

“I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.” Proverbs 8:12 NLT

lectio // Proverbs 8:12-21

Continuing with the theme of wisdom, it's interesting that Solomon writes, “I know” where to get more knowledge, more discernment. Does wisdom give an edge up on finding answers? Can wisdom be a key component in curiosity and life long learning? I think it can. Wisdom does not promise to “know all” thus being the smartest person in the room. No, wisdom says, “I do not know it all,” but I do know where to find it. Knowledge comes with a sense of arrogance, curiosity comes with humility. This theory of knowledge being a curse and the phrase “hindsight bias” caught my attention in the past (https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Curse_of_knowledge#History_of_concept) I first read it in Made to Stick by Chip & Dan Heath. The simple truth, once you know something, you can't un-know it. And so when you talk about something you are well informed about, you think everyone is at the same level of understanding. You mention words, phrases and concepts that are “normal” terms to you but absolutely foreign to your listeners. Every “expert” in every field of study and practice faces this hurdle. So in a practical sense, people of wisdom have a natural ability to not only find out about things they do not know, but they may also have the ability to not arrogantly talk over others heads because it's not about sounding or being smarter, it's being a natural facilitator of learning. Solomon when presented with the dilemma of two women claiming one baby belonging to each one is a good example. Solomon could have determined which one was the real mother and made a judgement. He probably would have judged correctly, but maybe would have made a mistake (being fooled by emotions). But he wanted the women to not only own their story, but also own THE truth. He had knowledge to make the decision but used wisdom to allow the women to both experience truth in the moment. The women, the observers and Solomon quickly witnessed the truth. Discernment lesson learned!

Dad,
It's hard not to seek knowledge to be able to impress friends and wow the crowd. Our world is currently addicted to information! Raw, unfiltered, conflicted news about everything possible. Yet, division is in the rise. Opinions and arguments abound. More knowledge about things we really know nothing about has not helped us. We are only quoting others, and being swayed by the appearance of their own knowledge. What do we do with “opposing experts?” We are not lacking in knowledge, we are seriously lacking in wisdom and discernment. Wisdom only comes from you, and it's not used to prove a point or control others. It's there for learning and reflecting your character. Anyone can appear knowledgeable, but wise - that's a completely different story.

contemplatio

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