

Daily Devotion for Tuesday, July 28, 2020  
Pastor Jeff Steeber, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, Avon Lake

1 Kings 4:29-34

<sup>29</sup> God gave Solomon very great wisdom, discernment, and breadth of understanding as vast as the sand on the seashore, <sup>30</sup> so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. <sup>31</sup> He was wiser than anyone else, wiser than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, children of Mahol; his fame spread throughout all the surrounding nations. <sup>32</sup> He composed three thousand proverbs, and his songs numbered a thousand and five. <sup>33</sup> He would speak of trees, from the cedar that is in the Lebanon to the hyssop that grows in the wall; he would speak of animals, and birds, and reptiles, and fish. <sup>34</sup> People came from all the nations to hear the wisdom of Solomon; they came from all the kings of the earth who had heard of his wisdom.

The story that I think of, when it comes to Solomon, is the story about cutting the baby in half. According to the scripture lesson above, Solomon composed three thousand proverbs, wrote a thousand and five songs, and he knew everything there was to know about trees and all the animals in all of creation. And yet, as I already mentioned, the story that I remember about Solomon is the one where he was suggesting that a baby be cut in half.

If you know the story that I am talking about, then you know Solomon did not really want the baby to be cut in half. There were two women who were each claiming to be the mother of a baby. Neither woman seemed willing to admit that they were lying, and it appeared as if there was no way to discern who was telling the truth. Insert King Solomon, who decides that the baby should be cut in half, thereby ensuring that each woman gets at least part of the baby. Solomon knew that the real mother would not allow her baby to be cut in half, and rather allow her healthy baby to be raised by another woman. I say that he knew it because he was so wise, and because if he didn't know it then he was taking a horrible chance with his ruling.

I think that these two stories provide a valuable lesson for us all. God knows everything that we have ever done. God knows all of the amazing things about us, because all of our gifts find their source in the Lord. And while other people may have an appreciation for the full scope of our personal worth, most people will know us, know our hearts, by individual moments when we impact their lives.

We may have all of the wisdom in the world. We may know everything there is to know about a specific topic. We may author various works of literature, art, or opinion. However, the way we connect with one another, as followers of Jesus, is one interaction at a time. May this truth propel us to value one another, with the knowledge that with each encounter we have the ability to show one another who we really are.