

Proverbs: Summer with Solomon, Guest Teaching at Capstone Helena

The Principal Thing

Proverbs 4:1-9

Brief intro/testimony

- *Grew up in and out of church*
- *parent's divorce I began to run my own way, in charge of my own life*
- *After an abortion, dropped out of college*
- *Life completely down the drain - drug addict, depressed, losing my mind*
- *Left Behind, Revelation*
- ***Truly repent in November 2003***
- *Get plugged into a good, small church (5 spokes)*
- *SOAKING UP THE WORD (leaning forward)*
- *Start serving, move in with friends from church, involved in youth group, media, anything*
- *Deacon, teach, serve, meet my wife, get married in 2012.*
- *Ordained in January 2013. Associate and youth pastor, college age*
- *May 2015 move to Maryland, Move back to NY 18 months later*
- *Move to Montana in 2018*
- ***God has blessed this fool with forgiveness.***
A new life. A new identity. Purpose. Hope and Future.
A loving wife and beautiful kids.

Wearing this shirt on purpose... I want no pretense about my own wisdom
 In the hopes that you'll hear God's wisdom

[1 Corinthians 1:17-25 NKJV] For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where [is] the wise? Where [is] the scribe? Where [is] the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

[Pray]

4:1-4

Who was Solomon?

- David and Bathsheba
- Third king of Israel
- Said to be the wisest man who ever lived
- Ushered in a literal golden age for Israel

Solomon knew he needed wisdom

He was 20, taking over his father's kingdom, his mom not his dad's first wife

God appears to him in a dream

Solomon says "God I'm a kid..."

1 Kings 3:9 "Therefore give to Your servant an understanding heart to judge Your people, that I may discern between good and evil. For who is able to judge this great people of Yours?"

This pleased the Lord and God gave him what he asked and everything he didn't ask for. Everything someone else, probably we would ask for - riches, fame, power, good looks.

Solomon knew his place despite his role

[Psalm 103:13-16 NKJV] As a father pities [his] children, [So] the LORD pities those who fear Him. For He knows our frame; He remembers that we [are] dust. [As for] man, his days [are] like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more.

The first part of wisdom is fearing the Lord

The second part is knowing that we don't know it all.

We don't have it all together.

And that's OK. We're not meant to...on our own

Death and dealing with it, we're not meant to. We were never designed to even know death or what it's like.

Does anyone want to be called a fool? Known for being a fool? Don't we all want to be thought of as wise? Brilliant? Amazing? Why then do we despise teaching? Instruction? Good counsel? Wisdom? The fool has said in his heart there is no God

[Matthew 12:38-42 NKJV] Then some of the scribes and Pharisees answered, saying, "Teacher, we want to see a sign from You." But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign, and no sign will be given to it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. "For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so

will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. "The men of Nineveh will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and indeed a greater than Jonah [is] here. **"The queen of the South will rise up in the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and indeed a greater than Solomon [is] here.**

The ultimate goal of Godly wisdom...is to know God himself. Jesus.

[John 5:39 NKJV] "You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

That being wise, or knowing the Bible, or reading the bible...
isn't just for knowledge - although it's found there
Isn't just for practical wisdom - although there's no greater source

It's for sitting down, face to face, with the One who made you. Who loves you.

Who knows what's best for you.

Like a good Father

We struggle with this because of the relationships with have with our earthly fathers, especially if they weren't walking with the Lord

But know that your heavenly father is not like that. **He is not a hard man.**

Part of wisdom is obedience

It's been said we don't truly know the scriptures or what they mean until we've obeyed them
I think the same goes for wisdom

*Fools spout many words, but it's usually words they think they understand
Book smarts vs. street smarts, in some ways*

**Wisdom is not having all the answers,
it's knowing where to get them from**

[Psalm 138:2d NKJV] For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

God holds his Word above his name.

Where do we hold it? [hold it up]

This isn't a book. These are the words of God. A father who loves us. Who died for us. Who sent his Spirit to live within us.

These are the words of life.

:5-7

There are countless books out there on how to get what you want in life.

How to stack the deck. Play your cards right.

Get ahead. Both practical and manipulative.

