

Get Smart: The “BUT” of Wisdom

Welcome back to our sermon series “Get Smart.” Whether the TV series or the recent movie there was Max... Agent 87 and his faithful assistant Agent 99. Both worked for Control and battled KAOS. The show was “Get Smart”

**We’re in week 5, next week we finish our series. If you missed any sermons, go to our Facebook page and you can watch them all from the beginning
Then start our new series on Heaven!**

This series looks at the ONE question that answers just about everything. It’s the key to help you Get Smart and answer every invitation or question or choice, and brings clarity to what you face in life.

What is the question: “WHAT IS THE WISE THING TO DO?”

In our 1st sermon, we broke down “The Question” into 3 parts:

- Considering my past experiences – my experiences are different from yours
- Considering my current circumstances – What is happening in my life right now
- And considering my future dreams and aspirations...
- **What is the wise thing for me to do?**

You see, you owe it to yourself to ask yourself that question!

**You really ought to know if you really don’t want to do the wise thing in life!
This question will help you get the most out of the gift of life – God gave you!**

**Today we’re returning to the conversation about wisdom and
your greatest regret in life! We all have regrets in life!**

When you look back on that one regret in life. Ever asked yourself the question:

“How could I have been so foolish or unwise?”

Or maybe you thought of it this way...

“I should have seen it coming!” (**Heard you growing from home**)

Now let’s shift the conversation a bit:

1) If you should have seen it coming... chances are, there was someone in your life who DID see it coming!

So what happened, either you didn't listen when you were warned, or no one warned you! If people saw it coming and no one said anything - Why do you think no one warned you?

Maybe they figured you wouldn't listen.

But most parents can see what is coming in your life!

So this leads to a real BIG question...

- Why is it we cannot see it coming... but someone else can?
- **Or let's think of it this way**... why is it I see what's coming in your life, but you can't? Why is it you can see what's coming in my life... But I can't?
- Why is it you can tell me what's wrong in my life and I can't see it
- Why is it I can tell you what's wrong in your life... and you don't see it?

2. So... what can we do about it?

How many of us really want to look back on a financial, a relationship or parenting decision and wonder why we didn't see it coming? None of us!

Many of these issues in life, we can't see it coming... but somebody can! WHY?

- Our heart, our emotions! Emotional based decision making is not good for the big decisions in life. **The problem is** - - all big decisions in life are emotional based! **We like to follow our heart**

“The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?” Jeremiah 17:9

- So, our heart, our emotions... they cloud our perspective!

That's why I can see the solution for your life... and you can't.

You can see the solution in my life... and I can't. I don't have the emotions in your situation! So I can see things clearer. That's why you can't... your emotions

- Emotions make decisions... difficult and every major decision is filled with emotions. A good example... that's why – other people can usually make

better decisions about your money than you can. They won't impulse buy, they don't have your passion for an item. Most purchases are impulse buying.

- **Same goes with a lot of relationship issues.** If you sit down with a couple and listen, it can be easily resolved by saying... just stop doing that! But it is so hard to stop doing that... what ever that is. But it's not that easy to do!
Why? Because emotions are wrapped up in it, feelings such as hurt and anger and jealousy and selfishness and bitterness and envy are all wrapped up in the relationship and decision making.

So we are back to the Original Question!

- What is the wise thing to do when our emotions and desires are wrapped up in a decision? Considering our past experiences, our current situation and future dreams and aspirations... what is the wise thing to do?
- **I don't want any more regrets, I don't want any more tears, I don't want to lose any more money... but often times, I don't know what to do!**
- **What does a wise person do? The answer is very simple, but profoundly difficult! ONE WORD - LISTEN**

You don't see it, but someone around you does!

Wise people recognize when they are in no condition to decide for themselves... by themselves! They hit the pause button

Now that's easy to say, but not easy to do! But the key to making decisions when you realize you won't see what is coming is to - - listen to someone who does!

- **Wise people know when they don't know and they are not afraid of going to those who do know!**

Wise men and women don't try to deceive themselves, they don't pretend and act like they're smarter than they really are. They know their limitations.

They know what they know, they know what they don't know, and they make sure they know people who do know!

Sounds like an oxymoron – kind of self-contradictory – doesn't it?

But the truth is, wise men and women frequently seek counsel of others because it is the wise thing to do.

Let's go back to the wisest man – other than Jesus Christ – who lived.

Solomon! As a young king, he found himself overwhelmed with the responsibilities. Then one night, God came to him in a dream and made him a rather unique offer in 1 Kings 3:5! **God asked Solomon “Ask whatever you want me to give you!”**

Imagine, God appearing to a teenager and offering to give him anything he wanted! I know I would have failed that one – big time! What would you have asked for? Like a blank check from an endless checking account! **What did Solomon say?**

*⁷ “Now, LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David. **But I am only a little child and do not know how to carry out my duties.** ⁸ Your servant is here among the people you have chosen, a great people, too numerous to count or number. ⁹ **So give your servant a discerning heart** to govern your people and to distinguish between right and wrong. For who is able to govern this great people of yours?”*

I don't think I would have asked for that... “Give your servant a discerning heart.”

