Receive Wisdom’s Gifts

Proverbs 8:8-14; 17-21

Adult Church School
July 6, 2020
Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice!
2 On the hilltop along the road, she takes her stand at the crossroads.
3 By the gates at the entrance to the town, on the road leading in, she cries aloud,
4 “I call to you, to all of you! I raise my voice to all people.
5 You simple people, use good judgment. You foolish people, show some understanding.
6 Listen to me! For I have important things to tell you. Everything I say is right,
7 for I speak the truth and detest every kind of deception.
8 My advice is wholesome. There is nothing devious or crooked in it.
9 My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those with knowledge.
10 **Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold.**
11 **For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it.**

12 “I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment.
13 All who fear the **LORD** will hate evil. Therefore, I hate pride and arrogance,
corruption and perverse speech.
14 Common sense and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine.

15 “I love all who love me. Those who search will surely find me.
16 I have riches and honor, as well as enduring wealth and justice.
17 My gifts are better than gold, even the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver!
18 I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice.
19 Those who love me inherit wealth. I will fill their treasuries.
Proverbs

Meaning

- **Proverbs** is the term used to describe a short, concise insightful expression of a particular truth or experience.

- **Proverbs** communicates practical, moral guidance in an effective way.

- King Solomon wrote the major portion of Proverbs around 950 B.C.

King Solomon (1 Kings 4:29-34)

- 29 Solomon was brilliant.

- God had blessed him with **insight** and **understanding**.

- 30-31 He was **wiser** than anyone else in the world, including the wisest people of the east and of Egypt.

- 32 Solomon wrote three thousand wise sayings and composed more than one thousand songs.

- 33 He could **talk** about all kinds of plants, from large trees to small bushes, and he taught about animals, birds, reptiles, and fish.

- 34 Kings all over the world heard about Solomon's **wisdom** and sent people to listen to him teach.
How Did Solomon Become Wise? (1 Kings 3:5-14 CEV)

Solomon’s Request

▪ 5 One night while Solomon was in Gibeon, the LORD God appeared to him in a dream and said, “Solomon, ask for anything you want, and I will give it to you.”

▪ 6 Solomon answered: My father David, your servant, was honest and did what you commanded. You were always loyal to him, and you gave him a son who is now king.

▪ 7 LORD God, I’m your servant, and you’ve made me king in my father’s place. But I’m very young and know so little about being a leader. And now I must rule your chosen people, even though there are too many of them to count.

▪ 9 Please make me wise and teach me the difference between right and wrong. Then I will know how to rule your people. If you don’t, there is no way I could rule this great nation of yours.

God’s Response

▪ 10-11 God said:

▪ Solomon, I’m pleased that you asked for this. You could have asked to live a long time or to be rich. Or you could have asked for your enemies to be destroyed. Instead, you asked for wisdom to make right decisions. So I’ll make you wiser than anyone who has ever lived or ever will live.

▪ 13 I’ll also give you what you didn’t ask for. You’ll be rich and respected as long as you live, and you’ll be greater than any other king. If you obey me and follow my commands, as your father David did, I’ll let you live a long time.
Group Chat

- What can we learn from Solomon’s dream?
- What were Solomon’s concerns about his job?
- What does Solomon teach us about leadership?
- How does the story of Solomon help us in preparing the future generation?
Lady Wisdom Speaks Again (Prov. 8:1-7)

- This is the 2nd speech of Lady Wisdom. She calls for an audience at the places where she is most likely to find one: by the road, at crossroads and at the entrance of the city.

- Wisdom presents herself as the source of wealth and political power, intimately involved in the workings of creation.

- Wisdom was the first of God’s creative works; she was fashioned long before the earth and the sea came to be.

- Wisdom is depicted as standing in the most public places in the city and shouts out to everyone to receive wisdom. It is to be noted that wisdom is for all humanity not just for a limited selected few. She is not confined to a classroom or the Temple.

- The Two Paths of Life: Reverence for God produces wise behavior, and irreverence for God results in foolish conduct. The choice to respect or disrespect God determines the outcome of human existence.
The Value of Wisdom  (vs. 10-11)

Choose my instruction rather than silver, and knowledge rather than pure gold. For wisdom is far more valuable than rubies. Nothing you desire can compare with it.

Attainment of biblical wisdom is not so much a matter of intellect as it is faith and obedience.

Wisdom is more valuable than worldly riches. We must prefer godly things over riches.

The superior value of Wisdom over money lives in her ability both to deliver true happiness and protect the life of her possessor.

Wisdom gives direction to life and strength to meet its challenges.
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<td>▪ Word of God</td>
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The Dilemma of the Rich Man

“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “I assure you that it will be very hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. In fact, it’s easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

When His disciples heard this, they were stunned. “Then who can be saved?” they asked.

Matthew 20:23-25

Chat Discussion

Why were the disciples stunned by Christ’s statement? How does this scene speak to you today?
The Fear of the Lord (v.13)

“To Fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.”

- **Pride** pushes reverence for Yahweh out of the picture and replaces it with self-centered vices that reject divine values. In place of the security and safety that wisdom provides, pride produces shattering and stumbling.

- By overstepping God’s boundaries, the proud make unjustified claims as to their importance and independence. Consequently, in their self-centered focus in life they ignore God and use people for their own ends.

- **Humility** is the opposite of pride. Those who are humble see God as He is, they view other people with the value with which God created them, and they regard themselves in terms of how God has designed them. Therefore, they are able to submit to God, appreciate others, and value themselves appropriately.