



# Shepherd's Path

## A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

### Lookin' for a Leader Series, Lesson 20

#### Lesson Title: Solomon's Wisdom

**Take Home Point:** The smart way is God's way.

#### Warm-Up:

There was once a very lazy employee who did the bare minimum to get by in his desk job. One evening as he walked along the beach, he came across a metal object nearly covered by the sand. It was an old oil lamp, so he took it with him to see if he could sell it to an antiques dealer. On the way he rubbed it a bit to shine it up, and out popped a genie! "I will grant you three wishes!" the genie announced. The man was doubtful but decided to try it. "I wish for a million dollars!" he said. Poof! There was a million dollars at his feet! He got very excited. "I wish to be in a mansion in the mountains surrounded by servants!" Poof! There he was, standing in the center of a palatial mountain retreat. Figuring he had it made with the house and the money, he made one more wish. "I wish I never had to work again!" Poof! There he was...back at his desk!

**Read:** 1 Kings 3:4-28

#### Observation (What happened?):

Why did Solomon ask for a heart that listens?

What was God's response to Solomon's request?

#### Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What attitudes did Solomon display in his request?

Why do you think God made his offer to Solomon?

#### Insight:

When Solomon asked for a heart that listens, what did he mean? Listen for what? Listen to whom? Other Bible translations say he asked for a "discerning" heart or an "understanding" heart. It is interesting that Solomon didn't specify that he be given a heart that listens to God, or to people. He was already wise enough to recognize that to be an effective godly leader, he needed to be able to listen and understand both God and people. It's an ability we would be wise to pray for as well so we can be effective servants of God and others, too. Solomon's listening heart is clearly demonstrated in the proverbs he wrote. He listened to what God had to say through natural and spiritual laws. He listened to the hearts of people around him. As a result, he saw and wrote about not only outward actions and consequences, but motives and effects in the soul. That's why he could write in Proverbs 1:7, *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Stubborn fools despise wisdom and discipline."*

#### Application (What does it mean to me?):

If God said he would give you whatever you asked, what would you ask for? What are you asking for now? Are the two different? If they are different, why?

Pray for a heart that listens to God and others.

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