



## **Sermon Study Guide**

**Sunday, May 3, 2020**

***Desiring the Kingdom: The Greater Than Solomon***

**1 Kings 4**

**Key verse: “...(People) came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.” Matthew 12:42b (ESV). Key idea: Unlike Solomon who knew the right things to do, Jesus did the right things.**

**Read through 1 Kings 4. We also recommend watching Pastor Nick’s sermon again on the White Fields website, YouTube channel, or Facebook page. Pause the video, reflect on, and discuss areas that challenge you or speak to you in a significant way.**

**There are three key elements in these passages: We see: 1) The Purpose of Organization, 2) The Problem with Horses, 3) The Beginning of Wisdom.**

**1. 1 Kings 4:1-19 documents the organization structure that Solomon established to rule the kingdom. This structure contributed to the establishment of Israel’s “Golden Age” of peace and prosperity and was built on the wisdom provided to Solomon by God. Some people believe that organization is the enemy of spirituality. What is your response to the term “Organized Religion”? What is the first thing you think of when you hear this term?**

**2. Pastor Nick gave the example of gardening to illustrate the need for organization. Continuing in this metaphor, what is the need for planting, watering, pruning, and weeding in regard to maintaining a strong spiritual life? Discuss each of these actions.**

**3. Solomon’s divided heart is again displayed in 1 Kings 4:26 where it says that Solomon had over 40,000 horses, which disregarded God’s word in Deuteronomy 17:17. We may also have elements of our lives that are in direct disobedience to God’s word. What can we do to protect against these divisions?**

**4. Read Proverbs 9:10 which was written by Solomon. Discuss in these terms: If the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, what sustains our faith? Is it fear or love?**

**5. Read Ecclesiastes 12:9-14. These are the conclusions of Solomon’s writings. What lessons did he learn? How do these passages point us towards Jesus?**

**Pray that God will show you how to live with an undivided heart. Continue to pray for our church, our pastors, and our growth in faith.**