

# **THE CURE FOR A CONUNDRUM**

## **I Kings 3:16**

**Let's learn from Solomon some principles for problem solving**

### **I. WORSHIP GOD (3-8)**

A. DETERMINE PRIORITIES (3-4)

B. CONFESS SIN (4)

- Before his gift, he was confessing his guilt

C. GIVE THANKS (6)

- Praising God for what He had already done before asking for anything new

D. ACKNOWLEDGE GOD (7-8)

### **II. SEEK GOD (7-9)**

A. KNOW YOUR LIMITS (7-8)

- Never believe you can do it

B. KNOW YOUR NEED (9)

- True spirituality is displayed by the things you most want from God

C. EXPRESS YOUR NEED (9)

1. Solomon asked for an "understanding heart"

a. Literally: A hearing heart ... a heart tuned to God

b. The ability to know what God is saying

2. He knew that he needed godly insight into why people behave the way they do

3. He sought the people's good over his own prosperity, power or popularity

### **III. TRUST GOD (10-15)**

A. UNDERSTAND GOD'S PLEASURE (10)

- Believe that God is pleased when you seek Him

B. BE CONFIDENT (11-15a)

- He believes the promises of God

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C. ACKNOWLEDGE GIFTS (15b)

1. He is grateful before he ever sees the greatness of the gift
2. He seeks to continue his communication with God

IV. USE GOD'S GIFT (16-28)

A. YOU'RE PREPARED (12)

- Note that the problem came after the preparation and prescription were made

B. BE AVAILABLE (16-22)

- Minister according to your giftedness

C. BE INVOLVED (23-27)

1. Solomon listened carefully and summarized accordingly (23)
2. He did not judge based upon superficial words or actions
3. He is willing to do the extraordinary (24-25)
4. He is able to wisely see that justice is done (26)
5. He is compassionate by restoring the real mother's child (27)

D. GLORIFY GOD (28)

- Make sure that God gets the credit

V. CONSIDER GOD'S WAYS (Application)

A. WHEN YOU ARE PERPLEXED

1. Have you prayed for wisdom? - James 1:5
2. Have you sought God first? - Matt. 6:33

B. PRAY FOR INSIGHT

1. The Disciples did when choosing Judas' successor - Acts 1:21-26
2. Believers did when Peter was imprisoned - Acts 12:5
3. Church leaders did when Paul and Barnabus were sent as missionaries - Acts 13:1-3

C. GOD GIVES WHAT YOU NEED

- God will not give you the wisdom of Solomon, but neither will He give you Solomon's responsibilities

**CONCLUSION: When confused and perplexed .... Go to God!**

**Through worship, seeking, trust and using what we have ...  
conundrums can be conquered.**

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