



Single-Minded Wisdom

James 1:5-8

We find in **1st Samuel 16**, God choses a shepherd boy named David to be the second king of Israel

- This would have been a joyous day if it hadn't been for David's jealous older brothers
 - King Saul is still on the throne
 - King Saul knows God has rejected him and has already chosen his replacement

We find in 1st Samuel 16, God chooses a shepherd boy named David to be the second king of Israel

- **1st Samuel 13:14 NLT** But now your kingdom must end, for the Lord has sought out a man after his own heart. The Lord has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the Lord's command."

We find in 1st Samuel 16, God choses a shepherd boy named David to be the second king of Israel

- David had to run for his life from Saul and hide out in caves
- **Psalms 57:2 NLT** I cry out to God Most High, to God who will fulfill his purpose for me.
- God's will for David at this time, was to learn from the experience of the caves but His ultimate purpose for David is to be King of Israel

We find in 1st Samuel 16, God chooses a shepherd boy named David to be the second king of Israel

- Do you hear David say while hiding, “But it is so hard God!”
- Maybe, “Why did you anoint me God if you are just leaving me in these caves?”
- Maybe, “Why didn’t you do this with King Saul? It is not fair.”

We find in 1st Samuel 16, God chooses a shepherd boy named David to be the second king of Israel

- David needs a lot of things but mostly he needs and desires God's wisdom, courage, strength, and hope to endure to the end when he will see God's plan fulfilled in his life
- So, in the cave he cries out to God who will fulfill His purpose for me.

We find ourselves in a time similar to David

- Instead of a King hunting us, we have a virus on the prowl that we cannot see and appears to be everywhere
- We find ourselves separated for all that is normal hiding out in our homes - isolation
- We are so vigilant about our safety we can get paranoid – who touched that door knob, what did those who must go out bring in, where are my wipes

We find ourselves in a time similar to David

- We must remember, just as David's cave times were temporary, so are our times
 - God is still on His throne and in control
 - God still has a will and purpose of our lives and we are simply called to trust Him and be His people during this time

Old Crow Medicine Show – We're all in this together

Well my friends, I see your face so clearly

Little bit tired, little worn through the years

You sound nervous, you seem alone

I hardly recognize your voice on the telephone

Old Crow Medicine Show – We're all in this together

We're all in this thing together

Walkin' the line between faith and fear

This life don't last forever

When you cry I taste the salt in your tears

Last week we talked about seeing our circumstances from God's perspective rather than just staring at the circumstances

- Trusting God with all the circumstances of life
- As we are trusting God with the circumstances of life, there will be times along the path we must make decisions

As you are trusting God with the circumstances of life, there will be times along the path we must make decisions

- Decisions that pull us away or towards God's perfect will for us
- What we need at these times, is God's single-minded wisdom
- **James 1:4-8**

Scripture tells us that God has a will or purpose for your life

- **Romans 12:2b NLT** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
- When David was in the caves it did not look good and pleasing and perfect from his perspective
 - Good in the Greek means profitable, useful, beautiful, honorable

Scripture tells us that God has a will or purpose for your life

- **Romans 12:2b NLT** Then you will learn to know God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.
 - Pleasing means acceptable, that which God wills and accepts
 - Perfect means to achieve a goal or purpose

Scripture tells us that God has a will or purpose for your life

- The rest of verse **2 NLT** describes how
 - Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.
- The question then is, how can we know and live in God's good, pleasing and perfect purpose for our lives?
- Answer is, we need single-minded wisdom

James tells us we get this single-minded wisdom by simply asking God for it – vs. 5

- So James is saying, single-minded wisdom is a gift from God to those who have identified the need and have the desire apply that wisdom to their lives
- Wisdom in Greek means skill, expertise, aptitude
 - Think of a mason or bricklayer how they start as apprentices learning the knowledge and skills necessary – two different things

James tells us we get this single-minded wisdom by simply asking God for it

- Biblically wisdom means skill in the affairs of life, sound judgement
 - It means taking the commands, principles and experiences of God and applying them to the circumstances of life as they come to you
- James understands the pressures they are under, hardships, their fears – he has them as well

James tells us we get this single-minded wisdom by simply asking God for it

- He understands the temptation to just go along, to blend it, to be a Christian inside but outside is something different
- James also tells them God understands their weakening and He will give wisdom without finding fault
 - Finding fault means to heap insults on

