Mat 133

How far would you travel for the truth?

Pray for Puerto Rico…REBOUND

Lucky in our day and age we don’t have to travel farther than our lap tops…so maybe the question but what are you willing to sacrifice for truth…your time…your talent or treasure?

Mat 12:39 But He answered and said to them, “An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and *yet* no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;

[Mat 12:40](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/12/40/s_941040) for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

[Mat 12:41](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/12/41/s_941041) “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.

/[Mat 12:42](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/mat/12/42/s_941042) “***The* Queen of *the* South** will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because **she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon**; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.\

An interesting principle arises as TLJC mentions the area known as ancient Nineveh which was an Assyrian kingdom….the enemy of the Jews and then the Queen of the south which was Sheba who was of Arab descent.

Both were far removed from Jewish bloodlines.

Turn to 1Kings chapter 10 with me.

For those of you who don’t realize it Jonah got swallowed up in the belly of the sea monster because he was running from the plan of God.

God called out to Jonah to evangelize the enemy of the Jews!

/Jon 1:2 “Arise, **go to Nineveh** the great city and cry against it, for their wickedness has come up before Me.” 3 **But Jonah rose up to flee to Tarshish** from the presence of the LORD. So he went down to Joppa, found a ship which was going to Tarshish, paid the fare and went down into it to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the LORD.\

Jonah ended up overboard and swallowed up for three days and spit out near the shores of Nineveh.

God will go to any distance and any extreme to get His word out to a lost and dying world…why shouldn’t we?

TLJC is using two examples and the story of Jonah….the fact that even Unbel enemies can be brought to a place to accept the truth if arrogance and legalism isn’t hardening the soul structure.

Yet Jewish scholars and His own people struggle to accept Him as the Messiah.

/1Kin 10:1 Now when the queen of Sheba heard about the fame of Solomon concerning the name of the LORD, she came to test him with difficult questions.\

Sheba was most likely located in present day Yemen in that south western Arabian desert region.

This woman was of a royal bloodline that probably came from Ethiopia and there are questions and historic tales that go in different directions and it is possible King Solomon and Queen of Sheba had an intimate encounter but there is little evidence about her after this story.

ELABORATE SOLOMON THE PLAYER!

[1Ki 10:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/2/s_301002) So she came to Jerusalem with a very large retinue, with camels carrying spices and very much gold and precious stones. When she came to Solomon, she spoke with him about all that was in her heart.

(A very large entourage)

By all accounts this was a 1400 mile journey!

[/1Ki 10:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/3/s_301003) **Solomon answered all her questions**; nothing was hidden from the king which he did not explain to her.\

ELABORATE Solomon had the doctrine.

[1Ki 10:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/4/s_301004) When the queen of Sheba perceived all the wisdom of Solomon, the house that he had built,

This was a visit that probably lasted several days possibly a week.

[/1Ki 10:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/5/s_301005) the food of his table, the seating of his servants, the attendance of his waiters and their attire, his cupbearers, and his stairway by which he went up to the house of the LORD, **there was no more spirit in her.**

(She had reached a place where she was willing to concede)\

Which by the way is a good place to be if you have had your questions answered and realized perhaps you have to accept what is being told to you.

[1Ki 10:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/6/s_301006) Then she said to the king, “It was a true report which I heard in my own land about your words and your wisdom.

[/1Ki 10:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/7/s_301007) “**Nevertheless I did not believe the reports, until I came and my eyes had seen it**. And behold, the half was not told me. You exceed *in* wisdom and prosperity the report which I heard.\

King Solomon had used BD taught to him by his father David and mother Bathsheba therefore once the lessons were done and the truth was spoken, she began to look around and realize this man…this King is blessed by the one true God.

[/1Ki 10:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/8/s_301008) “How blessed are your men, how blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually *and* **hear your wisdom.** (*chokmah*)\

Often times this Hebrew feminine noun COCK-MAR is a deep knowledge that is wisdom from divine insight…meaning highly skilled in your thoughts and soul.

/The wisdom of the O.T. is quite distinct from other ancient world views, reflected in the O.T. wisdom is the teaching of a personal God who is holy and just and who expects those who know Him to exhibit His character in the many practical affairs of life. This perfect blend of the revealed will of the holy God with the practical human experiences of life is also distinctive from the speculative wisdom of the Greeks.

*Theological Wordbook of the Old* *Testament*\ REPEAT

This is a definitive and separate wisdom then what the world offers.

There is good reason to seek out truth, there is a difference between what the world sees as wisdom and what God ordains as wisdom.

Solomon had his share of failures and weakness but he was extremely well schooled in the area of BD by his father.

[1Ki 10:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/9/s_301009) “Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and righteousness.”

[1Ki 10:10](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/10/s_301010) She gave the king a hundred and twenty talents of gold, and a very great *amount* of spices and precious stones. Never again did such abundance of spices come in as that which the queen of Sheba gave King Solomon.

[1Ki 10:11](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/11/s_301011) Also the ships of Hiram, which brought gold from Ophir, brought in from Ophir a very great *number of* almug trees and precious stones.

ALL-MUG was probably a rare cypress tree that is extinct today.

