

2 Chronicles 1:10

Now give me wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people; for who can judge this great people of Yours?

When I read this passage, there is one phrase that stood out to me, and that is “*this great people of Yours*” This was king Solomon speaking with God, and even though God made Solomon king of Israel, Solomon still knew that those he was given to rule over and guide were not his, but God’s! And with that, king Solomon wanted to make sure that he would take care of what God had given him the best way that he could, so much so that he even cried out to God and asked for God’s wisdom and guidance to take care of what God had given him.

† **1 Kings 3:7-9 (NLT2)** *“Now, O LORD my God, you have made me king instead of my father, David, but I am like a little child who doesn’t know his way around. And here I am in the midst of your own chosen people, a nation so great and numerous they cannot be counted! Give me an understanding heart so that I can govern your people well and know the difference between right and wrong. For who by himself is able to govern this great people of yours?”*

We know after Solomon prayed this that God not only gave him wisdom and knowledge to lead Israel, but God gave him riches beyond his wildest imagination. And we know that because we have read the story. Yet we tend to forget that Solomon did not know this, all he knew was that God had made him king over Israel, and he had a great responsibility to lead them and that’s all he cared about. God knew this, that’s why God replied to Solomon with:

† **1 Kings 3:10-14 (NLT2)** *The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for wisdom. So God replied, “Because you have asked for wisdom in governing my people with justice and have not asked for a long life or wealth or the death of your enemies— I will give you what you asked for! I will give you a wise and understanding heart such as no one else has had or ever will have! And I will also give you what you did not ask for—riches and fame! No other king in all the world will be compared to you for the rest of your life! And if you follow me and obey my decrees and my commands as your father, David, did, I will give you a long life.”*

Solomon choose to be obedient, and because he was, he then received God’s blessings. Yet how often do we pray and seek the blessings, and decide that we will not be obedient until we receive the blessings first? We pray, “*God, if you will give me this, then I will do that for You.*” Almost like we are at the bargaining table with God, trying to make a deal with Him, like when you are buying a car, “*If you take so much off the price and include this as well, then I will buy the car from you.*” I like how the Message bible puts this:

† **Luke 11:10 (MSG)** *Don't bargain with God. Be direct. Ask for what you need. This is not a cat-and-mouse, hide-and-seek game we're in.*

But if we read Solomon's conversation with God, it wasn't Solomon trying to bargain with God, but more of, "God help me to do this." And God's reply (Paraphrasing here), "Ok, I will help you do that, but I will also give you this as well." Because Solomon was not trying to bargain with God, but rather went to God for help, not to receive stuff from God.

If only we saw all of God's people as His people and not ours, including our spouse, children and family, wouldn't we treat them different, just like Solomon did and seek God to help us guide them in life in a Godly manner?

† **Psalms 32:8 (NLT2)** *The LORD says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."*

† **Acts 20:35 (NLT2)** *And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'*

† **Matthew 7:12 (MSG)** *Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God's Law and Prophets and this is what you get.*