James tells us we get this single-minded wisdom by simply asking God for it

- God's not going to say
 - In spite of all I have done for you, you are thinking about going back?
 - Where is your faith?
 - You should be stronger by now
 - Go prove you are worthy of my wisdom

James tells us we get this single-minded wisdom by simply asking God for it

- These are all things we say to ourselves and beat ourselves up for not having enough faith
 - How could God ever love me, trust me with His wisdom if I struggle in my faith?
- A single-minded Christian, desiring God's single-minded wisdom will receive it generously

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- You have seen the scene on TV where it shows seaweed moving one way and then the other depending upon the movement of the sea
- But an anchor on the sea floor doesn't move, firmly fixed holding the ship in place

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- We must practice at having the faith of an anchor
 - That God will provide His wisdom to us at the time it is needed
- We usually want His wisdom now
- We usually want His wisdom to line up with what we already want to do

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- God is more concerned with you knowing Him than the pressure you are under from your circumstances
 - Think of David in the cave with Saul's armies all around
- God knows He is the pressure equalizer and we must learn that
- God rarely comes to us with horns blaring saying, "Go this way or do this or don't do that!"

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- **1st Kings 19:11-13** 11 The Lord said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by." Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake.

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- **1st Kings 19:11-13** 12 After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. 13 When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- God whispers today through His Word and through His Holy Spirit
 - **John 16:13a NLT** When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth.
 - **Proverbs 9:10 NLT** Fear of the Lord is the foundation of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in good judgment.

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- When we pray “O God I need your wisdom”, what's next?
 - God leads us to His Word where we will find His character, promises and yes His commands
 - He is working in the lives of those who are in His Word to begin to hear that still, small voice of His Spirit say, “Go this way. Be like this. Think like this. Here is your peace.”

If you are wishy washy, then you will miss God's wisdom for your life

- We begin to sense the direction of the Lord
- But this won't happen, or it will take longer if you are not firmly anchored to God himself

If you are double-minded, then God's defines you as spiritually unstable and incapable of receiving His wisdom

- Double-minded – two minded, having conflicting dispositions
 - Not merely weak in faith
 - You have a disposition - to embrace the way of faith and to embrace the way of disbelieving in God at the same time

If you are double-minded, then God's defines you as spiritually unstable and incapable of receiving His wisdom

- I want to be righteous on Sunday and live the way I want to the rest of the week
- I want God's forgiveness but not His lordship of my life
- Either God is your Lord and you are directing your life based upon His truth and dictates or He is not

If you are double-minded, then God's defines you as spiritually unstable and incapable of receiving His wisdom

- James says you are spiritually unstable and incapable of receiving God's wisdom
 - Notice it doesn't say God is unable but you are incapable

If you are double-minded, then God's defines you as spiritually unstable and incapable of receiving His wisdom

- It's not that God isn't talking to you
- It's not that God doesn't desire to instruct you
- It's that you can't hear Him because of all the noise in your life because you are not anchored in Him and truthfully, you really don't want to unless it lines up with what you want

David needed single-minded wisdom

- **1st Samuel 24:1-4 NLT** After Saul returned from fighting the Philistines, he was told that David had gone into the wilderness of En-gedi. 2 So Saul chose 3,000 elite troops from all Israel and went to search for David and his men near the rocks of the wild goats. 3 At the place where the road passes some sheepfolds, Saul went into a cave to relieve himself. But as it happened, David and his men were hiding farther back in that very cave!

David needed single-minded wisdom

- **1st Samuel 24:1-4 NLT** 4 “Now’s your opportunity!” David’s men whispered to him. “Today the Lord is telling you, ‘I will certainly put your enemy into your power, to do with as you wish.’”
 - Sounds like good advice, doesn’t it?

David needed single-minded wisdom

- **1st Samuel 24:6-7 NLT** 6 He said to his men, “The Lord forbid that I should do this to my lord the king. I shouldn’t attack the Lord’s anointed one, for the Lord himself has chosen him.” 7 So David restrained his men and did not let them kill Saul.
- David trusted God’s timing and plan for his life rather than simply easing the present circumstance he was in
- That’s wisdom, God’s single-minded wisdom talking

David needed single-minded wisdom

- God's wisdom tells us we must be born-again
 - **John 3:3 NLT** Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, unless you are born again (born from above), you cannot see (not have any part in) the Kingdom of God."
- Not only will you be forgiven of your sin debt, adopted into God's family, filled with His Holy Spirit
- You will begin to know and live God's will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.



Single-Minded Wisdom

James 1:5-8