

“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?”” 1 Kings 3:9 NLT

[lectio] // 1 KINGS 3:5-15

listen to the text by reading out loud slowly and repeat up to 3x if desired

[meditatio]

reflect on – what word, words, phrase, or sentence speaks to you from the text, then write them down

Solomon's prayer as a young leader is amazing. So humble, so grateful. Solomon did not end up the same as he got older. He changed. He compromised. He was still wealthy & wise, but he lost himself in alliances, position and promiscuousness. He could take anything his heart desired, so his appetite was unquenchable. To be so smart, so capable and wise - yet lose you soul & family. Did Solomon "win" in the end?

[oratio]

pray as responding to the words, phrase, sentence that God has stirred within you

Dad,

A man's appetite is so powerfully selfish in life. It's exactly like taming a wild beast and then, never being sure, if it's going to turn on you in a moment of instinct and destroy everything you've built, loved and protected. How is it that man can be so heroic and harmful in the same mind, body and soul? How can a man tap into that strength, that disassociation, that power and still tame the drive to conquer, kill and subdue? To avoid the dilemma, many of my kind get lost in addictions that rule their being and end up hurting those we love. Many of my kind disengage to numbly walk through life like a zombie. They retreat and wall up defensively to protect themselves FROM themselves and protect those they love. It is too much! For most of us, it is unbearable. You have wired us up to be protectors, builders and conquerors - but we find no place to be both kind and killer! Solomon had and lost it all. Many godly men have done the same. How am I supposed to make it?

[contemplatio]

rest in the presence of God, allowing the words revealed to take root