

WHAT WISDOM REQUIRES

"When the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon and his relationship to the LORD, she came to test Solomon with hard questions." 1 Kings 10:1 (NIV)



I am sure that many have heard someone ask, “Who does she think that she is; the Queen of Sheba?” This statement may have occurred because some female’s entitled attitude and lack of humility. Whatever the circumstance the statement in no way was a complement.

A leader of uncommon boldness and vision, this real-life queen traveled from the ends of the earth to seek wisdom, drawn to King Solomon's doorstep because of his bond with the One true God, who was wisdom Himself.

This remarkable woman journeyed for two months across an unforgiving desert - *on a camel*. All we have to do is cross the room, reach for our Bibles and God's wisdom is ours for the taking.

Maybe that's the problem. His Word is so convenient, it's conveniently forgotten. *I'll read it later. I'll start tomorrow.*

Or we wait until we're desperate for answers, then don't know where to find them. We aimlessly flip from one chapter of the Bible to another, looking for a verse that will magically solve everything.

The queen of Sheba took a different route. As we see in our key verse, she put her royal life on hold and made seeking wisdom her number-one priority. Here's what she teaches us about wisdom by her good example:

1. Wisdom requires time.

We say, "Time is money," but the truth is, time is worth more than money. It can't

be bought, sold or bargained with. Each minute ticks by, never to be seen again. If we can spend 10 minutes each morning bathing in a hot shower, we can spend at least 10 minutes being cleansed by His Word. *"Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom"* (Psalm 90:12, NIV).

2. Wisdom requires sacrifice.

When we first embraced the grace of God, He clearly instructed us to unplug my television and start reading the Bible. Do what?! It was hard at first, but as the months went by, we forgot about what we were missing and rejoiced in what we were learning. *"The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding"* (Proverbs 4:7, NIV).

In case you're curious, the television eventually returned, but with greatly diminished appeal. God's plan, absolutely!

3. Wisdom requires humility.

We do not always have the answer, yet that's what seeking wisdom is all about. It's saying, *"Lord, I haven't a clue, but You do."* Admitting, *"I don't know, but I know the One who does."* Only then will God's wisdom be revealed for what it is: His and His alone. *"When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom"* (Proverbs 11:2, NIV).

As the queen of Sheba discovered, information is interesting and facts are fascinating, but *wisdom is world-changing*. Wisdom is the resource we bring to the workplace, the encouragement we offer to our friends, the gift we give to the body of Christ, the legacy we leave for our children.

However full our schedules, adding just *one more line* to our to-do list can make all the difference: **Open God's Word. Find wisdom there today.**

Father God, help us never take Your Word or the wisdom it contains for granted. Give us a passion for learning and a thirst for Your Truth. Fill us with the courage to ask hard questions and seek wise answers from You alone. In Jesus' Name, Amen.