

## PRAY FOR WISDOM

What an invitation Solomon received from God in our First Reading today! *At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night. God said: "Ask Me! What shall I give you?"* (1 Kings 3:5). What would you ask of God if that happened to you? Would you be selfish and ask God for something that only benefits you, or would you ask for something that benefits your neighbour?

As Solomon considered God's invitation, he thought about the ways God had already blessed him. God had chosen David the shepherd boy to be the king over His people. God had permitted David's son to become the next king. (This is remarkable, for it is the first time in Israel's history that a ruler was succeeded by his son.) God had promised to show His greatest kindness to David's family by sending the Saviour into the world through that family.

When Solomon thought about the heavy responsibility resting on his shoulders, he saw his own weakness and inability. He therefore prayed that God would give him a mind that listens, so that he could judge God's people and distinguish between good and evil.

Since we often find ourselves inadequate for the work God has assigned to us, it would do us well to imitate Solomon's prayer for wisdom. Children can pray, "God, give me wisdom so that I know how to honour my parents and other superiors." Parents can pray, "God, give me wisdom to understand my children and to discipline them in love." Church leaders can pray, "God, give me wisdom so that I properly rebuke all sin and unbelief and so that I speak words of real comfort to all who need them." All Christians can pray, "God, give me wisdom to understand correctly the situations that confront me, wisdom to speak fitting words so that others might come to glorify you as their Saviour."

Saint James assures us that God hears and answers our prayers for wisdom (James 1:5). God chose Solomon to write the books called Proverbs, Song of Songs, and Ecclesiastes. As we read those books, God imparts to us some of the very same wisdom He once gave Solomon.