

## The Wisdom of Solomon

King Solomon was known as a fair and just ruler of Israel. As a youth, he learned a very important lesson from the sages of the day. A sage was a person of learning and wisdom, someone well-versed in Jewish law and scriptures.

Solomon learned that faith and trust in God was the first step to becoming wise. A wise person humbled himself in the sight of God. Solomon knew that God had made him and knew all about him, so he was able to trust God with his life.

King Solomon had a great hope for the people of Israel. "I want to make the simple-minded wise!" he said. For this reason, Solomon wrote proverbs. Proverbs are short sayings that teach lessons about life. Solomon wanted to show the people how they should behave toward God and toward each other. The proverbs also teach about just having good old-fashioned common sense. It has been said that Solomon wrote more than 3,000 proverbs during his lifetime!

The Book of Proverbs is found in the Old Testament just after the Book of Psalms, which was written mainly by King David, Solomon's father. Thirty-one chapters are contained in the Book of Proverbs. Most of them were written by King Solomon approximately 10 centuries before the birth of Christ. After his death, Solomon was known as the greatest sage of Israel.

We will be exploring the Book of Proverbs during the next few weeks. To

help us apply them to our own lives, each proverb will be explained through the telling of a fable, a very short story that also teaches. The fable was one of the very earliest story forms.

### Fable One

A fox was walking down the street when he saw a farmer carrying his grain to market in a large sack. The farmer seemed tired from carrying the heavy load, and the fox saw an opportunity for himself.

"Kind sir," began the fox. "Alas, I find myself to be very much in debt lately."

"Of what concern is that to me?" inquired the farmer.

"If you will allow me to take your grain to market for you, I'll return tomorrow with double the price you could have gotten for yourself. I, for my part, will require only a small payment."

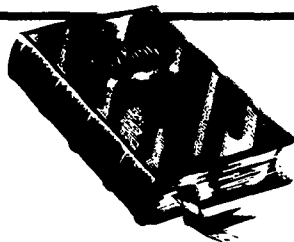
The farmer was very tired, and, without a thought, he agreed.

"I shall meet you here tomorrow," the farmer said to the fox.

"And I," said the crafty fox to himself, "shall be out of debt and never be seen by you again!"

*Son, if you endorse a note for someone you hardly know; guaranteeing his debt, you are in serious trouble. You may have trapped yourself by your agreement.*

Proverbs 6:1-2



## The Bible Corner

Cindy Cottone

### Fable Two

Two crows were sitting on a fence, observing a farmer's field.

Said one crow to the other, "How good to see this farmer's sweet corn. It is ours for the taking. I am much too lazy to go searching about the countryside for a meal."

"But I prefer to take a safer route," the other crow replied. "Instead of stealing what is not mine, I'll fly to the open field and find my meal."

"Foolish fellow! Why go to so much trouble when our meal lies a few feet away?" said his companion. "Go if you must, but I'll be full and fed while you will still be looking for your meal."

"We'll see," said the other crow, and bade his companion farewell.

No sooner had he departed than the sound of shots filled the air. He never heard from his friend again.

*Ill-gotten gain brings no lasting happiness; right living does.*

Proverbs 10:2.

### Fable Three

One autumn day two mice went out into the woods. One of them was busy all day gathering twigs and bits of this

and that to make a warm house for the winter. The other mouse laughed and frolicked in the warm sun and called again and again to his companion.

"Come dance! Come sing and play! Why do you waste your time working so hard?" he teased.

"Winter will soon be here, and you won't be so cheery without a place to keep warm," the other mouse replied.

"Today is today," said the first mouse, "and winter is still a long way off."

The next day the ground was covered with a thick blanket of snow. The wise mouse chuckled to himself from inside his warm house.

*A wise youth makes hay while the sun shines, but what a shame to see a lad who sleeps away his hour of opportunity.*

Proverbs 10:5.

### For discussion:

- 1) What is a sage?
- 2) Why did Solomon write proverbs?
- 3) Read Proverbs 1:7-9. What is the first step to becoming wise?

### Camp Plans Winter Respite

Camp Stella Maris on Conesus Lake, Livonia, has scheduled a winter camping vacation Tuesday through Thursday, Jan. 28-30, for senior citizens from Monroe, Wayne, and Livingston counties. Centered around a "tourist" theme, the program will offer recreational activities that include games, crafts, sing-alongs, campfires and movies. Outdoor activities and demonstrations, including ice fishing and snowshoeing, will be offered for those wishing to participate.

An evening "Visit to the Races" and casino are also scheduled, as well as a series of health and wellness workshops. The \$30

program fee includes the cost of participation in workshops, all meals and lodging. For further information and registration materials, write Camp Stella Maris, 3052 East Lake Rd., Livonia, N.Y., 14487, or call (716)346-2243.

### Secular Franciscans To Meet

St. Patrick's Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will meet Sunday, Jan. 19, at Aquinas Institute, 1127 Dewey Ave. Novice instruction will take place at 1:15 p.m., with recitation of the rosary at 1:30 and Mass at 2 p.m.

### KC Auxiliary Super Sunday

The Ladies' Auxiliary of the Knights of Columbus Council 178 will sponsor "Super Sunday," January 26 at 3 p.m. at the Council Hall, 670 Thurston Rd. Proceeds will be donated to Bethany House.

Those who attend will be able to watch the

Superbowl game on a six-foot TV screen, and refreshments will be served. Only advance tickets will be available. Call the K. of C. office at (716)436-8240 or Irene Thiele at (716)235-7227.

### Holy Childhood Benefit

As a kick-off for its 40th birthday celebration, the School of the Holy Childhood will host a musical benefit performance of "Nite Club Confidential" at the Downstairs Cabaret, Wednesday, Jan. 22, at 8 p.m. All proceeds from the benefit will go to the Children's Scholarship Fund.

Holy Childhood, founded in 1946, is a

non-denominational, not-for-profit agency serving mentally retarded children and adults in the greater Rochester area. Its services include a children's program, a clinic treatment program, and an adult training program and work activities center (VOCED Enterprises, Inc.).

For ticket information, call (716)359-3710.

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