Introduction
Wisdom is a precious commodity that seems in awfully short supply today. And that’s a shame because the Bible says few things are more important than possessing wisdom. In Proverbs 3 God says about wisdom. Let’s read it together. “Happy is the person who becomes wise, who come to have understanding. There is more profit in it than there is in gold or silver; it is worth more to you than gold. Wisdom is more valuable to you than jewels; nothing you could want can compare to it!”

So just what is wisdom? Somebody once said this about wisdom. “Everybody is a fool at least five minutes a day. Wisdom consists in not exceeding that limit.”

That’s one definition. But here is a better one, one that’s more Biblical. You have it on your outline. Wisdom is the Spirit-given ability to see with discernment and to view life as God perceives it. True wisdom does not view life just with the five senses, what we see, touch, hear, taste, and smell. True wisdom views life the way God sees it with the sixth sense of faith. Wisdom is the Spirit-given ability to see with discernment and to view life as God perceives it.

Now when you think of wisdom Solomon comes to mind. The Bible says Solomon was the wisest person who has ever lived. Now where did he get that wisdom? In I Kings’s 3 we read he acquired it through a prayer he prayed. His prayer is one of the great prayers of the Bible we are looking at in this message series. It’s truly a difference making prayer.

Last week we looked at a prayer of David when you need forgiveness. Today we’re looking at Solomon’s prayer when you need wisdom. As we look at this prayer there are four things God wants us to know about wisdom.

I. First of all God wants us to learn the need for wisdom. (Vs. 1-3) In these verses we see that Solomon loved the Lord and was trying to walk with God, and yet at the same time Solomon was still doing some foolish things. Two foolish things stand out. One: Solomon married a foreign wife, the daughter of Pharaoh as part of a political alliance. God had told his people they were not to enter into marriage with other nations, people who did not know the Lord. Secondly we read that Solomon was offering sacrifices on the high places. This was directly counter to God’s Word given to his people when they entered the promised land. The high places were where pagan gods had been worshiped. God wanted his people to worship where he designated. Solomon did not do that. Yes, he loved the Lord; he walked according to the statues of his father David. But he was acting foolishly. He needed wisdom.

We too need wisdom because we all can relate to Solomon. We love the Lord, but we act foolishly at times. There are times we say or think why did I do that?

There’s the story of a little boy in a Children’s Hospital as a patient. He was a terror and wreaking havoc with the nursing staff. He was visited by a man who knew the boy’s reputation. He told the boy he would be back in a week and if this little boy
behaved himself for a whole week he’d give him a dime. A week later the man came back and walked to the boys bed and said, “I’m not asking the nurses or staff about your behavior this past week, I just want you to tell me do you deserve the that dime. The little boy thought for a moment, looked at the man and said, give me a penny.

That’s what we would have to say isn’t it. Yes we know and love the Lord and want to live for him and yet just sometimes we act foolishly. This is the need for wisdom and we all have it.

II. That’s why after the need for wisdom, the next thing God wants us to learn is the nature of wisdom found in verses 4 and 5. God appears to Solomon in a dream and told him to ask for anything he wanted and it would be given to him. There’s an offer you couldn’t refuse. What if God come to each of us saying ask whatever you want and you will get it. What would we ask for; money, a bigger house, new car, better job, a decent boy or girl friend, better health, a longer vacation, or a more fulfilling retirement.

Solomon did not ask for any of these things; instead he asked for one thing—wisdom. Why? He knew the nature of wisdom; true wisdom, comes from God. True wisdom is found in the true God and Savior, Jesus Christ. This is what the Apostle Paul wrote to the early Christians. He said in Colossians chapter 2 “my purpose is that they (followers of Jesus) may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Real wisdom, the kind of wisdom we need so much for our life, is found in God and the only way we can have it is through Jesus Christ and his work on the cross. Real wisdom is found in Jesus Christ and our having a relationship with him. In him are found all the treasure of wisdom and knowledge.

We live in a world that looks for wisdom from scholars, philosophies, technology, society, our own reason, and from culture. And yet this is what the God says in 1 Corinthians 1 “For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise; the intelligence of the intelligent I will frustrate. Where is the wise man? Where is the scholar? Where is the philosopher of the age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?”

This is the nature of wisdom. Wisdom comes from God and therefore if we are ever going to possess wisdom, we must learn to hear from God. God strives to get our attention because he wants us to hear from him because then and only then will we really possess true wisdom.

