

The way Solomon talks to God in today's first scripture is the way WE often talk to God.

First Solomon says,

“O God, you have made me king of your people.”

(In other words: “Here's what's going on in my life, God.”)

Then he says,

“But I'm a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act.

You've made me king over a people so vast they can't be numbered or counted!”

(In other words: “God, this is just too much for me to handle!”)

So God says,

“Solomon - ask something of me and I will give it to you.”

(And here's where Solomon gets his reputation for being a wise man.)

Does Solomon ask, “O God - make someone else the king!” No!

Does Solomon ask, “Make the kingdom smaller!” No!

Instead, he asks:

“Give me an understanding heart to judge your people, God,
for who is able to govern this vast people of yours?”

(In other words: “God, give me what I need - to do what seems impossible for me to do.”)

Solomon doesn't argue about the fairness of what has fallen in his lap:

he asks only for what he needs to do the impossible.

Don't we pray in much the same way?

“O God, I never expected my life to take the turns it has.

Sometimes it's been my fault,

but many times its been the fault of others - and God, it's just too much!”

“O God, here's how you made me,

here's the person and talents you gave me to work with,

but here are the problems I face and - God, it's just too much!”

“O God, I'm trying to play by the rules, but you threw me this curve ball, a real nasty slider,

and now I feel like I struck out and - God, it's just too much!”

The question is: what's the next thing I ask for?

- Do I ask for a life without problems?

- or the wisdom and grace to live the life and problems I have?

- Do I ask to be remade with a new body, and gifts and talents?

- or for the self-acceptance to be the beautiful person God made me to be?

- Do I ask for every pitch to be right down the middle,

- or do I ask for the restraint not to swing at every pitch?

Solomon was wise: he asked only for what he needed to do what seemed impossible to do.

Of course, there's no rule against praying and asking
that all my problems suddenly be solved or taken away from me.
But God tends to work more with who I am, than who I want to be;
with what I have, more than what I wish I had.

You can pray that the pitcher never throws you a curve ball,
but you'll get to first base faster by learning to recognize a curve when it comes.

Whatever our prayers, our hopes, our wishes may be, there is one thing we can be sure of:
God will never fail, at this table, to provide us with just what we need
to make our way through the impossible tasks that may face us in the week ahead.

Here the Lord feeds us with strength and nourishes us with grace
in the body and blood of Christ in the eucharist.
The scriptures tell us that Wisdom herself is the one who sets this table, and who feeds us, her children,
nourishing us for the life that is ours, whatever it might be.
Come to this table, then, with every prayer you have
and know that God will give you what you need to do the impossible.

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