking to King Solomon, with King Solomon asking God for wisdom, then this should sound very familiar to you. Let's read that conversation between God and King Solomon.

† **1 Kings 3:5-9** *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask! What shall I give you?" And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day. Now, O LORD my God, You have made Your servant king instead of my father David, but I am a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And Your servant is in the midst of Your people whom You have chosen, a great people, too numerous to be numbered or counted. Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"*

Now if you put verse 9, King Solomon's request to God, along side of today's verse, King David's instruction to his son, Solomon, then you will see that they pretty much say the same thing.

† *“Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil.”*

† *“Only may the LORD give you wisdom and understanding, and give you charge concerning Israel, that you may keep the law of the LORD your God.”*

When we read this, it tells us something we tend to think is not true, and that is that our kids are actually listening to us when we talk to them, and that they are watching us as well.

“Oh no, not my kids. It’s like talking to a brick wall when I tell them something.” You may be thinking. Which I can relate to, having teenage and twenty-something kids myself. But if you think about it, have there not been times when they made good decisions based upon what you have told them in the past or what they have seen you do? I’m sure if you think hard enough you can remember times that this happened when they were little children and teenagers or even in their 20’s or older.

I say this to encourage you as a parent or even as a grandparent, don’t think your life is a waste and that your kids do not listen. Sure, sometimes, or even a lot of times it may not seem like they are, but how many things has the Lord taught us over the years, and it seems like we were disobedient or ignored what we heard from His word, to looking further down the line realizing His word is true and that we lived it, days, or even years later.

The same is true with our children and grandchildren. Just don’t be discouraged, but continue to encourage them, even when it seems it is falling of deaf ears. Maybe they are, but not onto a deaf heart that hears your words to them.

† *Isaiah 35:5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, And the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped.*

† *Isaiah 55:11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*

† *Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*

† *Hebrews 12:3-6 For consider Him who endured such hostility from sinners against Himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls. You have not yet resisted to bloodshed, striving against sin. And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: "My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*