

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 19, 2018



THE LESSON

1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14

¹⁰Then David lay down with his ancestors and was buried in David's City. ¹¹He ruled over Israel forty years—seven years in Hebron and thirty-three years in Jerusalem.

¹²Solomon sat on the throne of his father David, and his royal power was well established. . . .

³Now Solomon loved the LORD by walking in the laws of his father David, with the exception that he also sacrificed and burned incense at the shrines.

⁴The king went to the great shrine at Gibeon in order to sacrifice there. He used to offer a thousand entirely burned offerings on that altar. ⁵The LORD appeared to Solomon at Gibeon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask whatever you wish, and I'll give it to you."

⁶Solomon responded, "You showed so much kindness to your servant my father David when he walked before you in truth, righteousness, and with a heart true to you. You've kept this great loyalty and kindness for him and have now given him a son to sit on his throne. ⁷And now, LORD my God, you have made me,

your servant, king in my father David's place. But I'm young and inexperienced. I know next to nothing. ⁸But I'm here, your servant, in the middle of the people you have chosen, a large population that can't be numbered or counted due to its vast size. ⁹Please give your servant a discerning mind in order to govern your people and to distinguish good from evil, because no one is able to govern this important people of yours without your help."

¹⁰It pleased the LORD that Solomon had made this request. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked for this instead of requesting long life, wealth, or victory over your enemies—asking for discernment so as to acquire good judgment—¹²I will now do just what you said. Look, I hereby give you a wise and understanding mind. There has been no one like you before now, nor will there be anyone like you afterward. ¹³I now also give you what you didn't ask for: wealth and fame. There won't be a king like you as long as you live. ¹⁴And if you walk in my ways and obey my laws and commands, just as your father David did, then I will give you a very long life."

THE RESPONSE Psalm 111

Praise the LORD!

I thank the LORD with all my heart in the company of those who do right, in the congregation.

²The works of the LORD are magnificent; they are treasured by all who desire them.

³God's deeds are majestic and glorious. God's righteousness stands forever.

⁴God is famous for his wondrous works. The LORD is full of mercy and compassion.

⁵God gives food to those who honor him. God remembers his covenant forever.

⁶God proclaimed his powerful deeds to his people and gave them what had belonged to other nations.

⁷God's handiwork is honesty and justice; all God's rules are trustworthy—they are established always and forever: they are fulfilled with truth and right doing.

⁸God sent redemption for his people; God commanded that his covenant last forever. Holy and awesome is God's name!

¹⁰Fear of the LORD is where wisdom begins; sure knowledge is for all who keep God's laws. God's praise lasts forever!

THE EPISTLE Ephesians 5:15-20

¹⁵So be careful to live your life wisely, not foolishly. ¹⁶Take advantage of every opportunity because these are evil times. ¹⁷Because of this, don't be ignorant, but understand the Lord's will. ¹⁸Don't get drunk on wine, which produces depravity. Instead

be filled with the Spirit in the following ways: ¹⁹speak to each other with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs; sing and make music to the Lord in your hearts; ²⁰always give thanks to God the Father for everything in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

THE GOSPEL John 6:51-58

⁵¹"I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats this bread will live forever, and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

⁵²Then the Jews debated among themselves, asking, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

⁵³Jesus said to them, "I assure you, unless you eat the flesh of the Human One and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴Whoever

eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day. ⁵⁵My flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in them. ⁵⁷As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me lives because of me. ⁵⁸This is the bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like the bread your ancestors ate, and then they died. Whoever eats this bread will live forever."

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