**Proverbs Chapter 8 (Lesson #9)**

An Appeal from Lady Wisdom

Today we find ourselves in the third speech from Lady Wisdom.

### Lady Wisdom stands in stark contrast to chapter 7’s forbidden woman. The adulteress in chapter 7 moved stealthy at dusk and spoke deceptively. Lady wisdom moves publicly and speaks the truth.

### The adulteress in chapter 7 leads her victims to slavery and death, Lady Wisdom leads her followers to kingship, wealth, and life.

### Both of these ladies are competing for our attention, both are calling us to follow. But the paths are very different and the outcomes are shockingly dissimilar. This contrast between these two ladies is meant to heighten our disgust for the one and our increase our desire and admiration of the other.

**Introduction (8:1-3)**

***Vs 1 - Does not wisdom call? Does not understanding raise her voice?***

Solomon introduces Lady Wisdom, with two rhetorical questions where the answer is an **obvious affirmative affirmation** to both.

First, does not wisdom call out? The obvious answer, indeed wisdom does call.

Second, does not understanding raise her voice? The obvious answer is again in the affirmative, yes, like wisdom calls out, understanding raises her voice!

***Vs 2-3 - On the heights beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; 3 beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:***

Here we see the locations from which Lady Wisdom calls out:

1. At the heights where visibility and audibility are enhanced, located beside the way, the paths that men and women travel on, there Lady Wisdom is calling out.
2. At the crossroads, she takes her stand. The place where men and women choose wisdom or choose folly, there too she has positioned herself and there too she is calling out.
3. Beside the city gates in the front of each town, the place where people pass by when traveling to a city, the place where discussion and debates occur, there too is Lady Wisdom calling out.
4. At the entrance of the city, the place where official business is conducted and disputes are settled, there too, Lady Wisdom is “crying aloud!”

Here is Solomon’s point. God has not hidden wisdom. Quite the opposite, wisdom is calling out, crying aloud for the attention of those who pass by and she is doing it from many different strategic locations!

**Lady Wisdom Testifies of her commitment to her audience (vs 4-5)**

***Vs 4 - "To you, O men, I call, and my cry is to the children of man. 5 O simple ones, learn prudence; O fools, learn sense.***

The woman folly (chap 7) **calls out to a man**, Lady Wisdom **calls out to all men**.

She cries out, oh simple ones learn prudence, learn to wait for what is good. O fools, those who are pondering the way of folly, learn sense.

**Wisdom’s Ten Exhortations to Listen (vs 6-11)**

***Vs 6 - Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right,***

The idea is hear and listen, then we are provided with 10 compelling reasons we should listen!

1. Wisdom speaks noble things, we could call these excellent things, **things that are befitting of kings and princes**.
2. From Lady Wisdom’s lips comes things that are right, **things that are upright**.

***Vs 7 - for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips.***

1. From Lady Wisdom’s mouth will come that **which is true.** We live in a society and culture that has lost the concept of truth, yet from the lips of Lady Wisdom comes truth.
2. Wickedness is a disgusting thing in the lips of Lady Wisdom. **She cannot stand wicked speech.**

***Vs 8 - All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.***

1. ***All the words*** of Lady Wisdom’s mouth are righteous, the Hebrew word is **just**.
2. There is nothing twisted or crooked in Lady Wisdom’s mouth. There is nothing that is **shrewd or distorted** in any of her words!

***Vs 9 - They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.***

1. They are all straight **(right)** to him who understands **(discerns),**
2. They are right to those who **would find knowledge**.

Those who are unwilling to embrace wisdom distort even her plain and truthful speech. We see this idea in the New Restament:

*“6 For to set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God, for it does not submit to God’s law; indeed, it cannot. 8 Those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Ro 8:6-8 ESV)*

***Vs 10-11 - Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, 11 for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.***

We transition from Wisdom’s **flawless speech** to her **infinite value** and **priceless rewards**!

1. Here Lady Wisdom explains the value of wisdom, we should **seek it over silver**, **search for it as if it were fine gold**.
2. For wisdom is **better than jewels**, and **all that you may desire cannot compare with her**.

Think about that, **all that you and I might desire** cannot **compare to God’s wisdom for our lives**! Here Lady Wisdom is explaining to us how to live the **best possible version of our lives for His glory**!

**The Lesson from Lady Wisdom (vs 12-31)**

***Vs 12 - "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, and I find knowledge and discretion.***

Turns out wisdom has a roommate! Of course, I am joking, but not really. With **wisdom** comes **prudence**, **knowledge**, and **discretion**.

***Vs 13 - The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.***

Those who love evil do not fear God, it is that simple. This is not Rich, that is Lady Wisdom!

