**An Expositional Study Through the Proverbs – Lesson #2**

As you likely know, our Pastor recently started a series through the book of Proverbs, in that series he is taking a topical approach to look at the book or Proverbs.

Because many of the virtues as well as the vices are repeated in the book of Proverbs a topical approach is a good way to deal with the book.

BUT, an expositional study is also good. The book has clear design and so as we look at it expositional, I think you will see how God has constructed this amazing book to speak wisdom into our lives.

Our last time together we started that study.

We looked at an overview of the book and then made our way through verse 1-7 of chapter 1.

By way of reminder the book of Provers is broken into many different sections. I covered that in the overview lesson, so I will not repeat it here again, other than to say we pick back up today in section 1.

Section 1 begins with the introduction, here in chapter 1 and goes all the way through chapter 9. In this first section we have the introduction followed by **ten speeches, ten monologues**, or **ten teaching sessions** from a **Father to his son**... The **phrase “my son”** is used **15 times** in the **first nine chapters**.

These speeches are given by the father to his son to convey **wisdom**, **direction**, **guidance**, **warnings**, and promised **blessings**. These are like teaching sessions by the Father who has a lifetime of wisdom that he desires to convey to his young son.

You and I should see these as ten lessons from our heavenly father, to his sons to provide us wisdom and direction for life.

They answer the question: How **can we “live well”** in God’s world!

**Today, I plan at least to look at the first teaching session of the Father** in **1:8-19**

**But here is section 1, we have more than just teaching sessions from the father, it is not just guidance from the father, we also have four speeches**, **four monologues**, or **four teaching sessions**, from **wisdom**.

Here **wisdom is personified as a lady**, we will call her **lady wisdom**. Here in chapters 1-9 lady wisdom speaks to us **four separate times**. **We would be wise to listen.**

Today we will see the first teaching session from lady wisdom – **1:20-33**

I will read verses 1-7 just to get us back in context:

Proverbs 1 (overview)

By way of reminder: Verse 1 is the **basic introduction** to the Proverbs, verses 2-6 are the **goal of the Proverbs**, and verse 7 is the **motto of the Proverbs and indeed of life**:

**1** ¶ The proverbs of Solomon, son of David, king of Israel:

**2** To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, **3** to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; **4** to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth —  **5** Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, **6** to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles.

**7** ¶ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

**Rich Turner paraphrase of the Motto:** Jesus Christ himself is the beginning of wisdom and you will never grow wise unless you humble yourself before the God man, Jesus Christ.

**Real, godly wisdom requires you to first bow the knee to King Jesus, then and only then are you prepared to receive God’s wisdom.**

**Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth:**

“**7** But we impart a secret and hidden wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. **8** None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1Co 2:7-8 ESV)

**Or this way to the church in Corinth:**

Speaking of Christ: “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:3 ESV)

**If we will ever hear from the Father, we must first yield to the Son.**

**Vs 8-19**, we have the **first lesson**, the first sayings, we have the first monologue, the **first teaching from the Father**.

The first speech from the father breaks down into **three component parts**: A **call to hear**, what **not to do and why**, and a **point of deep knowledge**.

**Part #1 –** Is the **call to hear:** “**8** Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching, **9** for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

The father’s instructions are like, and Solomon wants us to picture this, like a **beautiful crown on the head**, they are like **stunning necklaces around the neck**. They are **beautiful**, they are **attractive**, they are **desirable.**

**You and I are called to hear and to follow the father’s instructions.**

**You and I should see the Scriptures as this instruction that is similar to the instruction parents provide to their children.**

**The teachings of our Father contained in the Scriptures are beautiful!**

**But more than that they are needful, the same way children need parents to teach them, you and I need God to teach us!**

**Part #2 -** What **not to do and why (pay attention to the repetition of the word blood)**:

**10** ¶ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. **11** If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; **12** like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; **13** we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; **14** throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse" —  **15** my son, do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths, **16** for their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed blood. **17** For in vain is a net spread in the sight of any bird, **18** but these men lie in wait for their own blood; they set an ambush for their own lives.

This first speech is **concise**, **direct**, and **very forceful**!

Do not run with the wicked, do not chase after the evil things they (those who do not know God) chase after (stealing and looting). PERIOD!

He then **explains why** along the way:

These men according to verse 18 are **lying in ambush for their own lives**.

Desiring to steel from others, ambush innocnetb people and grab what is theirs is a trap, it **steals away the life of the one who gains it.**

Do not throw in with people like this, they are **unjust** and they will **drag you into the net** that has been prepared for them.

VS 17-18 – We all agree that setting a trap before a bird is foolish, for the bird sees the trap, but these people run right into the trap!

Do you hear what Solomon is saying, do you hear the voice of your heavenly Father. Do not run to sin with others, this is a trap for our souls!

**Part #3 – The deep knowledge**

**Vs 19 –** Such are the ways of everyone who is greedy for unjust gain; it takes away the life of its possessors.”

**This conclusion is surprising and shocking**.

First we get it, as children of God, we should not lie in wait for blood, we should not ambush the innocent without reason, we should not steel to fill our houses with stolen goods.

But notice what Solomon says, everyone is like that, those things we should not do, when they are vs 19 “greedy for unjust gain...”

**Greed is not simply ugly, it is destructive, look at verse 19.** It takes away the life of its possessors.

To **greedily desire** things we have not earned is a **trap for our souls.**

The first warning, right out of the gate is **beware of greed and covetousness.**

**Greed, we might say is a silent destroyer.**

**Greed, is really to look at God and say you have not treated your servant justly or fairly. I should have received XX. Forgetting that you and I have been given eternal life in Jesus Christ and an opportunity to serve Him and others in this life.**

**You and I must stop greedily desiring things that perish!**

**Any additional thoughts about the first speech from the Father, to his sons?**

Also, here in chapter one we have the **first speech (of four),** the first **monologue**, the **first teaching**, from **Lady Wisdom**:

**The first speech by Lady Wisdom (vs 20- 33)**

This **breaks into 6 component parts**:

The **calls,** the **questions,** the **promises,** the **warnings,** the **judgment,** and the **good news.**

**Part #1 - The calls -**

“**20** ¶ Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; **21** at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

See her in your **mind**... This **regal woman**, lady wisdom is **crying out**, she is crying out with great passion and zeal. She is crying out in the streets and at the gates, and **what is she saying?**

**Part #2 – The questions -**

**22** "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?

Here she asks **three rhetorical questions**, how long O simple will you love being simple. How long scoffers will you delight in scoffing. Fools, how long will you go on hating knowledge?

Notice the three groups who are not listening, yet she is crying out to:

1. **The Simple** – naive, they **do not know** and they **do not care**
2. **The Scoffer** – or scorner, or mocker, these are those who are cynical of everything, after how can we trust this message
3. **The Fool** – Morally deficient, arrogant, they simply reject the truth. These are the fools.

**Part #3 – The promises -**

**23** If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

**You see two!**

**Vs 23 - Then she says IF, IF, IF, you turn at her reproof (expression of my disapproval), THEN, behold, I will pour out my Spirit to you!**

**Peter said it during his first sermon:**

“And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” (Ac 2:38 ESV)

**And then I will make my words known to you**:

“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.” (Joh 10:27 ESV)

**For this to happen**, man and women must turn from their simplicity, they must turn from their scoffing, they must turn from their foolishness and turn to God’s righteousness (Jesus), receive God’s Spirit who will guide them into God’s Word.

**Part #34– The warnings -**

 **24** Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, **25** because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, **27** when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

To refuse God’s wisdom, to ignore his counsel, to refuse his correction, is to sign ourselves up for calamity and terror, and it is to isolate us from God deliverance in our distress!

The gospel of Jesus is proclaimed here in the US on radio, on TV, on the Internet, and there is a church on nearly every corner.

Here in America Lady Wisdom has called and there is a warning for ignoring her call!

If we will not listen to wisdom, we should not expect God’s deliverance when terror or disaster strikes, we should not expect God’s help when calamity strikes.

We have rejected Wisdom!

**Part #5 – The judgments -**

 **28** Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. **29** Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, **30** would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, **31** therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. **32** For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

But then, calamity comes, and people are seeking a way out.

But they are foolishly not seeking Lady Wisdom. They want out, they are crying out, but Lady Wisdom will not help them for they are not seeking her.

Let’s bring this into the New Testament, disaster comes into a person’s life and the get religion, they turn over a new leaf, they start doing various things.

But they often do not do the one thing they should have done.

**Turn to God through Christ.** Thus Widom mocks them because they did not, as it says in **Vs 29** **choose the fear of the Lord**, they did not repent of their sins and place faith in Jesus.

Notice reject knowledge is to sign ourselves up for the fill of our own devices and to be destroyed by their own foolishness!

It is to **kill yourself,** it is to **destroy yourself** and it is to do so with **God’s provision** for deliverance **at the door.**

**Part #6 – The Good News -**

**33** but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

This is a two tiered point (spiritually and practically).

**Spiritually,** notice in closing chapter 1, **whoever listens to wisdom** (The wisdom of God, who is Jesus), whoever listens to “me” verse 33 says, **will dwell secure and will be at ease, and without dread of disaster.**

This is true spiritually, the very moment we place faith in Jesus Christ:

“"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (Joh 3:16 ESV)

**Practically (day-by-day),** as believers, we do this in our day-to-day lives as we submit to King Jesus. **By heeding His words and His commands.** He is the wisdom of God!

**Solomon** was the **wisest man** to ever lived, yet he lived much of his life **foolishly** and **suffered in this life** for his choices.

**David** was a man after God’s own heart, who allowed sin to bring a sword into his house that he dwelt with his whole life.

You and I need to be **born again**.

**That is step one.**

**Then** (**step two**) we need the **חכמה chokmah khok-maw’** (**skill, knowledge, and art)** on how to **live well in God’s world**.

We need to heed follow King Jesus!

Our choices are a **serous matter**, the stakes are **much higher than we might imagine**. But God has provided his wisdom to guide us (the Bible) and as a New Testament believer God has placed His Spirit to live within us.

