

Whose Baby

1 Kings 3:16-28

Throughout the kingdom King Solomon was known for his wisdom. Whenever there was a difficult problem, people came to him. He was a great problem solver!

One day two women came into his throne room. They were screaming and arguing. They were fighting over something that one of the women was carrying. The King was quite surprised when he saw they were fighting over a baby!

“Quiet down, ladies,” he said to them. “One at a time. Who would like to speak first?”

One of them began, “Last night we both went to bed with our babies. During the night she rolled over on hers and the baby died. Then she took my live baby and put the dead one by me.”

Almost before she had finished talking the other woman started, “Oh, no! That’s not how it happened at all! You rolled over on yours and gave me the dead baby. The live one is mine!”

In a moment they were fussing at each other again. King Solomon ordered them to be quiet for the second time. He wanted to think. This wasn’t an easy problem. A little baby is a precious thing. He had to be certain to give it to the right mother. But how would he know?

When he reached his decision he said, “Guards, bring me a sword. We’ll cut the baby in half so each of you may have half of it.”

Everyone in the throne room looked surprised. Would King Solomon really cut the baby in half? King Solomon was just testing the women. He wouldn’t really do it. But the baby’s mother was horrified! “Kill my baby,” she cried, “never! Give him to the other lady. Then at least he will be alive!”

The mother of the dead baby didn’t care. The live baby wasn’t hers anyway. So she said, “That’s a good idea. That’ll be fair. We’ll each have half.”

Now King Solomon knew which was the real mother. She was the one that didn’t want the baby hurt. King Solomon gave her the living baby.

Bible Verse to Learn

...the wisdom of God was in him, to do judgment (1 Kings 3:28).