

THE WISDOM OF GOD

Many years ago, while I was listening to our parish priest's sermon about our inability to understand God's great wisdom, my attention was aroused. The priest's challenge to us to find out what was revealed about God's wisdom in the Bible set me on a journey that forever changed my life. It made me determined to research as many topics as possible related to Catholicism as best I could. I started by researching the 'Wisdom of God' using the Bible and the Internet.

We're told that wisdom comes from knowledge and experience; in fact, they are the two main raw materials of wisdom. As the Blessed Trinity is eternal and created everything, its knowledge and experience of all things must be total and far beyond our human understanding. God must, therefore, be the ultimate being where wisdom is concerned, and this can be backed up by things we find in the Bible that we accept but don't normally think about.

WE MUST ACCEPT THAT OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF WISDOM
IS A HUMAN UNDERSTANDING,
AND THAT WE HAVE NO
CHANCE OF UNDERSTANDING
HE AWESOME WISDOM OF GOD.

However, the priest suggested that we try. He said we should read the Bible and try our best to find examples of God's wisdom.

Here are five examples to start you off. Can you find others?

1. PETER DENYING CHRIST

At the 'Last Supper', Jesus told Peter that before the morning, he would deny him three times. We all know that Peter strongly said he wouldn't and really meant it. However, before the cock crowed, Peter had done what Jesus had forecast. When he realised what he'd done, Peter was angry with himself, full of remorse and very sorry. What was the wisdom behind allowing all this to happen?

We can only guess that God wanted a great example of his unlimited forgiving nature. Peter was Jesus's chosen one to lead his church. He was the first Pope. He denied Christ but was then truly repentant, and Jesus forgave him. Is this a message from God saying that if he could forgive Peter's wrongs, then surely, he will forgive us if we, too, are truly repentant?

2. JOSEPH AND HIS BROTHERS

Joseph's brothers hated him so much that they nearly murdered him but instead sold him into slavery in Egypt. His love of God resulted in him eventually becoming a very high official in Pharaoh's household, organising the saving of Egypt during seven years of famine.

When his brothers came to Egypt for food during the seven years of plenty, he recognised them, but they didn't recognise him. Did he punish them as he could easily have done? No, he forgave them and showed his love for them, inviting them and his father to come and live in Egypt, and all were happy.

We can only guess that God wanted to show the pointlessness of revenge and the satisfying greatness of forgiveness.

3. AN ETERNAL GOD

Jesus forecasted that he would rise again after three days when he died. WHY? We know it was to prove to his disciples that he was the Son of God, as no one else could do such a thing. Could it also be that God's wisdom was showing us another reason why Jesus died and rose again?

We can only guess that maybe it was God indirectly proving that He is eternal to man. If someone can die and then come back to life, then they could do this ad infinitum, logically telling us they will never die. Jesus's death and resurrection could show us that Jesus is not only God the Son but also God is truly an eternal being.

4. THE CROSS AND CRUCIFIXION

Jesus Christ's death was by crucifixion. Why this method? Why not boil in oil, stone or skin to death? What was the wisdom behind this method of dying?

We can only guess that maybe God had chosen this way for his son to die so that after rising from the dead as he said he would, he'd have holes in his hands, feet and side caused by his crucifixion to prove without any doubt to his disciples that he had indeed risen from the dead. He was the risen Christ.

5. THE GOOD THIEF ON THE CROSS.

When Christ was crucified, there were also two thieves crucified with him. One castigated Jesus, saying that if he was indeed the Son of God, why hadn't his angels come down and saved all three of them? The other thief interrupted saying that Jesus was innocent, whereas they were guilty. He told the other thief to leave Jesus alone. He then asked Jesus to remember him when he was in heaven. Jesus told him that he, a thief, would be with him that day in Paradise. What was the wisdom behind two thieves being crucified at the same time as Jesus?

We can only guess that maybe God wanted even criminals and us never to despair but to know that if we're all truly repentant, we can all enter the kingdom of heaven, even criminals.

I now treat finding the wisdom of God as a hobby. If you like this, pass it on to members of your parish to enjoy.

THE BIBLE IS FULL OF
EXAMPLES OF GOD'S WISDOM.
SEARCHING FOR THEM
IS A TRULY INSPIRING HOBBY.
WE NEED TO READ THE BIBLE
THOUGHTFULLY AND OFTEN.