III. That’s why in this prayer after we see the need for wisdom and the nature of wisdom, we see the way to wisdom in verses 6-14. So what’s the way to wisdom, the way to hear from God? Well, it takes more than just right ears, it takes a right heart. We see three characteristic in Solomon’s heart and God wants it in our heart too so we too can hear from God. So let’s do a heart checkup.
A. A heart that hears from God will be a heart of **certainty** we see in verse 6. A certain heart is a heart of faith. Solomon had a certainty that he was going to hear from God. Why? Because he had a faith that God was loving, kind, and who was interested in him, thinking about him, and committed to guide him. (Read verse 6)

Without a doubt Solomon had a heart of certainty and he would hear from God. And where do you think he got this kind of heart? It is the same place our children will get a heart for God. It will be the power of the Holy Spirit working through our life and example. Solomon got his form his father David and look at what David wrote in Psalm 139 “How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand. When I awake, I am still with you.” It’s the same for us. God loves us, is concerned for us, always thinking about us. His heart is continually toward us. He’s committed to guide us. Like David we say how precious your thoughts, O God are. If I were to number them they would outnumber the grains of sand.

There is a blood stained cross that proves God’s love to us. It says God loves us so much he came to this earth and on the cross Jesus took upon himself the dilemma of our sin that separated us from God so we could know in a real way God’s love. He did it not because we deserved it, but out of love for us. That’s what makes us right with God and gives us a heart of certainty that enables us to hear from him.

B. To hear from God we also need a heart of **humility** which we see in Solomon in verse 7. (Read verse 7) Solomon could have thought I have everything under control. I snap my fingers and people jump. Instead Solomon says he is only a child and not sure what to do. That’s a heart of humility and that kind of heart will enable us to hear from God.

Has God done anything in your life to help you to be more humble so you would be more open to hear from him? A pastor was at the door greeting people as they left. One lady said, thanks pastor for that message. I really enjoyed it. The pastor replied don’t thank me, thank the Lord. The woman said well it wasn’t that good.

God works allowing situations and circumstances in our life to humble us. Why? It opens us up to hear God’s voice.

C. A heart of certainty, a heart of humility, and the third characteristic we see in Solomon is a heart of **availability** which we see in verses 8 and 9. This kind of heart too will enable us to hear from God. Solomon said God your servant is here. Solomon had more interest in serving, then being served; more interest in commitment than comfort; more interest in fulfilling the purpose of God, than fulfilling his own purpose.

Would that be our description? A heart of availability says God you speak to me and when you speak to me I’ll do it. I’m willing, ready, and available. I’ll do it; not just think about it. That’s the kind of heart that hears from God. When you realize how loving God in your Savior Jesus Christ is toward you; how concerned he is about you; how he knows more about you and what you need, than you’ll ever know about yourself, you can do what God tells us to do. Why? When you come to know that
love that surpasses all knowledge, the grip of fear is broken and we can go forward in God. So like Solomon have a heart of availability.

In this prayer we see God will speak to a heart of certainty, a heart of humility, and a heart of availability. God is speaking to us, are we hearing him.

How does God speak to us today? You have it in your outline. Follow along:

**How God Speaks Today:**
1. The **Word** of God: so meditate upon Scripture!
2. The **Counsel** of others: so connect with mature Christian (ministry teams, small groups, ministry committees, etc.)
3. The **circumstances** of life: so ask “God what are you saying to me here?”
4. The **impressions** of the Holy Spirit: So listen carefully for Him!

**God’s Voice Will:**
1. **Consistent** with the Word of God (Bible)
2. **Conflict** with natural wisdom
3. **Clash** with your sinful nature (I don’t want to do that)
4. **Challenge** your faith
5. **Call** you to courage

Hearing the voice of God takes practice. It’s an acquired skill that comes the more you listen to God who works in you a heart of certainty, humility, and availability. And in that way you will have wisdom from on high.

That’s what happened to Solomon. We see it in verses 10-14. He got the wisdom he needed and along with that he received all the other stuff he didn’t ask for. God is saying to us today other stuff will never fulfill your life. Make sure your priorities are in order; seek wisdom by seeking after a heart of certainty, humility, and availability. Why?

IV. After we see the need, the nature, and the way, we see the **result** of wisdom in verse 15. And what do we see in Solomon; worshipful obedience to God. Solomon left the high places and worshiped God the way and in the place God wanted to be worshiped. God not only confirmed his truth to Solomon, but he also conformed Solomon to his truth. And God will do the same thing in our life if we will seek him with a heart of certainty, humility, and availability. We will hear from him as he speaks to us confirming his truth to us and conforming us to his truth.

**Conclusion**
Yes wisdom is a precious commodity that seems in short supply today. But it does not need to be that way for the people of who love Jesus and follow Jesus. Because in Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. If we embrace him by faith with a heart of growing certainty, with a heart of growing humility, and with a heart of growing availability God will not only confirm his truth to us, he will conform us to his truth. Why? When everything is said and done I believe this prayer of Solomon is truly one of the greatest prayers of the Bible.