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

***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.”***

**Vs 8-19 –** Herewe have the first lesson from the Father. The first speech from the father and it 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, a **beautiful crown for the head**, they are like **stunning necklaces around our neck**. They are beautiful, they are attractive, and they are desirable.

**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 case after. PERIOD! He then explains: These men according to verse 18 are **lying in ambush for their own blood!**

**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!

**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 issurprising and shocking.

First, we get it, as children of God, we should not lie in wait for blood, we should not ambush the innocent, we should not steel to fill our houses with stolen goods. But notice what Solomon says, everyone is like that, 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. The first warning, right out of the gate is **beware of greed and covetousness.**

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The first speech by Lady Wisdom (vs 20-33). This lesson 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?***

Notice the three groups:

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.
3. The Fool – morally deficient, arrogant, these simply reject the truth.

**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.***

Then she says, if you turn at her reproof, then God will pour out His Spirit on us and God will make his words known to us!

*“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)*

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

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

**Part #4 –** 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’s deliverance in our distress!

**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;***

Disaster comes into a person’s life, they 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. Seek God’s wisdom!

**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). You and I need to be born again, then we need the חכמה (Chokmah) (skill, knowledge, and art) to live well in God’s world.

Our choices are a **serious 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 given us His Spirit.

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