

Title: When You Encounter an Impossible Situation

Text: 1 Kings 3:16-28

Date: May 8, 2022 at FBCW

This room...and the online rooms, have people present going through impossible situations:

- Infertility...and also an Unplanned pregnancy.
- Children that are very difficult to raise.
- Divorce, the pain of being a single mom.
- Financial stress, multiple jobs.
- Health crisis

INTRO. Maybe you made a similar mistake as a child. I remember as a kid being horrified as I went up and grabbed the leg of a lady that was not my mom!

- We were both shocked!

But today's story is about a woman who woke up one morning with a child that wasn't her baby.

Background. Three important pieces of background info before we consider today's story.

Solomon became king as a young man.

- David (Solomon's father) was old/close to death. Unable to directly govern any longer.
- Many were jockeying to position themselves as David's successor (Adonijah).
- Two people step up and advocate for Solomon:
 - Nathan the prophet.
 - Bathsheba: wife of David...mom of Solomon.

Note, Solomon's first and greatest advocate was his mother.

Solomon asked God for great wisdom (1 Kings 3:3-9).

- How did Solomon know he needed wisdom?
- Because as a child: he'd watched his parents cry out for wisdom (1 Kings) (Proverbs).
 - Godliness may be caught more than it is taught.
 - Godliness needs to be modeled.
 - Kids may watch our behavior...more than they listen to our words.
- God appears to Solomon: *What shall I give to you, my son?*
 - I'm only King because of you, My God (3:6-7).
 - I'm inadequate to lead without you, my God (3:7).
 - People's needs are enormous (3:8).
 - Please give me a receptive heart (3:9 – "*A listening heart*") (3:9).
 - *I want to know God...I want to lead the people well.*

Note, Solomon gave us this timely advice → Prov 3:5-6, "*Trust in the Lord with....*"

God is pleased with Solomon's heartfelt request. God gives Solomon wisdom...and even more (1 Kings 3:10-15).

- What makes God happy?
 - *When we want him most and we mean it (3:10).*
 - *Put people's needs (needs of others) before yourself (3:11).*
- God said: I'm giving you wisdom, riches, strength, and honor.
- God said: I'll promise you a long, full life – just keep walking with me (3:15).

Today's text/story → a very specific illustration of the impact Solomon's wisdom had upon the nation as he dealt with a personal issue between two mothers who were facing an impossible situation...and unfortunately *one of them was lying!*

Two women...two babies...same house...a baby dies...woman switches the babies during the night...there is the next morning's shock...Solomon's wise approach...and the real mother rises forth.

Lessons from the text –

V16 – even prostitutes need justice.

- God gives Solomon supernatural wisdom/favor.
- God first illustrates the wisdom of Solomon by determining justice for two lowly, unmarried women.

FACT. We aren't ready for things we perceive as big/important until we can do right by those who have nothing.

- Only a God like ours would put this story first.
- World says: be big, rich, famous, important.
- God says: be humble...remember the poor.

Q: Who are the first people Solomon serves with his wisdom?

A: Prostitutes! And this grace/wisdom foreshadows another king...Jesus, the friend of sinners.

V17 – remember, some people have no one.

- The women lived in the same house...but surely felt alone (lonely).
- This story is especially painful – *the one person/roommate I had – turned on me!*
- (ILLUS: Carrie's burden for Jackie...WHY do you care?...*Because she's gonna have that baby by herself*).
- (ILLUS: Visiting a lady named Martha Arial...a widow...My days are long...and lonely)
- (ILLUS: A man who remarried...lots of judgment...he's lonely.)

VV19-20 – we can't defend the deceitful actions of the lying woman...it's never okay to lie...but let your heart go out to her for a moment. This is a gamut of emotions.

- She has no husband.
- A man got her pregnant and left.
- The rent is probably due soon.
- She's tired...she's embarrassed...she rolls over...she suffocates the baby.
- Her life is a series of bad decisions...terrible mistakes.

So painful isn't it? But this story is all over Cherokee County...our communities.

