Sunday 11th October 2026
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FORMED: Something Greater

Last week we began talking about FORMATION. We looked at Solomon speaking to his sons:
Prov 4: 1-9 *"Listen to my correction, my sons, for I speak to you as your father…"*
Solomon wasn't merely transferring information.
He was forming something within his sons:

- A listening heart.
- A teachable spirit.
- The capacity to receive correction.

We saw generational formation:
David prayed Ps 119:33-36: *"Give me an understanding heart… Cause my heart to bow before your words of wisdom…"*

But today I want to ask:
Why was Solomon so concerned about forming these sons? What was his real intent?

Because these weren't simply children growing up in an ordinary household.

- They were sons growing up in a kingdom.
- They were surrounded by wealth, government, influence, authority, resources and the temple.
- They were potential heirs to something enormous.

SOLOMON WAS FORMING SONS TO CARRY AN INHERITANCE...A KINGDOM.

1. SOLOMON IS FORMING HEIRS

Solomon says: "Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight…"
Then: "When I was a son with my father… he taught me…"

Solomon understands something: INHERITANCE WITHOUT FORMATION DOESN'T END WELL

His sons could:

- Inherit his wealth without wisdom.
- His influence without character.
- His authority without humility.
- His throne without knowing how to govern.

Of all what they could 'get' Solomon emphasized - GET WISDOM. Proverbs 4:7: *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore, get wisdom…"*
The Hebrew word translated get carries the idea of acquiring, obtaining or possessing.
TPT *"Wisdom is the most valuable commodity— so buy it!"*

And Proverbs 23:23 explicitly says: *"Buy the truth, and do not sell it; also wisdom and instruction and understanding."*

Solomon is saying: OF EVERYTHING YOU ACQUIRE IN LIFE, MAKE SURE YOU ACQUIRE WISDOM.

Because wisdom doesn't just help you get things. WISDOM TEACHES YOU WHAT TO DO WITH WHAT YOU GET.

- You can receive wealth without knowing how to steward it.
- You can receive influence without knowing how to carry it.
- You can receive opportunity without recognizing it.
- You can receive authority without knowing how to handle it.

2. WISDOM HAS A PRICE

The language of acquiring or "buying" wisdom implies value. Wisdom costs something.

- Sometimes wisdom costs me time.
- Sometimes it costs me speed because wisdom says: Wait.
- Sometimes wisdom costs me pride because wisdom says: You were wrong.
- Sometimes wisdom costs me my personal desires because wisdom says: That's not God's way.

David prayed: *"Help me turn my eyes away from illusions so that I pursue only that which is true…"*

Sometimes: TO BUY TRUTH, I HAVE TO SELL MY ILLUSION.

An unformed heart says: Tell me what I want to hear.
A formed heart says: Tell me what is true.

That is why the opposite of wisdom isn't simply ignorance > AN UNTEACHABLE HEART.

3. FORMATION BEFORE AUTHORITY

Proverbs 30:21–22: *"Under three things the earth trembles… a servant/slave when he becomes king…a fool when he receives wealth "*

The point cannot be that someone from a low position is incapable of becoming a great leader. Joseph. The deeper issue is what happens when authority or influence exceeds formation.

Because: AUTHORITY AMPLIFIES WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMED WITHIN US.

- Influence doesn't automatically create or mean wisdom.
- Promotion doesn't automatically create character. In most cases:
- POWER REVEALS WHAT HAS ALREADY BEEN FORMED IN YOU.
- And when someone carries significant authority, their inner formation no longer affects only themselves.

Other people live underneath its consequences. Perhaps that is why Proverbs uses such dramatic imagery: The earth trembles.

4. REHOBOAM AND JOSEPH — TWO PICTURES

His son Rehoboam inherits the throne. He inherits Solomon's kingdom, infrastructure, wealth and authority. Then almost immediately he faces a leadership crisis.
Rehoboam rejects wise counsel and listens instead to the younger men who had grown up with him...his mates (bro wisdom)

- The kingdom fractures.
- Rehoboam wouldn't listen.
- Receive instruction...rejected counsel...chose anothers wisdom.
- And because he was king, everybody experienced the consequences.

Joseph gives us the opposite picture.

- Joseph moves from prisoner to extraordinary governmental authority almost overnight. Yet:
- JOSEPH'S PROMOTION HAPPENED IN A DAY.
- HIS FORMATION TOOK YEARS...much pain

All of it was forming something.

So, when Pharaoh finally says: “You shall be over my house…” he is placing authority upon someone who has already been formed. And Pharaoh specifically recognizes: “There is none so discerning and wise as you are.”

One picture warns us about inheritance without formation.
The other shows us formation before elevation.

5. WHAT KIND OF WISDOM?

Because James tells us something sobering: Not all 'wisdom' comes from above.
James 3 describes a wisdom characterized by selfish ambition that produces disorder.
Vs17 “*But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”*

- From where or from whom is the source of their wisdom?
- What is the fruit of it on their life?

Wisdom from above carries the nature of the Holy Spirit from whom it comes.

6. SOMETHING GREATER THAN SOLOMON

Solomon's kingdom represents an extraordinary moment in Israel's history.
There was extraordinary prosperity and international influence.
And the nations began coming to hear the wisdom of the king.