God hates pride, arrogance, evil and perverted speech. But it is not just God, **Lady Wisdom does too!**

***Vs 14-16 - I have counsel and sound wisdom; I have insight; I have strength. 15 By me kings reign, and rulers decree what is just; 16 by me princes rule, and nobles, all who govern justly.***

**Lady Wisdom** has with her **counsel wisdom, and insight.** Remember, the foolish woman had things too, she had a couch, she had Egyptian linens. The foolish woman calls us to enjoy now. God calls us to grow in wisdom into tomorrow.

By wisdom a ruler can rule well!

***Vs 17 - I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.***

**Vs 17 –** The frame, **“those who love me”** states the essential condition for receiving Wisdom’s material rewards. That we love her!

Do you know how to find wisdom? When we **seek diligently for it**. Turns out like finding God, it requires us to search.

***Vs 18 - Riches and honor are with me, enduring wealth and righteousness.***

Many a man has been brought low by the **pursuit of riches or power**, which only **further corrupts the soul**.

*“For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.” (1Ti 6:10 ESV)*

But the pursuit of wisdom brings with it **riches, honor**, e**nduing wealth, and righteousness**!

***Vs 19-21 - My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold, and my yield than choice silver. 20 I walk in the way of righteousness, in the paths of justice, 21 granting an inheritance to those who love me, and filling their treasuries.***

Wisdom says follow me and I will provide you with a legacy, I will provide you with an inheritance and fill your treasuries. Folly says, follow me and we will have a good time tonight**!**

**Wisdom’s BEginning (vs 22-26)**

Now this is a **very tough section** and scholars disagree on whether this is pointing us to Christ or not.

We know that Christ is the wisdom of God, so we cannot talk about wisdom and not at least be **hinting of Jesus Christ**.

I believe this “birth of wisdom” point us to, and remind us of Jesus in much the same way as various aspects of Judah’s and Joseph’s lives pointed us to and reminded us of the coming Messiah!

OK, Wisdom’s beginning!

***Vs 22-26 - "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of his work, the first of his acts of old. 23 Ages ago I was set up, at the first, before the beginning of the earth. 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains had been shaped, before the hills, I was brought forth, 26 before he had made the earth with its fields, or the first of the dust of the world.***

Surely this echoes back to creation and the echo is that Jesus was there. Yahweh possessed me at the beginning of His work.

“I” wisdom says was set up, before the beginning of the earth. When there was nothing, I came forth.

Before Yahweh made the earth of even the first dust of the world, I, wisdom was there.

God has woven wisdom into his magnificent creation, it was there, by His side at the creation of all things.

Although Solomon would likely have had no idea, I believe he is pointing us to the reality that Jesus was there at the creation. He was and is God’s wisdom.

**Wisdom’s Delight in the Created Order (vs 27-31)**

***Vs 27-31 - When he established the heavens, I was there; when he drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28 when he made firm the skies above, when he established the fountains of the deep, 29 when he assigned to the sea its limit, so that the waters might not transgress his command, when he marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 then I was beside him, like a master workman, and I was daily his delight, rejoicing before him always, 31 rejoicing in his inhabited world and delighting in the children of man.***

When Yahweh established the heavens, Wisdom was there at His side.

When Yahweh established the firmament, Wisdom was there at His side.

When Yahweh assigned the sea it limits or made the foundations of the earth, at His side was Wisdom.

Wisdom was Yahweh’s delight and Wisdom delighted in all that Yahweh created.

Surely this is Jesus, the **personification of Wisdom!**

When you read Proverbs 8:22-31, two other texts come to mind. Can I read those now?

***Gen 1:1****In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.****2****The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters (Gen 1:1-2, ESV).*

***John 1:1****In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.****2****He was in the beginning with God.****3****All things were made through him, and without him was not any thing made that was made.****4****In him was life, and the life was the light of men.****5****The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it (John 1:1-5, ESV).*

**Conclusion (vs 32-36)**

***Vs 32-36 - "And now, O sons, listen to me: blessed are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it. 34 Blessed is the one who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting beside my doors. 35 For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD, 36 but he who fails to find me injures himself; all who hate me love death."***

We opened with (hear) we conclude with listen. That has been the point! Hear and listen and internalize and respond to Lady Wisdom’s message.

Blessed is the one who listens to her!

Blessed are those who keep her ways!

The one who finds wisdom finds life and **obtains favor from God**. This of course reminds us that eternal life is only found in God and favor with Yahweh can only be obtained in Christ.

For those who **fail to find wisdom**, who points us to Christ, **injure themselves**.

Men, I encourage us to constantly pursue Lady Wisdom as revealed in the Scriptures and as manifested in Jesus Christ.

Waste no more days pursuing folly for the minutes of pleasure that she provides, instead peruse wisdom for she provides riches (vs 18), honor (vs 18), enduring wealth (vs 18), righteousness (vs 18), life (vs 35), and favor from God (vs 35).

May God grant us a desire to know Wisdom!