

AUTOPSY • Week 3: Autopsying Others

Daily Briefing • Day 3 of 5 • Watch and Learn

WEEKLY MEMORY VERSE

Beloved, do not imitate evil but imitate good. Whoever does good is from God; whoever does evil has not seen God.

3 John 11

Sunday's sermon introduced the observation practice. Yesterday we looked at Rehoboam, who had access to proven wise advisors and chose his peers instead. Today we develop the skill that makes both lessons stick. You can watch or listen to the sermon at 1mso.church or on the One Missoula app.

OPENING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, give me a discerning mind, a humble and teachable posture, and the courage to make changes. Help me to clearly observe and assess the world around me: the friends I keep, the associations I have, and the movements I am part of. Give me honesty and integrity and a willingness to see the fruit those connections are bearing, both good and bad. If I have yoked my life to anything dark and destructive, show it to me and help me make the changes that lead to flourishing for myself and those around me. I pray these things in the name of Jesus. Amen.

TODAY'S TEACHING

There is a detail in Proverbs 7 that does not get much attention. The teacher at the window watches a young man make a choice and immediately narrates where it is going to end. He does not wait for the outcome to arrive. He has seen this pattern before. He knows the trajectory. The observation skill he is modeling is not just the ability to watch. It is the ability to recognize a pattern you have already seen and know where it leads before it arrives.

This skill scales beyond individuals. You do not need to interview a hustle culture podcast to see where that trajectory leads. You can watch the men and women who have followed it for ten or twenty years and observe the fractured marriages, the kids who barely know their father, the financial wins that cost everything else. You do not need to ask your family of origin to examine what they assumed about money or relationships or success. You can observe what those assumptions have produced over a generation. The teacher in Proverbs 7 did not knock on the door and interview with the participants. He just watched. And because he had seen it before, he knew.

Proverbs 13:20 names the formation response to what you observe. Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. Walking with someone is broader than physical proximity. You can walk with a political tribe, an identity movement, a hustle culture framework, or your family of origin's unexamined assumptions about life without ever leaving your house. The question Proverbs 13:20 presses is: which voices, groups, and frameworks are forming how you think, what you believe, and what you consider normal?

READ & MEDITATE

Proverbs 7:6–9, 21–23

"For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice, and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense, passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness... With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her flattering lips she compels him. All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life."

Proverbs 13:20

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

Before engaging the questions, read the full Proverbs 7:6-23 passage in your Bible. Then come back and read Proverbs 7:6-9 again. Notice that the teacher names the destination before the young man arrives. Then read Proverbs 13:20 and sit with both halves. The formation goes in both directions.

REFLECT

The teacher could read this trajectory because he had seen it play out before. Pattern recognition is the core of the observation skill the series is building.

What trajectories in your own life have you been able to read ahead of time because you have seen the pattern before in others? Describe one example where you could see where something was heading before the outcome arrived.

That is the skill Proverbs 7 is training. The goal is not cynicism. It is discernment. The teacher at the window is not contemptuous of the young man. He is extracting a lesson so the next person does not repeat the same trajectory.

What does it tell you about the observation practice that the teacher could identify the young man's belief deficit before the outcome arrived? What beliefs and behaviors did you notice in verses 6-9 that pointed toward where this was heading?

Most of us are being formed by groups, movements, and frameworks we absorbed without consciously choosing them. The person inside these communities has the same difficulty seeing their own trajectory that the simpleton had.

Which of the following are currently shaping your beliefs, behaviors, and definition of normal? Mark any that apply, then answer the questions below. Political parties or tribes that supply a complete worldview and moral vocabulary without reference to God. Identity movements or camps that define you primarily by who or what you oppose. Hustle culture frameworks that measure worth through productivity, income, and relentless output. Family of origin assumptions about money, relationships, health, or success that you absorbed without examination. Online communities, content feeds, or group chats that have quietly redefined what is acceptable or desirable.

For one of the groups or frameworks you identified: what is the observable trajectory of people who are fully committed to it over ten or twenty years? What does it produce in their marriages, their children, their finances, their faith, and their character? Do some honest introspective self-assessment before moving on.

Proverbs 13:20 does not just warn about fools. It also makes a promise about wise companions. The formation goes in both directions.

Fill in the blanks from Proverbs 13:20:

"Whoever walks with the wise becomes _____, but the companion of fools will _____ harm." (Proverbs 13:20)*

**These fill-in-the-blank questions use the ESV text. Your Bible may use different words for the same idea.*

Yesterday, Rehoboam had access to proven wise advisors and walked with his foolish peers instead. Proverbs 13:20 names exactly what that choice produced.

What would walking with the wise actually look like in your current season of life? Consider: a Bible-preaching church where the Word governs and spiritual formation is taken seriously. Life groups of imperfect people who are pursuing Christ and whose trajectories show humility and growth over time. Mentors or advisors whose lives across career, health, family, faith, and character show consistent fruit. Who in your life currently fits any part of that description? What would walking with them more deliberately require you to change or add this week?

PRAYER

Write your prayer or pray out loud. As we've read, God's ear is not dull. Talk to Him like He is listening and wants to hear from you.

MEMORY VERSE

Write or recite 3 John 11 from memory:
