

## May 31 Answers

- 1) Solomon's kingdom established. When Adonijah asked for Abishag as his wife, Solomon immediately perceived his true **motive**. Abishag was considered part of the king's harem, and possessing the king's harem was equivalent to claiming the **throne**. Solomon took decisive action and removed the threats to his rule. Adonijah was executed, Abiathar was banished, Joab was killed, and Shimei was confined. This teaches us the importance of being "**sober** and **vigilant**," for like Solomon, we too have enemies who wish to destroy us (1 Pet 5:8). We must train ourselves to recognize the schemes of the devil and deal with each temptation appropriately. Some temptations may require us to **eliminate** something from our lives. Others may cause us to put some **distance** between ourselves and another person. Some may compel us to put **boundaries** in our lives in order to shield ourselves from a weakness. Whatever the case, we need **wisdom** and discernment in order to guard ourselves from the attacks of the enemy. Solomon recognized his own need for wisdom, and when you came to him in a dream, he asked you for "wisdom and knowledge," and an "understanding mind (lit. 'hearing heart') to govern your people" (2 Chr 1:10; 1 Kgs 3:9). Solomon wisely chose wisdom and discernment over great wealth. How true it is that "those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction" (1 Tim 6:9).