But we must hear (the word) and obey wisdom (by the power of the Spirit) to live well in God’s world!

**Any additional thoughts about the first speech from Lady Wisdom?**

I present to you **Proverbs chapter 1.**

**Here in chapter 2, we have the second speech from the Father to us (his sons):**

This second speech will take the entire chapter, this speech is much longer than the first speech given by the Father.

**Verse 5 – The fear of the Lord is a synonym for know God.**

Like a child who touches fire and comes to know its full stenght, you and I come to know God and we begin to see his full majesty, strength, power, and even wisdom.

Vs 12-22 There is a lot of imagery involving the landscape of good and evil paths.

The father warns that we his sons are going to meet people who want to take shortcuts and people who play are quick to break their marriage vows.

These people and this lifestyle may seem thrilling at first, but its “dark ways” like the darkside of the force in the movie Star Wars put us on a path of misery and self-dectruction. A dark path that blinds us as it binds us.

Do not follow these people. Do not cross-over to the dark side.

**Proverbs 2:**

 Breaks into 4 sections:

First we have the **conditional promise**, then **God’s reaction**, **our blessing** (positive and negative), **the concluding promise and warning**.

First, the **promise** in verses 1-5. If we will seek to find God, we will find Him, if we will seek his word, we will find wisdom!

“**1** ¶ My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, **2** making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; **3** yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, **4** if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures,

Look at the **action words**, receive my words, treasure up my commandments, being attentive to my wisdom, inclined your heart to understand, call out for insight, crying out for understanding (I am calling out), seek wisdom like silver, search for it like a hidden treasure.

**Then... Here comes the promise, conditioned on verses 1-4. THEN....**

**5** then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

**If you search for God, really search, really cry out, really look. YOU WILL FIND HIM and his name is JESUS!**

**If you knock, God will open the door and you will find Jesus.**

**If you seek, you will find Jesus.**

**Look what Paul says about Jesus:**

“in whom (In Jesus) are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.” (Col 2:3 ESV)

When we find Jesus, we have found all of God’s treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

You, the son having searched and found we see God’s reaction, as explained by the father.

**God’s reaction or response:**

**6** For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; **7** he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity, **8** guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of his saints.

You search... You will find and indeed, we see God’s reaction.

He gives wisdom, from his mouth comes both knowledge and understanding, he stores up sound wisdom (good practical wisdom) for us, he becomes a shield for us, he guards our path, he watches over us!

**These are God’s responses.**

**Our blessings (focused on the positive):**

**9** Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; **10** ¶ for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; **11** discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you,

Then God will cause us to understand **righteousness**, **justice**, **equity**, and the **good path**.

Wisdom will come into our hearts, we will **pick up knowledge**, **discretion will watch over us**, understanding will guard us!

**The blessings of seeking to KNOW GOD!**

**Our blessings (focused on the negative):**

**12** delivering you from the way of evil, from men of perverted speech, **13** who forsake the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness, **14** who rejoice in doing evil and delight in the perverseness of evil, **15** men whose paths are crooked, and who are devious in their ways. **16** So you will be delivered from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words, **17** who forsakes the companion of her youth and forgets the covenant of her God; **18** for her house sinks down to death, and her paths to the departed; **19** none who go to her come back, nor do they regain the paths of life. **20** So you will walk in the way of the good and keep to the paths of the righteous.

This knowledge will serve to deliver us from the way of evil.

It will deliver us from men of perverted speech.

It will deliver us from those who are on paths of unrighteousness and the dark paths.

It will deliver us from those who rejoice in evil it will deliver us from those who take delight in perverseness.

It was deliver us from the crooked paths and the devous ways.

So the mehtors, here employed have been of wicked men on wicked paths, of evil men on paths of darkness that lead to greater darkenss.

The methor changes in verse 16 and following.

God’s wisdom will deliver us from the forbidden woman, it will deliver us from the adulteress woman, it will us from the harlot.

For her house sinks down to hell, her paths are they way of the daed, none make it back off that path.

Seek wisdom and stay of the road that sinks down to the grave.

Wisdom can do that for us.

**The concluding promise and warning:**

**21** For the upright will inhabit the land, and those with integrity will remain in it, **22** but the wicked will be cut off from the land, and the treacherous will be rooted out of it.” (Pr 2:1-22 ESV)

Here is the conclusion. The upright will be blessed, they will walk in integrity and stay off the paths of evil, darkness, and the grave.

The upright will be blessed and their inheritance waits for them.

They have a land that is promised and they will inhabit that land.

BUT, the wicked will be cutoff and the treacherous, will be rooted out.

The choice is stark, the choice is serious, the choice is eternal.

Yet so many never see the seriousness and persue with all their might the one in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge!

Seek Jesus, for when you seek him you will find him and in him you will find rest and eternal life.

**Proverbs 1:** [Proverbs 1 • Introduction (youtube.com)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UEnDE8KPWjM)

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40

Proverbs 2: [The Pursuit of Wisdom and Protection from the Wicked | SermonAudio](https://www.sermonaudio.com/sermoninfo.asp?SID=1230618103)

5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60