

# **Kenmore Baptist Church Message Outline**

**14 August 2016 (Jo Leutton)**

## **For the Life of the World 5 – The Economy of Wisdom**

### **Where we've been**

It's all wrapped up in the word *oikonomia* – a Greek word that carries the idea of the management of a household – both the act of managing, and the one who does the managing.

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”

Jeremiah 29:7 (ESV)

Today, we look at the Economy of Wisdom. Which begs the question – what do we mean by wisdom?

### **We live in an information age – knowledge is all around**

What do we do with that knowledge?

Scarcity is a fear, but not our lived reality.

Shared knowledge isn't diminished.

### **What is Wisdom?**

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.” (Proverbs 2:6 ESV)

“Wisdom carries the sense of lived knowledge, or the revelation of God as lived. Wisdom is knowledge in action...” – Eugene Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, (2010), p138

We all have knowledge about many things, but the wisdom we need to live isn't readily available. We don't often know how to take the information we have, and live it out. We can't find wisdom amidst the noise of information.

1 Kings 3:4–12

1 Kings 4:29–30

“If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him.”

James 1:5 (ESV)

“But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere.”

James 3:17 (ESV)

1 Corinthians 1:17–31 (ESV)

### **The Church as the agent of Oikonomia**

“To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”

Ephesians 3:8–10 (ESV)

The church is not the repository of worldly wisdom.

It is the agent – the *oikonomia* – the means of demonstrating God’s economy of wisdom to the world.

“Church is the workshop for turning knowledge into wisdom, becoming what we know.” Eugene Peterson, *Practice Resurrection*, (2010), p138.

“Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunities.”

Colossians 4:4 (NET)

### **Ask for Wisdom**

“I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.”(Ephesians 1:16–21 ESV)

### **Questions for Discussion**

1. What is the ratio of knowledge to wisdom in your life?
2. If wisdom is knowledge applied to life, what are some ways you’ve seen that in your peers and mentors? How have others seen it on your life?

3. Information can be really useful in life, but it can also be harmful. How have you seen information be damaging in real life? What would wisdom in those situations look like?
4. If wisdom is communicated in proverbs and other such pithy statements, how do you personally go about applying that to your life in a practical sense?
5. What role does God play for you in bringing wisdom to your life?
6. How have you seen God bring wisdom into your life?
7. Spend some time discussing what impact Holy Spirit has had on your real and lived experience of God?
8. Ask those in the group how the presence of Holy Spirit in your life has turned information into wisdom.
9. Ask God for wisdom! Spend some time praying for one another accordingly.