

Wisdom Preaches in the Streets

Proverbs 1:20-33

Synopsis

This section of Proverbs is the first time that we are introduced to Lady Wisdom, the personification of wisdom that appears a few times throughout the book. Lady wisdom is found preaching and pleading with fools in the streets, that she might save some from the consequences of their foolish behavior. While some turn and find life in wisdom's embrace, others refuse to listen and continue in their own destructive paths. This sermon will challenge us to reflect on the consequences of folly. It will ask us to search ourselves and consider if there are any areas of our life where we have been ignoring wisdom's plea.

Sermon Outline

Main Idea: *Rejecting Lady Wisdom's counsel will only bring calamity in the end.*

1. Who is Lady Wisdom? (20-21)
2. To what areas of life does Lady Wisdom's counsel apply? (20-21)
3. What offer does Lady Wisdom make us? (22-23)
4. What happens if we reject Lady Wisdom? (24-32)

Reflection & Discussion Questions

1. **Observing the Text:** First, make sure to have your group spend time looking at the text, and observing the text without reflecting on the sermon. You want the group to get familiar with the text, and the words, and the flow of thought. Keep making observations until you feel the group has a solid grasp of the entire text.
2. We discussed the nature of Christ, that he is wisdom incarnate (1 Cor. 1:25, Col. 2:2-3). In Christ "are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." How can we learn wisdom from Christ? This might sound like a simple question, but be as practical as possible with this? Try to set a framework for the group for how we can increase in our wisdom.
3. The sermon discussed that the fool, the scoffer, and the simple ones often refuse wisdom (1:22). In hindsight, has there been a time that you have refused wisdom? Share with the group what the situation was, and what you learned from that time in your life.

4. The sermon emphasized that ignoring Christ's wisdom eventually arrives at calamity, terror and distress (1:26-27). It truly is a sad thing to watch a fool running headfirst into disaster? Can you describe a time where you have watched this happen to someone you know.
 - a. From your perspective, why were they so blind to wisdom at the time?
 - b. From your perspective, is there anything you could have done differently as a friend to offer a clear path for "turning" from their folly?
5. We discussed how some people call out to God for help in times of trouble (1:28), but they're calling to God is mere self-preservation, not genuine turning. God does not receive this shallow calling out to Him. What are the marks of a person who has genuinely turned toward God, verses a person who has only called on God out of desperation?

For Family Discipleship

This is an excellent opportunity to talk with your children not just about the need for them to obey wisdom, but for the consequences of pursuing folly. You can ask them if there are any rules that are sometimes hard to follow, or that they are tempted not to follow. Walk them through the consequences of failure to adhere to wisdom.

For Men and Women

Same question, yet men and women will have unique answers to this that can be discussed in separate groups.

For Men: What vices, or lanes of folly, do you feel that modern men are most prone to falling into? Discuss the allure of these paths. Then discuss the consequences of walking down those paths.

For Women: What vices, or lanes of folly, do you feel that modern women are most prone to falling into? Discuss the allure of these paths. Then discuss the consequences of walking down those paths.