

“Some time later two prostitutes came to the king to have an argument settled.” 1 Kings 3:16 NLT

lectio // 1 Kings 3:16-28

Such an odd story, written to show the great wisdom of King Solomon, but it reveals a much deeper truth than just his decision to judge. What about his decision to hear the case at all? It reads like a click-bait headline in your digital news feed, “Two whores get a hearing.” It reads callous and uncaring... “to have an argument settled.” Those two women and their two children were human beings! The argument wasn’t over a hairbrush or a violent John, it was about a baby. One child is dead, the other infamous in history, yet we don’t even know their names. Maybe the weight of this wise decision rested on the fact that the King heard the case at all. This is a beautiful “access to power/justice” story. The lowest regarded person in the nation gets an audience with the king. Wisdom and justice BEGIN with listening to the pain, suffering and injustices of the least among us. A glaring side-note that screams throughout history - who or where were the fathers? We may think, “who knows or who cares,” but God does! That little boy who lived cares. I wonder what happened to him? This “famous” child that survived being the son of a prostitute and nearly cut in half in a selfish sea of worthlessness among his “family.” He was just another kid. She was just another whore. God doesn’t see them like that, and neither should we. I love the fact that Solomon stooped to listen. I love that he had God’s gift of wisdom to grant justice to a mother and her son. I love that power and wealth can wait and serve the outliers and marginal of our society. It certainly mattered to this single mom and her infamous son.

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Dad,

I am overwhelmed with your ability and your character to see the unseen. To hear those with no voice. To bring hope and justice to those with no advocate, no champion. To those, you are our father! Thank you. I know there are thousands of stories like this single mom and her son. And yet, I know you love them. I know we should love them like you love them. I know we should dispense wisdom and justice just like Solomon did. I am an agent of your wisdom, an advocate for the marginalized. Help me to be better at seeing, hearing and acting on their behalf.

contemplatio

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