



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Getting Wisdom (Proverbs 2)

JANUARY 13, 2010

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Welcome to the 2010 Session Study Series!

You may note the change in our ministry name and logo. A leadership challenge occurred partly because our National administration was focused on international expansion into other nations while State Directors felt the need to strengthen current ministries. This impasse was resolved when State Directors separated to form a new organization. A side benefit is the dramatic reduction of administrative costs. Our headquarters staff and officers are volunteers!

Note that today's study is a revision of an October lesson which was taught in small groups but never distributed.

Challenging class discussion questions:

*How have you been handling crossroads in life or in your career?
What options do you personally have when the economy sinks?
Consider some options, sources of advice/direction when in crises!
Reflect on loved ones who have been unwilling to move or change.
Do you consider yourself teachable?*

Acquiring wisdom and judgment!

Proverbs 2:2-10 Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight, and ask for understanding. Search for them as you would for silver; seek them like hidden treasures. Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord, and you will gain knowledge of God. For the Lord grants wisdom! From His mouth come knowledge and understanding. He grants a treasure of common sense to the honest. He is a shield to those who walk with integrity. He guards the paths of the just and protects those who are faithful to Him. Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair and you will find the right way to go. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy.¹

Would you like to “create” your own future?

For a dozen years I taught a university course on the future: The focus was on forecasting and prediction tools. Why not skip all that science and create your own future? Science writer Alan Kay makes this profound statement: **“The best way to predict the future is to invent it (or prevent it).”²**

Many of you are scattered along the path to success, providing valuable service and leadership. How do you keep your footing and forward direction?

Let us meet two young women at a crossroad in their life journeys. Recently widowed, Orpah and Ruth were following their mother-in-law Naomi out of an area where famine had devastated the economy. They began a dangerous and arduous seven to ten day journey, walking dusty roads from Moab to Bethlehem. In our day, the trip would be from Jordan near the Salt Sea to the West Bank of Israel (or walking across much of Kansas in the late 19th century).

Twice Naomi stopped at crossroads, urging the two young women to go back because the journey was hard and the future was uncertain. Have you considered merely staying in familiar surroundings, looking for comfort?

Orpah turned and went back to her people and her gods. However, Ruth had heard much about the Lord God of Israel and recognized that Naomi had access to His wisdom. She answered her mother-in-law, ***“Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us” (Ruth 1:16-17)³.***

BIBLE STUDIES

**LEADERSHIP/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7 -7:50 AM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH
STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 – 12:55 PM, CAPITOL - ROOM 171 W (SPEAKERS CONFERENCE RM.)**

Kansas

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Naomi is the image of wisdom in this story. She gives wise counsel to Ruth over a period of months. Ruth proves to be teachable, obedient, and humble (Ruth Chapters 2 and 3).

What happened to Orpah? She apparently lived and died in obscurity.

What happened to Ruth? She became the wife of a wealthy landowner, gave birth to a son, and had a loving grandmother to help raise the child. This boy was Obed, the father of Jesse, grandfather of King David. Ruth was grafted in the line of Jesus, the Christ!

CONCLUSION:

You may be at a crossroads on a long journey seeking fulfillment and success. Ruth changed her future by taking a new path and seeking God, the source of wisdom. This “path” greatly impacted her life and the lives of her descendants for eternity. Ruth’s story has touched the lives of millions over the past 2000 years. Will your life be an inspiration to your community, your descendants? Ask God for wisdom. Access the royal lineage as Ruth did.

James 1:2-8 Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing. If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and He will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking. But when you ask Him, be sure that your faith is in God alone.

Do not waver, for a person with divided loyalty is as unsettled as a wave of the sea that is blown and tossed by the wind. Such people should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. Their loyalty is divided between God and the world, and they are unstable in everything they do.⁴

¹ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2004.

² http://www.windley.com/archives/2006/02/alan_kay_is_com.shtml

³ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2004.

⁴ Ibid.