

The Wisdom of Proverbs for my Children

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Chapter 1

Introduction

At some point, I'd like to add an introduction.

Chapter 2

The Woman Named *Wisdom* Calls Out

2.1 Proverbs 8:1-5

Doesn't wisdom cry out?
Doesn't understanding raise her voice?
On the top of high places by the way,
where the paths meet, she stands.
Beside the gates, at the entry of the city,
at the entry doors, she cries aloud:
"I call to you men!
I send my voice to the sons of mankind.
You simple, understand prudence!
You fools, be of an understanding heart!"

Questions to consider

- What is Wisdom doing? Why?
- Where is she calling out?
- Who is she calling out to?
- What does *naïve* mean?
 - (of a person or action) showing a lack of experience, wisdom, or judgment
- What does *prudence* mean?
 - acting with or showing care and thought for the future

This year Daddy wants to study the Proverbs together. Why? Because I want you children to be wise and not foolish. A wise man or woman will be protected and will be a blessing to everyone around him. But a foolish man will destroy himself and the people closest to him.

God has given us this book of Proverbs to teach us how to be wise. So we should read it and study it carefully.

Monday, August 17, 2020

2.2 *Proverbs 8:6-11*

Hear, for I will speak excellent things.
 The opening of my lips is for right things.
 For my mouth speaks truth.
 Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.
 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness.
 There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.
 They are all plain to him who understands,
 right to those who find knowledge.
 Receive my instruction rather than silver,
 knowledge rather than choice gold.
 For wisdom is better than rubies.
 All the things that may be desired can't be compared to it.

Questions to consider

- Why do we have to be told to listen? Do we like to hear the truth?
- Can you be good without telling the truth? Can you tell the truth and be wicked?
- What is the difference between wisdom and knowledge?
- How valuable is the truth? How valuable is wisdom?

We must be exhorted to listen because we don't want to. We like to tell ourselves lies, and we often like to listen to other people tell us lies. Some people want to separate goodness from truthfulness. They say you can speak lies but still be good. That's a lie. God is Righteous **and** True. There is no separating those two characteristics with Him.

Tuesday, August 18, 2020

2.3 Proverbs 8:12-13

12 “I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling.

Find out knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil.

I hate pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse mouth.

Questions to consider

- What does *prudence* mean, again?
 - Remember that *prudence* means, *acting with or showing care and thought for the future*.
- We had a conversation yesterday about the importance of delayed gratification. What does delayed gratification have to do with prudence?
- What does it mean for wisdom to have a home in “prudence?”
- What does *discretion* mean? Why is it important?
 - *Discretion* means acting or speaking in a way that avoids causing offense or revealing private information.
- What things do you hate?
- Do you naturally hate evil? Or do you have to learn to hate evil?
- What is the fear of the Lord/Yahweh? Why does hating evil show that you fear the Lord?
- What does God hate?

To learn wisdom, we must learn all three things: how to think, how to talk, and how to act. We must have our emotions trained *as well as* our minds. There is no separating the two of them, no matter how hard we might try.

Wednesday, August 19, 2020

2.4 Proverbs 8:14-21

14 Counsel and sound knowledge are mine.

I have understanding and power.

15 By me kings reign,
and princes decree justice.

16 By me princes rule,
nobles, and all the righteous rulers of the earth.

17 I love those who love me.

Those who seek me diligently will find me.
 18 With me are riches, honor,
 enduring wealth, and prosperity.
 19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold,
 my yield than choice silver.
 20 I walk in the way of righteousness,
 in the middle of the paths of justice,
 21 that I may give wealth to those who love me.
 I fill their treasuries.

Questions to consider

It has been a few days since we started this chapter, so let's try to remember a few things:

- Who is speaking in this chapter, Proverbs chapter 8?
- Why is she speaking? Generally, what is she trying to say?
- Lady wisdom claims to have many things in these verses. Can you tell me what some of them are?
- So does wisdom help you get to heaven, or does it just help you gain riches and wealth here on earth? (hint: that's a bad question...)
- Have you ever heard of the "health and wealth gospel?" What is it? What does that phrase mean?

If we are wise, we can usually expect the fruit of our work and life to be good - both here on earth and on heaven. But an essential part of wisdom is to not confuse the blessings of this life with the final blessings of heaven.

2.5 Proverbs 8:22-31

22 "Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his work,
 before his deeds of old.
 23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,
 before the earth existed.
 24 When there were no depths, I was born,
 when there were no springs abounding with water.
 25 Before the mountains were settled in place,
 before the hills, I was born;
 26 while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields,
 nor the beginning of the dust of the world.
 27 When he established the heavens, I was there.
 When he set a circle on the surface of the deep,

28 when he established the clouds above,
when the springs of the deep became strong,
29 when he gave to the sea its boundary,
that the waters should not violate his commandment,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth,
30 then I was the craftsman by his side.
I was a delight day by day,
always rejoicing before him,
31 rejoicing in his whole world.
My delight was with the sons of men.

Questions to consider

- When did God create wisdom?
- Why is it important that wisdom came before everything else?
 - It shows that wisdom is more foundational, important and essential.
Wisdom has authority - it has a right to speak.
- Matthew Henry thinks that Solomon is referring to Jesus Christ here. As it says in 1 Cor. 1:24: “...but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God;”