



EPISODE TITLE: “The Pillar of Wisdom”

Dwelling & Indwelling, Episode 2

**Featured Guest: Melvin Bray**

Melvin Bray, an itinerant speaker and aspiring author. Melvin is a contributing editor for Sojourners magazine, and periodically posts to their God’s Politics blog. Melvin is also the founder, director, and chief gardener of Kid Cultivators, a missional youth development nonprofit, and he continues to make progress on *The Stories in Which We Find Ourselves: A Bible Story Project* in which he helps others tell their own story and find their own voice to say well what’s inside of them to say.

**Pneuma Divina Scripture: 1 Kings 3: 4-9, 16-28**

<sup>4</sup>The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the principal high place; Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt-offerings on that altar. <sup>5</sup>At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, ‘Ask what I should give you.’ <sup>6</sup>And Solomon said, ‘You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart towards you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. <sup>7</sup>And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. <sup>8</sup>And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. <sup>9</sup>Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?’

<sup>16</sup>Later, two women who were prostitutes came to the king and stood before him. <sup>17</sup>One woman said, ‘Please, my lord, this woman and I live in the same house; and I gave birth while she was in the house. <sup>18</sup>Then on the third day after I gave birth, this woman also gave birth. We were together; there was no one else with us in the house, only the two of us were in the house. <sup>19</sup>Then this woman’s son died in the night, because she lay on him. <sup>20</sup>She got up in the middle of the night and took my son from beside me while your servant slept. She laid him at her breast, and laid her dead son at my breast. <sup>21</sup>When I rose in the morning to nurse my son, I saw that he was dead; but when I looked at him closely in the morning, clearly it was not the son I had borne.’ <sup>22</sup>But the other woman said, ‘No, the living son is mine, and the dead son is yours.’ The first said, ‘No, the dead son is yours, and the living son is mine.’ So they argued before the king.

<sup>23</sup>Then the king said, ‘One says, “This is my son that is alive, and your son is dead”; while the other says, “Not so! Your son is dead, and my son is the living one.”’ <sup>24</sup>So the king said, ‘Bring me a sword’, and they brought a sword before the king. <sup>25</sup>The king said, ‘Divide the living boy in two; then give half to one, and half to the other.’ <sup>26</sup>But the woman whose son was alive said to the king—because compassion for her son burned within her—‘Please, my lord, give her the living boy; certainly do not kill him!’ The other said, ‘It shall be neither mine nor yours; divide it.’ <sup>27</sup>Then the king responded: ‘Give the first woman the living boy; do not kill him. She is his mother.’ <sup>28</sup>All Israel heard of the judgement that the king had rendered; and they stood in awe of the king, because they perceived that the wisdom of God was in him, to execute justice.

**Questions:**

1. If God offered to give you one thing what would you ask for?
2. What personality traits or external forces do you think might have influenced Solomon? What sort of personality traits and external forces affect our own faith walk today?
3. What does it take to be true to who you are and whose you are? What difference might that make in your life?

**Thorny Theological Question:**

If God offered to give you one thing, what would you ask for?

The New Revised Standard Version (Anglicized Edition), copyright 1989, 1995 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.