

## 1 Kings 3 Wisdom

God told Solomon he could ask for one thing.

What would you ask God for?

Solomon asked for Wisdom – great choice as a leader

Could have chosen great wealth

Maybe military conquest of enemies

But knew that wisdom to know right from wrong was what a leader really needed

But there's a contradiction in the life of Solomon. He is a man of great wisdom who does some incredibly stupid things

He gets seduced by luxury and builds up a host of chariots (10:26) against the law (Deut 17:16)

He marries 700 women from all around the place who introduce their foreign gods (11:3)

He then starts to follow these gods and build them places of sacrifice (11:7)

By the end of his reign the people ask his son to lessen the load on the people (12:4) – he's worked and taxed them hard to live in the luxury that he lived

Tells you something of the way he was viewed by his people.

So, how can this be?

God is the one who gives gifts but we have a responsibility to actually then go and use them.

Think about the gifts that God has given you? Prayerful heart? Compassion? Wealth? Creativity? Time?

If we don't then use those gifts in God's service, then they amount to nothing

We've probably all observed incredibly intelligent people who say incredibly stupid things.

We wise leader who makes bad choices.

Having a spiritual gift from God does not make you bullet proof

We live in a spiritual world as well as a physical one – little old Satan does not want people living Godly upright lives, our own human nature is desperate to enforce it's own will

There's a reason we're told to pray for our leaders

1 Timothy 2:1-2 - I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.

King Charles comes under that. Being King may largely be symbolic these days, but none the less, people look up to him and his voice has power. We should be praying for him as we pray for all our leaders.

But also pray for one another. If you look up to someone, if they have set you a Godly example, pray for them. Pray that they may not fall into whatever temptation surrounds them. Pray that the gifts that God has given them may not be wasted or misused but used for the glory of God.

Finally, there's also a reminder. Human's make mistakes and get things wrong. God doesn't and that is why Jesus is King of Kings and why he is our ultimate example. The nation of Israel had been warned when they first asked for a king that things would go wrong. But they bought into the cult of personality. And we can buy into the cult of personality as well. As much as someone may seem like a charismatic leader or a great speaker, they aren't God and they will get things wrong. So, listen to leaders, follow them but don't put them on a pedestal. Jesus is the leader we follow; he is the one who doesn't make mistakes and he is the one in whom true wisdom lies.