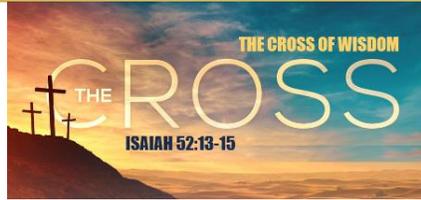


BIG IDEA: The Wisdom that lead Jesus to the cross makes Him completely TRUSTWORTHY. So, ENTRUST yourself to Him.



Section 1: Why

- ➔ Why: Knowing What to Do
- ➔ Scripture
- ➔ ||BI||

Section 2: Answer

1. What is wisdom?
 - A. Knowledge can be memorized.
 - B. But, Wisdom ...
 1. thinks things through
 2. enables us to use knowledge rightly
 3. gives a framework to correctly apply information
 4. resists group pressures
 5. knows what to do, as well as when and how
 6. Wisdom = INTELLIGENT, EFFECTIVE ACTION
 7. That action leads to prosperity
 - C. Worldly wisdom (lower case “w”)
 1. does exist
 2. works from any number of assumptions
 3. not wise by eternal standards (1 Cor. 2:18-20)
 - D. True Wisdom (capital “W”)
 1. Cannot be known apart from the Creator
 2. Begins with the fear of the Lord
 3. Is moral in its nature – only fools say there is no god
 4. Wise = righteous; fool, scoffer = evil ||BI||
 - E. Wisdom is a costly commodity.
 1. More valuable than gold & silver (Job 28:15)
 2. Seek it like treasure (Proverbs 2:4-5)
 3. Intelligent, effective action is rare (Prov. 14:12)
 - F. Wisdom produces the greatest of rewards.
 1. Righteousness, Justice (Prov. 10:31)
 2. Strength (Prov. 24:5)
 3. Accomplishment (Prov. 24:3)
2. Jesus, the Servant, acts WISELY. (13) ||BI||
 - A. Jesus’ Wisdom made Him WILLING to suffer the cross. (14)
 - B. “act wisely” can also be translated “will prosper”
 - C. EJ Young Quote – intelligent, effective action

3. 4 Results of Jesus acting wisely.
 - A. Jesus won the favor of God. (13b)
 1. for Himself
 - a. miracles
 - b. Resurrection!
 - c. Twice the Father says, “I am well pleased.”
 2. for all His followers (John 1:12)
 - B. Jesus revealed DIVINE TRUTH. (15b) ||BI||
 1. mankind has a need – try to fill it in many ways.
 2. Our need is only met in the cross.
 - a. forces us to consider our condition
 - b. pulls back the veil to see reality
 - c. We are shown our need for a Savior.
 3. Our purpose and future are sealed with an empty tomb.
 - C. Jesus CLEANSED those who follow Him. (15a)
 1. Sprinkled nations?
 2. EJ Young Quote
 3. The Cross of Wisdom
 - a. Cross=suffering and shame
 - b. Cross=payment for debt
 - c. Cross=justice and grace satisfied together!
 - d. Cross=victory over sin and death
 - e. Cross=righteousness!
 - f. Cross=freedom!
 - g. Cross=God’s glory!
 - D. Jesus’ Wisdom demands a response. (14-15)
 1. Some were appalled by Him.
 - a. likely reference to Jews who rejected Him
 - b. think He is suffering for His sin
 2. Some are in awe of Him.
 - a. “nations” normally refers to Gentiles.
 - b. shut their mouths = reverence or awe.
 3. Jesus still demands a response today.

Section 3: Imagine

Next Steps ||BI||

- Romans 12:1-2
- How do you need to entrust yourself to Jesus today? For the first time? For something specific?
- Come to the altar
- Take a Prayer Guide
- Use it to help in your response to God
- Download “Bible Promises to Live By”

How often have you found yourself in a situation in which you just did not know what to do? You just weren't sure what you should do? If you're like me, you run into this often. I think this is a pretty common problem for folks. In relationships, work situations, financial problems, whatever it might be, we often experience confusion and we are unsure of the wisest course of action.

I think we feel like folks at the Washington National Airport probably felt they day they heard this announcement over the loudspeaker: "Will all Piedmont passengers who have not done so do so immediately?" Or maybe like the folks in this office. A new secretary reported on the first day of work and started going through files. In the "W" section of the file cabinet there was a folder that was labeled, "What Do We Do With This?" Each of us keeps a folder like that in our lives, I think. We believe we need to do something, but we are just paralyzed because we just don't know what is right or best.

And sometimes, once we decide on what to do, it turns out bad. A great little story I ran across this week goes back to the 1934 baseball World Series. The St. Louis Cardinals were on their way to Detroit by train. As they got off the train, they were shocked to see dozens of police officers at the terminal lined up as bodyguards. They had no idea why they had been shown such respect, but later the truth came out. A group of Catholic leaders had also been sent by the Pope to Detroit on the same day for meetings. The policemen were given orders to "guard the Cardinals." Apparently, there were not a lot of Catholic policemen in Detroit, but plenty of baseball fans.

I remember a particular time in my life when I had a decision to make and just wasn't sure which way to go. It was 1995 and I was a Freshman at Campbellsville University. I knew I was going to study music, but was trying to refine exactly which degree track I was going to follow. I had a faculty advisor, a Christian who also became a mentor to me. He had some Godly wisdom. I was discussing the decision with him. I told him that I was thinking about pursuing the church music degree because I felt called into ministry. But, I said, I have been thinking maybe I should pursue a degree in music education, which would allow to teach in public schools, as a back up plan. That seemed to make sense to me. Then, Dr. Martin, asked me a question I will never forget. I can see it in my mind like it happened an hour ago. He asked, "Well, that might be an option, but are you sure enough of God's calling that you don't need a back up plan?" I wrestled with that for a couple of weeks before I decided if I was going to trust God on this thing, I needed to put my money where my mouth was. I have a Bachelor of Music in the area of Church Music.

Dr. Martin asked me a wise question which helped me grow in Wisdom immensely. It wasn't just about that particular decision, but it was about having clearer thinking in general and learning how to get to the heart of an issue. THAT is wisdom. There is no one wiser than Jesus. If we want to grow in Wisdom ... if we want to be better equipped to right and helpful decisions ... that we would increasingly "know what to do," – then there is no better or higher source than Him. His Wisdom lead Him to the cross. So, today, let's look together at The Cross of Wisdom.