

Whom Can I Trust?  
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Job 28

Opening question: **In your opinion, what is the difference between KNOWLEDGE and WISDOM? Has there ever been a time in your life when God MIRACULOUSLY gave you wisdom that you KNEW had to have come from him?**

- Everyone you meet has an opinion. Everyone you meet has some level of knowledge.
- What is rare and valuable is to find WISDOM. There's really only ONE TRUSTED SOURCE for WISDOM. Wisdom is a GIFT FROM GOD.
- Chuck Swindoll gives us this definition of WISDOM: *"Wisdom is looking at life from God's point of view."*
- No matter how bad my circumstances are, am I looking at them the way God does?
- Have I even TRIED to find out God's perspective?
  
- As we saw last week and the week before, Job's three friends came to comfort him.
- **Instead of comfort or wisdom what did his friends give him?**
- By the end of last week's lesson, Job had had ENOUGH of his three friends.
- In the midst of his devastating suffering Job is looking for ANSWERS.
- In Chapter 28 Job gives a speech, really a poem, telling his friends and us where to FIND those answers.

Job 28:1–4 (ESV)

28 "Surely there is a mine for silver,  
and a place for gold that they refine.

2 Iron is taken out of the earth,  
and copper is smelted from the ore.

3 Man puts an end to darkness  
and searches out to the farthest limit  
the ore in gloom and deep darkness.

4 He opens shafts in a valley away from where anyone lives;  
they are forgotten by travelers;  
they hang in the air, far away from mankind; they swing to and fro.

- **What is Job describing?**
- **What connection do you think that has with finding God's WISDOM?**
- Let's learn from Job's illustration of mining for precious metals and stones.
- **First, how do we get our hands on the gold, silver, and precious stones?**
- The gold doesn't come to us, we have to go \_\_\_\_\_ for it!
- It's the same with WISDOM. God will give us wisdom, but we have to SEEK it.
- One of the best places in our Bible, to learn about WISDOM is in Proverbs. Turn to Proverbs Chapter 2.

Proverbs 2:1–12 (ESV) This is written as a father speaking to his son...

2:1 My son, if you receive my words  
and treasure up my commandments with you,  
2 making your ear attentive to wisdom  
and inclining your heart to understanding;

- **What are the key words in these first two verses?**
- **What do you think those verses mean?**
- **What does it mean to INCLINE YOUR HEART to God's word?**

3 yes, if you call out for insight  
and raise your voice for understanding,

- **What are we doing if we CALL OUT and RAISE OUR VOICES for WISDOM?**

James 1:5 (ESV)

5 If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.

- If we're SERIOUS about needing God's wisdom what do we do? Look at verse 4.

4 if you seek it like silver  
and search for it as for hidden treasures,

- **Question: If a geologist told you without a doubt there was GOLD under your front yard what would you be doing this afternoon?**
- **So HOW do we SEEK God's WISDOM about our circumstances?**
- If we're willing to go after God's wisdom with all our HEART; with our VOICE; and all our EFFORT. Here's God's promise:

5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord  
and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord gives wisdom;  
from his mouth come knowledge and understanding;

7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright;  
he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,

8 guarding the paths of justice  
and watching over the way of his saints.

- **Before we can go DIGGING for HIDDEN TREASURE, what do we need to know?**
- **In every movie about HIDDEN TREASURE what do they NEED in order to find it?**
- First, we need to know where NOT TO LOOK. Back to Job 28...verse 12:

12 "But where shall wisdom be found?  
And where is the place of understanding?

13 Man does not know its worth,

and it is not found in the land of the living.

- **In those two verses where does Job say you WON'T find WISDOM?**
- To be clear, God DOES use GODLY PEOPLE to convey wisdom. But, be CAREFUL in whom you trust for WISE COUNSEL.

Job 28:15–16 (ESV)

15 It cannot be bought for gold,  
and silver cannot be weighed as its price.

16 It cannot be valued in the gold of Ophir,  
in precious onyx or sapphire.

- **Those verses say TWO things to me. What do YOU think they mean?**
- **Verse 15: How do many people mistakenly think they can get out of trouble?**
- Another thing...
- Verse 16: Do I really understand or BELIEVE the value of WISDOM from God? If I do, like a miner, I will “move Heaven and earth” to get it.
- So, Job, WHERE do I find the WISDOM I need?
- Job closes the poem with the REAL SOURCE of WISDOM. He quotes God:

28 And he said to man,  
‘Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom,  
and to turn away from evil is understanding.’ ”

- **That’s a two step plan to find wisdom. What does it say to do?**
- Three other verses tell us the fear of the Lord is the beginning of WISDOM:

Psalms 111:10 (ESV)

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;  
all those who practice it have a good understanding.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV)

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge;  
fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Proverbs 9:10 (ESV)

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom,  
and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

- **What does it mean to FEAR the Lord?**
- **Verse 28 also says to “turn away from evil,” in order to gain understanding.**
- **What does that mean?**

So, What’s the Takeaway?

- God is the only source for WISDOM about my circumstances
- Job said God’s WISDOM is more valuable than the most precious metal or stones

- But like MINING for gold or silver, finding Godly WISDOM takes some digging
- Digging into scripture in our own personal Bible study, and teaching, and preaching
- It's not enough to HAVE God's word, or the HEAR God's word, we have to INCLINE OUR HEART...to OBEY and BELIEVE God's word.
- We have to CRY OUT, to BEG, and to SEEK with as much URGENCY as if we were digging for silver or gold under our front lawn.
- We have to BELIEVE that God's wisdom is worth MORE than all the gold and silver in the world.