



Wisdom to Know the Difference
Ecclesiastes 9:1 - 12 (Message)

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*God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and **the wisdom to know the difference.***
(Reinhold Niebuhr)

Consider Example of King Solomon

"King Solomon was greater in riches and wisdom than all the other kings of the earth" (1 Kings 10:23).

Well, I took all this in and thought it through, inside and out. Here's what I understood: The good, the wise, and all that they do are in God's hands—but, day by day, whether it's love or hate they're dealing with, they don't know. Anything's possible. (v. 1)

What wisdom might you offer to your younger self?

1. **Wisdom comes from** _____.

Do you hear Lady Wisdom calling?

Can you hear Madame Insight raising her voice?

She's taken her stand at First and Main, at the busiest intersection....

"...I am Lady Wisdom, and I live next to Sanity;

Knowledge and Discretion live just down the street." (Prov. 8:1 -2, 12)

2. **Wisdom comes from** _____.

It's one fate for everybody—righteous and wicked, good people, bad people, the nice and the nasty, worshipers and non-worshipers, committed and uncommitted. I find this outrageous—the worst thing about living on this earth—that everyone's lumped together in one fate. Is it any wonder that so many people are obsessed with evil? Is it any wonder that people go crazy right and left? Life leads to death. That's it. (v. 2-3)

➤ **In other words, you are NOT GOD!**

3. **Wisdom is a gift given when we** _____ **with God's will.**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you." - James 1:5

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones. (Proverbs 3:5 -8)

SO WHAT?

God does not force us to follow Christ. Instead, let us learn to yield to God's grace so that we might discover Christ is indeed King and we may be "reasonably happy in this life, and supremely happy with him in the next!"