[1Ki 10:12](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/12/s_301012) The king made of the almug trees supports for the house of the LORD and for the king’s house, also lyres and harps for the singers; such almug trees have not come in *again* nor have they been seen to this day.

[1Ki 10:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/1ki/10/13/s_301013) King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire which she requested, besides what he gave her according to his royal bounty. Then she turned and went to her own land together with her servants.

We can see she came with questions and to test and see this man up close and personal, which you have to realize at this historic point there were false gods and magicians in every major city or region.

 This was wise on her part. For all she knew this legend of the wise king Solomon could have been another false leader or fake teacher.

/The Queen of Sheba had questions and was seeking truth, she travelled nearly 1,400 miles and though she tested King Solomon she did so with respect. To bring gifts was a sign of honor for his time and stature.\

She did not come with aggression or disrespect this was a woman on a mission for truth.

She needed to test the spirit…

/1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but **test the spirits to see whether they are from God**, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.\

Nothing wrong with respectfully challenging a Bible teacher or asking deep questions. But when you get a solid doctrinal answer you have to either accept it or reject it.

This is the stumbling block for the arrogant… they never fully accept the answers.

/Though she was brought up on foreign gods and idol worship probably involving religious ceremonies she had a thirst for truth and a willingness to hear it out once it was presented. That is a sign of humility (teachability).\

In other words, her own belief system did not cloud her judgment once she realized the depth and wisdom of BD.

Many times the person need only call out to God with humility and seek the truth and God will provide just like He did for the Queen of Sheba.

/Jam 1:5 But **if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God**, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.\

The first step is to humble yourself under the authority of the one true God…realize you are flawed and perhaps will never find truth without seeking out BD. Here is the big problem for many…

[/Jas 1:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jas/1/6/s_1147006) But **he must ask in faith without any doubting**, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind. 7 For **that man ought not to expect** that he will receive anything from the Lord,\

Remember last lesson I used the term that inside the plan of God faith has great currency…it carries you farther than many other strengths you think you have. REPEAT

[/Jas 1:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/jas/1/8/s_1147008) *being* a **double-minded man**, unstable in all his ways.

Those who never get off the fence concerning the truth of Bible Doctrine never gain spiritual momentum and God can not get deeply intimate with them.\

ELABORATE

This is a stumbling block for Bels…and it is why Unbels struggle to grasp the concept of salvation, they never humble themselves and realize they need a savior. It takes faith in something or someone outside yourself to rescue you.

Divine wisdom should be sought after and cherished like precious jewels.

/Pro 8:11 “**For wisdom is better than jewels**; And all desirable things cannot compare with her.12“I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find **knowledge *and* discretion** (*mĕzimmah*).\

This word MEZZ-OH-MAH can be used for very shrewd or wicked planning but in this case along with about 5 other times in OT it speaks to having divine insight or judgement to do the right thing. REPEAT

COCK-MAR is used here for wisdom as well which is also a unique or divine characteristic of God as I have already shown you.

The lesson then is to have this unique godly wisdom and divine insight the Bel must indoctrinate themselves into the word of God.

It is not achieved at the local college or the philosophy retreat with the secular wise men and women teaching you cosmic viewpoint.

/Pro 3:13 **How blessed is the man who finds wisdom** and the man who gains understanding. 14 For her profit is better than the profit of silver and her gain **better than fine gold**.\

This is the attitude the Bel should have about Bible study and applying the word to their lives.

It won’t happen overnight…everything worth having takes time to acquire and some effort to maintain.

This was advice from David to Solomon, and now Solomon is teaching his sons.

/Pro 4:5 **Acquire wisdom!** **Acquire understanding!** Do not forget nor turn away from the words of my mouth.\

Don’t turn away from the teaching of BD…don’t go astray because in a short time you can lose what you gain.

[/Pro 4:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb/pro/4/6/s_632006) “**Do not forsake her**, and she will guard you; **Love her**, and she (Bible Doctrine) **will watch over you**.\

The Hebrew grammar uses a feminine term for wisdom and many scholars believe it points back to the garden that the woman completed the man and as his helper she was instrumental in stabilizing his decision-making skills.

REPEAT

/When the relationship is operating properly the husband is stabilized and assisted by the woman because she is responding to his love and has a desire for him to succeed. She has a protective love for him which gives him strength and assurance, she is also a second set of eyes for future decisions and upcoming problems.\

This is why it is important to follow the protocol for marriage…authority and any chain of command.

When it breaks down in marriage at work in the government….anywhere ….it is only a matter of time before the bottom falls out and things get weak or break down.

(Watch how you respect one another)

ELABORATE husband with her beauty and cherishing her wife with respect and nurturing him.

The simple answer is found in Matthew chapter 6 which we covered months ago.

/Mat 6:33“But **seek first His kingdom** and **His righteousness**, and **all** these things will be added to you.

Seeking the kingdom is salvation and basic gospel principles, His righteousness is the filling power of the Holy Spirit.\

Meaning the two power options we talk about for the CA…BD circulating in the Bels soul and filling power of HS…walking in the new nature more than the old one.