

Sunday, May 5, 2024

Scripture Reading: John 15:9-17

Knowledge is knowing what to say. Wisdom is knowing when to say it.
—Anonymous

I don't know what my IQ is — fairly confident that it's over 100, and equally certain that it's below 150. The problem with IQ tests is that they only assess analytical intelligence. They do not address the creative, emotional and practical aspects of human intelligence.

When we were growing up, we were taught very little about how to be wise. Maybe we picked up a few things in Sunday school. But we were definitely advised as to the necessity of getting good grades, scoring well on tests, passing entrance exams and so on.

And then, suddenly, we were 25, and we're supposed to be mature and make decisions with the wisdom of Solomon. Remember those days? We were young — and foolish. Is there a correlation between old age and wisdom?

Wisdom, often regarded as the pinnacle of human intellect, transcends mere knowledge and intelligence. You can't go to a university and get a B.A. in Wisdom. You can't declare Wisdom as a college major. Wisdom is the result of a deep understanding of life, a profound sense of empathy, and a commitment to making thoughtful and ethical decisions.

So, would you consider yourself wise? Most people would agree that wise people are *empathetic*. Perhaps this is what Jesus is getting at when he says in today's Bible reading that we should "love one another" (v. 12). People with love in their hearts possess the ability to understand and share the feelings of others. They can put themselves in someone else's shoes and see the world from their perspective. This empathetic approach fosters compassion, tolerance and the ability to resolve conflicts peacefully. No wonder wise people are able to offer valuable support and guidance to those in need.

There are other indicators of wisdom, of course. Wise people are also *prudent*. They are *humble*. Wise people are also persons of *integrity*.

But mostly, wise people have *spiritual* intelligence. And at the top of the list of what it means to be spiritually intelligent is *love*. See 1 Corinthians 13:13.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: O God, give me the wisdom to follow in the paths of righteousness. Amen.

Blessings on Confirmation Sunday!
Lia & Pastor Ben Motz

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Luke 14-17
Monday: 1 Samuel 4-7
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 8-10
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 11-13
Thursday: 1 Samuel 14-16
Friday: 1 Samuel 17-20
Saturday: Psalms 43-45

Verse to Remember

“Why are you cast down, O my soul ... Hope in God.”

—Psalm 43:5

May 2024

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

HIDDEN MESSAGE

Using the clues provided, write the word in the spaces provided. The first letter of each word should reveal a hidden message when read vertically from top to bottom.

- King of the beasts _ _ _ _ _
- Short for margarine _ _ _ _ _
- Montpelier is its capital _ _ _ _ _
- Electrical fish _ _ _ _ _
- Greasy _ _ _ _ _
- Counterpart to monk _ _ _ _ _
- Second book of the Bible _ _ _ _ _
- Continent south of Europe _ _ _ _ _
- Ark-builder _ _ _ _ _
- Egg-shaped _ _ _ _ _
- A levy on one's income _ _ _ _ _
- Top of human body _ _ _ _ _
- Associated with tides _ _ _ _ _
- Decay _ _ _ _ _

Message:

DOUBLE TROUBLE

Below are four 5-letter words. ALL of the letters are used only twice. Notice that there are two O's, so you can't use another O. Notice the J in the first word, for example. There's another J in these four words. Where is it? Fill in the blanks.

J _ _ T _ _ y
 _ _ O _ _ R _
 B _ _ A _ _ D
 _ _ N _ _ O _

Answers to Double Trouble:
 JETTY
 BOARD
 BRAND
 ENJOY

Answers:
 1. lion
 2. oleo
 3. Vermont
 4. eel
 5. oily
 6. nun
 7. Exodus
 8. Africa
 9. Noah
 10. oval
 11. tax
 12. head
 13. ebb
 14. rot
Message:
 Love one another.