Why? Because we all want something.

There's plenty each of us want and some things we want really bad more than anything.

[1 Timothy 6:6-10 NKJV] Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into [this] world, [and it is] certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and [into] many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all [kinds of] evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

And there's nothing wrong with desiring !

God gave us desires. The question is, what are we desiring?

James, half brother of Jesus...totally changed after the resurrection

[James 4:1-6 NKJV] Where do wars and fights [come] from among you? Do [they] not [come] from your [desires for] pleasure that war in your members? You lust and do not have. You murder and covet and cannot obtain. You fight and war. Yet you do not have because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask amiss, that you may spend [it] on your pleasures. Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. Or do you think that the Scripture says in vain, "The Spirit who dwells in us yearns jealously"? But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble."

[James 3:17 NKJV] But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy.

We cannot divine godly wisdom with a spreadsheet

Divination is not possible with fleshly means!

Disciples before pentecost

Modern striving towards AI singularity, AI god to give us all the answers

GET WISDOM

GET UNDERSTANDING

These are the things we should go after first in life.

Your own devotional time - THE TRIFECTA

Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes

To know what wisdom is

(knowing the right thing to do and doing it)

Here's a tool for wisdom- blueletterbible.com

Wisdom - hakma

- skill (in war) (are we not in a spiritual war?)
- wisdom (in administration)
- shrewdness, wisdom
- wisdom, prudence (in religious affairs)
- wisdom (ethical and religious)

Understanding - bina

- understanding, discernment

The Spiritual gift of discernment

Knowing the difference between right and wrong
our world today is in utter darkness.

WHAT THE WORLD CALLS WISE, ENLIGHTENED, PROGRESSIVE, IS NOT WISDOM

Is 5:20

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil;

Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness;

Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

Godly wisdom goes hand in hand with God's Spirit! And His gifts are for you!

(Read 1 Cor 12 later today with your family)

[Psalm 90:12 NKJV] So teach [us] to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Wisdom is a matter of the heart! It's also a matter of knowing our time is limited.

[Matthew 6:22-23 NKJV] "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. "But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great [is] that darkness!"

You don't have to worry about understanding the Word. That will come in time.

But let it in! Read it. Let it "wash you in the water of the Word"

[1 John 2:27 NKJV] But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

The Holy Spirit will teach you. Speak to you through the word.
Logos & Rhema.

Your own personal time with the Lord is where you'll gain the most personal wisdom.

But, God will keep you in check with church, friends, teachers, etc. He'll begin to speak to you about something and you'll start hearing it over and over.

WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING (NKJV)

“All is vanity saith the preacher”

Testimony in the bar seeing it's all empty

“With much wisdom comes much sorrow”

Being wise sometimes isn't any fun. You'll no longer enjoy doing the foolish things you once did. But you'll be happier. Healthier. Wiser. Better off.

:8-9

Wisdom promotes the best things over the good things

Wisdom promotes us, gives us favor

Joseph, Daniel, SM&A

“The things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace”

The more wisdom we get the less we'll care about earthly things

But at the same time we'll be better stewards of the earthly things we do have

Remember - Solomon wise, but also had everything else

[Psalm 37:25 NKJV] I have been young, and [now] am old; Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, Nor his descendants begging bread.

Wisdom will teach you how to handle everything else in life

- *Working on cars*
- *“No one is coming to save you”*
- *Comic strip about flood, person on the roof, rescue keeps coming, “Waiting for God”*
- *God will work through the practical at times. He created the practical.*

- *But it's not "God helps those who help themselves" It's "God helps those who know they can't help themselves"*

A crown of glory she will deliver to you (on earth and in heaven)

God wants to crown us when we get to heaven "Well done, my good and faithful servant"

Wisdom will help us navigate the "narrow road" to heaven

I'm sure Solomon heard this one

[Psalm 119:105 NKJV] Your word [is] a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

SO IN ALL YOUR GETTING, GET WISDOM. GET UNDERSTANDING.

WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPAL THING.

The wisest thing we can do is give our entire lives to Jesus.

I have come to give life abundantly. It would be foolish to not take his offer.