That would be the last thing I would have thought about as a teenager. But then, that's why God never gave me that offer when I was 16!

But Solomon's response was what God was looking for! In 1 Kings 3:10-12,

*¹⁰ The Lord was pleased that Solomon had asked for this. ¹¹ So God said to him, “Since you have asked for this and not for long life or wealth for yourself, nor have asked for the death of your enemies but for discernment in administering justice, ¹² I will do what you have asked. **I will give you a wise and discerning heart, so that there will never have been anyone like you, nor will there ever be.**”*

And Solomon was given wisdom and discernment beyond that of any man or woman. In fact, he became the go-to guy for just about everything! Solomon was an architect, poet, philosopher, scientist, theologian, and wise ruler/king.

In fact, if you go to the New Testament, in James 1:5 we are told to follow Solomon's example! **"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."**

This promise of God offers us 2 things:

- 1) The assumption that there will be times when we will not know what the wise choice will be!
- 2) God promises to provide us with the wisdom we need!
 - But remember, with every promise is a premise, a condition – like Solomon, we need to recognize our need and **we need to ask God for help! Ask for wisdom!**

If you were to go through the Bible, you would find that Solomon often talked about seeking wise council! Just a sample,

- **Proverbs 1:5** - *let the wise listen and add to their learning, and let the discerning get guidance*
- **Proverbs 12:15** - *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*
- **Proverbs 15:22** - *Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.*

You have to stop and ask yourself, why would the wisest man put such an emphasis on seeking advice from wise people around us?

Because wisdom seeks council!

A wise person knows his or her limitations; it is the fool who does not believe he or she doesn't have any limitations! I suppose Solomon remembered who overwhelmed he felt the day he became king. I suppose he remembered how much he needed wisdom and how much discernment felt out of his reach. He remembered how wisdom came from someone else!

Even after God gave him wisdom, for years Solomon surrounded himself with trusted advisers!

Think back to your greatest regret for a moment!

Would you have listened if someone warned you?

Whatever it was, isn't it true that... few people like being told what to do?

Whether coming from friends, parents, family members or whoever, at least in your younger years, wasn't it hard taking advice?

Granted, not everyone fits into this exactly... but for those years between 13 and 25... most of us tend to resist advice from parents or family members.

As for me, life was simple when I thought I knew everything!

Now that I'm older, I know there is a lot I don't know!

To make things even more difficult, have you ever noticed how we tend to be even more resistant to advice in these 3 areas where we are most vulnerable?

The 3 areas that are usually the sources of our greatest regret?

- 1) How we spend our time
- 2) How we spend our money
- 3) How we handle our relationships

If you think we are not resistant to advice in these areas:

- Try giving your neighbor advice on how to raise their kids
- Try telling a coworker how they can make better use of their time
- Next time you are at the gas station, tell the person ahead of you, that he or she is throwing away their money when they buy that lottery ticket

- **What will they tell you?** It's none of your business – right?

- While we like to tell people that our choices are none of their business. The truth is, **“The results of private decisions usually impact others and become public.”**

We often make personal decisions about seemingly private matters, but the impact of those choices are felt by other people and everyone sees them!

- Who you marry, and marital issues impact a whole family?
- The car you buy, or the cost of your home, leads you into bankruptcy.
- Who you spend time with leads to unwise choices that lead to life's greatest regret that alters the life of your children! The list goes on!

Before you get irritated at me, be honest, how many times have people around you made a private decision that negatively impacted you and your family?

- **My point – if your personal decisions will be seen by or will impact other people... why not involve others to begin with?**

Why not benefit from the wisdom of wise people in the beginning and save yourself regrets in life?

It is true ... *what you choose to do may not be anybody's business*, it is equally true that most of what you do in life... does become other people's business, because your choices impact other people! Talk back to boss, lose a job...

The Bible has a term for a person who refuses wise council:

FOOL! Solomon explained in Proverbs 12:15 that failure to listen to wise advice is “the way of fools!”

- But wise people know when they don't know something. The fool is the person who convinces himself or herself that they know more than they really do!

What keeps is from reaching out to others? PRIDE

God knows there will be times when you lack wisdom, times when you ask the question “What is the wise thing to do” and you don't have an answer!

If you did that, write that in on your Connect card with your US Postal address or email and I have some items to send you. A gift that will help you on your new adventure in life!

Prayer:

Jesus, thank you for your word, the Bible that is so practical and life applicable! You word that directs us to flee that which will imprison us and offers us the abundant life you offer! Thank you for warning us, I pray that with your Holy Spirit, you will help us to not learn the hard way. Help us use the wisdom you have

given us to use what we have heard this morning! And the courage to choose wisdom! As we pray in Jesus Name! Amen!