But it was a type or shadow of what is to come!

Jesus says in Matthew 12:42: *“The queen of the South… came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.”*

Some translations say: “Someone greater than Solomon.” Because ultimately Jesus is speaking about Himself. But hear the force of it:

SOMETHING GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE.

Solomons kingdom was not the final Kingdom. His wisdom was not the fullness of divine wisdom. Now the greater King is standing before them.
People had One greater than Solomon standing in front of them and couldn't recognize what they had been given.

- WISDOM CAN BE PRESENT AND STILL NOT BE RECEIVED.

7. JESUS CAME FORMING SONS FOR A KINGDOM

Jesus didn't come to give inspirational sayings.

His announcement was: “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

- The King had arrived.
- The Kingdom was breaking in.

And what does Jesus begin doing?

- Forming people.
- He calls disciples.
- He teaches them.
- Corrects them.
- Confronts their ambition.
- Deals with their attitudes toward money, power, enemies, forgiveness and greatness.

Why?
Because Jesus isn't merely gathering followers. HE IS FORMING SONS FOR THE KINGDOM.
“As you passionately seek his kingdom, above all else, he will supply your needs. So don’t ever be afraid, dearest friends! Your loving Father joyously gives you his kingdom with all its promises!” Luke 12:31-32 TPT
The Father wants to give the Kingdom. Romans 8 v 17 speaks of us becoming heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ.

So the issue isn't whether the Father possesses an inheritance.
The question is: Are His sons being formed to carry what belongs to the Father?

- GOD DOESN'T JUST WANT TO GIVE SONS AN INHERITANCE.
- HE FORMS SONS CAPABLE OF CARRYING WHAT HE WANTS TO GIVE US!

And that changes how we understand discipleship.
Discipleship isn't merely learning information about Jesus - KINGDOM FORMATION.

8. THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT IS KINGDOM FORMATION

Matthew 5–7 Jesus teaches about: many issues of life. He's forming an entirely different kind of person. Then at the conclusion of all this Kingdom teaching, Jesus says:
“Everyone then who hears these words of mine and does them will be like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

- Jesus…is like a wise man.
- Solomon was forming sons within a kingdom.

Jesus is forming sons for the Kingdom of God.

9. WISDOM MUST BECOME ARCHITECTURE

- Jesus says the wise person: hears and does.
- Wisdom isn't complete because I heard it.
- WISDOM MUST BECOME EMBEDDED IN OUR HEART

Luke 6 v 48 says the wise builder: *"dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock."*

- Digging costs something.
- The foolish builder could build faster.
- Both houses may have looked impressive while the weather was good.
- Then the storm arrived.
- And suddenly the difference became visible.
- WISDOM OFTEN COSTS MORE AT THE BEGINNING.
- FOOLISHNESS COSTS MORE AT THE END.
- One paid the price of preparation.
- The other paid the price of collapse.

10. THE STORM REVEALS FORMATION

The storm didn't create the foundation. THE STORM REVEALED IT.

- Pressure doesn't necessarily create character - It reveals it.
- Authority doesn't necessarily create character - It reveals it.
- Money doesn't necessarily create character - It reveals it.
- Promotion doesn't necessarily create character - It reveals it.

What keeps the house standing was formed before the storm arrived. And that is why God is so committed to formation. RESPONSE — FORMED TO CARRY

This brings us back to ourselves and to the generations we are forming. Our responsibility isn't simply to prepare our children to succeed. DON'T JUST HELP THEM TO GET THERE. FORM THEM FOR WHO THEY MUST BE WHEN THEY ARRIVE.

- Rehoboam inherited a kingdom.
- Joseph was formed to carry authority.

What is God forming in me?

- Maybe there are things God wants to entrust to me that require greater capacity than I currently possess.
- Maybe God is teaching me to listen.
- Maybe He is confronting pride.
- Maybe He is developing patience.
- Maybe He is teaching me to receive correction.
- Maybe He's turning my eyes away from illusions.

- Maybe He's digging foundations.

Because:
GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN WHO I BECOME THAN HOW QUICKLY I ARRIVE.
THE FATHER IS NOT JUST PREPARING AN INHERITANCE FOR HIS SONS.
HE IS FORMING SONS AS HEIRS TO HIS KINGDOM.

So perhaps today the prayer isn't simply:
- “God, give me greater influence.” But: “God, give me greater wisdom.”
- Not simply: “Give me authority.” But: “Form me to carry authority.”

Ask yourself:
- Can I receive correction?
- Can I listen when wisdom contradicts what I want?
- What voices are forming me?
- Is the wisdom shaping my life wisdom from above?

And perhaps the greatest question:
WOULD MY PRESENT FORMATION SUSTAIN THE FUTURE I AM PRAYING FOR?

- Solomon looked at sons surrounded by extraordinary potential and said: GET WISDOM.
- Rehoboam shows what happens when inheritance exceeds formation.
- Joseph shows us what happens when formation precedes authority.
- Then Jesus appears and declares: SOMETHING GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE.
- The greater King has come.
- The greater Kingdom has come.
- And the greater King is forming sons capable of carrying His Kingdom

David's prayer: “Give me an understanding heart… Cause my heart to bow before Your words of wisdom… Turn my eyes away from illusions…”