- If we don't care – as the church → who will? Who does care?
- Back of the point of 1 Kings 3:16...thank God Solomon cares/listens.

V24 – imagine the shock/awe when Solomon calls for the sword.

- Bring a sword...cut the baby in two!
- This is not bluffing...this is a courageous display of the wisdom of God.
- It actually foreshadows a king who would go all the way...and give up His Son!

V26 – the selfless compassion of the true mother.

- Only a humble...selfless...woman/mother can feel this.
- I don't want to lose my child/boy.
- But his future/life is more important than my personal feelings.

Best moms in the world pray like this: *O God, with a heart of love...I release my child's life and future into Your hands!*

V28 – our actions determine our reputation... “All Israel heard what Solomon did.”

- May the driving force of our actions/reputation be this →
 - God's wisdom is consuming our lives.
 - God's wisdom has taught us how to live supernaturally.
 - “They saw God's wisdom in him...”

First, maybe you're a non-believer today? Only God can give a man/woman wisdom like this!

- You are in an impossible situation.
- Have you cried out to God? Surrendered? Turned to faith in Jesus Christ?
- Wisest thing you can ever do: recognize you can't live without Christ!
- Dangerous thing – to live thinking you can figure it out on your own.

Two, today's story makes me pray for our government/political leaders.

- What if our leaders had wisdom like this?
- Those in authority/public office need the wisdom of God! (Prov 21:1).

Third. The story makes me think about our real impact on society as the church.

- Whether you are rich like Solomon...or you've made a mess of things like the two prostitutes...
- FACT → you will not make it without godly wisdom.
- Q: in your workplace/school, can they come to you for wisdom? Why? Why not?

Fourth, as parents – do we have the wisdom of God for how we're currently raising our kids?

- Q: what will our children face over the next twenty years?
- ILLUS: recent WSJ article...kids born in 1999 or later...the first generation in world history to be visually stimulated more by an electronic voice than a human/live voice.
- Men – we need wisdom!
 - Bob Beaudine's *The Two Chairs*
 - Does God know? Yes. Is it too hard for God? No. God have a good plan? Yes.
- Women – there's one man you can always depend on for godly counsel – King Jesus!

Fifth, individually – the best way to prepare for my future, pray: *O God, please give me wisdom!*

- Proverbs 8, *she's crying out in the street, but am I listening?*
- James 1:5, *if anyone lacks wisdom...*

Sixth, for FBCW, you know what people ought to be able to get when they come here?

- The wisdom of heaven!
- The Word of God! ... Godly advice that isn't found anywhere else in the world.

Summary: When two prostitutes encountered an impossible situation, they needed wisdom that only Solomon could give.

Big Idea. When a mother (or anyone) encounters an impossible situation, she needs the wisdom only God can give!

- Mom...there's nothing that you're going through God can't provide that wisdom that you need.

Mom – you are tough! (Think of the hard days the true mother encountered trying to get by).

Mom – you are caring/selfless (Think of the way the woman gave up her life for the child)!

Gospel: this is a story of someone stealing a baby → the Gospel is the story of God giving us a baby.

This is a story of justice/grace for women who didn't deserve it → And yes...

Gospel is a story of justice/grace for sinners who don't deserve it!

CONCL. Jonny Diaz's "*When I Watch You Be a Mother*"

Your white shirts have all got stains
And whether hauling kids or healing wounds
You spin so many plates...and how you do it, I just don't know
But there's a million ways your love and grace
Make our house feel like a home.

And you say that you don't look quite like you did at 24
But if I'm honest, right now, I'm attracted to you more

You're a giver, you're a lover, you're a friend
You're a fighter, fighting for this love to win
So many roles that you cover and you play them like no other
But I think that I love you most
When I watch you be a mother

When I see the way you cover them with prayer from your knees
And I see the way you lift them up above your very needs
And I see the sacrifices 'cause you love them like no other
I can't take my eyes off of you
When I watch you be a mother

"But I think I love you most...when I watch you be a mother!"

I know I love Jesus for many reasons...but I especially love to watch him be a Savior!