

Greetings from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

What do you wish for? What do you hope for? What do you dream for? If you could have anything what would it be?

In the Old Testament (also known as the Hebrew Scriptures for the language in which they were written) in the third chapter of the first book of Kings, a similar offer is made to Solomon.

Solomon is told, "Ask for whatever you want me to give you." (1 Kings 3:5). That is quite an offer.

More important than the offer is the one making the offer. It is the LORD – GOD!

Now imagine for a moment the scene – God has appeared to Solomon and told Solomon to ask God for whatever Solomon would like.

What would you say if God asked you for whatever you would like?

New house? New car under the wishes for a fantastic car program? Maybe a giant house with a giant screen television? Perhaps you would ask for a collection of fantastic houses and cars and televisions? Maybe the winning numbers for all lotto drawings?

Maybe you would ask for good health for you and your family and friends?

Maybe you would ask for all kinds of things? Would you ask for meaningful relationships and opportunities to make a difference? What would you ask for?

What about Solomon? What did he ask for?

Solomon asked for wisdom.

Following the death of his father, King David, Solomon ascended to the throne and became King. Solomon knew he was in over his head. So he asked for "a discerning heart to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong" (1 Kings 3:9). He asked for wisdom.

Following his inauguration in New York City as the very first president of these United States, George Washington entered Saint Paul's Episcopal chapel and knelt down and prayed that God would grant him wisdom to lead. Over two hundred years later, Saint Paul's chapel was a place of sanctuary and rest for the first responders working at the nearby World Trade Center following the 9/11 attacks.

I also pray for wisdom, though I am not a great leader. I pray for wisdom to lead the parish of Prince of Peace Episcopal Church. I pray the same prayer for wisdom for our president and other elected officials. I do not pray that the president and other elected

officials would learn to think like me as though I somehow have it figured out. I pray instead that God would grant divine wisdom. I do not have the healthcare situation, the economy, the war on terrorism, or even effective fishing techniques figured out. I'm still nervous when I try and microwave popcorn that the result will set off smoke detectors and ruin the popcorn. I cannot seem to catch even one trout of any variety.

No, I am not wise, but I do know who is – GOD! And, like Solomon, I pray for the gift of God's wisdom.

What do you ask God for? Keep asking and praying and throw in a few prayers for our elected leaders, and for Prince of Peace, and for me.

Thank you!

Come and join us for Worship in the Park on Sunday August 30 at Pioneer Park at the Security Pavilion at 10am for worship followed by a potluck barbeque.

Blessings be upon you!

Fr. Steve+