

Proverbs 8-9

An Invitation from Two Ladies

Proverbs: Wisdom for Life

Why Proverbs?

A) We live in an age of endless amounts of information and opinion.

B) Every day, we are bombarded with a tidal wave of advice on things like relationships, money, sex, work,

1) and a multitude of other topics,

B) Our social media feeds, blogs, and TV screens passionately call out to us and invite us to listen.

C) Friend and family alike offer their opinions on what is right, wrong, good/ bad true/ false

D) Grocery stores checkout stands are filled with magazines that hold up a picture of what our lives could or should look like.

Even religion has jumped into the discussion, providing us with a host of alternative ways to live.

A) Question: To whose voice should we listen?

B) In the daily complexity of life in this broken and sinful world, we need more than just rules. More than advice

1) We need wisdom.

C) And that is exactly what the book of Proverbs is all about — practical wisdom for everyday life.

D) Proverbs is designed to instill practical wisdom into God's people, showing them what a God-fearing lifestyle looks like

1) in everyday situations and relationships.

How To Read Proverbs

A) When approaching the book of Proverbs, there are two ditches that must be avoided.

B) The first ditch is to think of the proverbs as absolutes

1) This happens when we fail to interpret and apply individual proverbs within the context of the whole Bible.

C) While all of the proverbs are true, some are only true in specific situations or circumstances.

1) In other words, it takes wisdom to know when a particular proverb applies and when it doesn't.

Example: Proverbs 26:4 –

Do NOT answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.

A) Ok makes sense – I get that

B) But notice the very next verse – almost seems to contradict that

V. 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, Lest he be wise in his own eyes.

C) So WHICH IS IT – to Answer or not answer – need wisdom concerning the situation and the circumstance

The second ditch that must be avoided is to read the book of Proverbs moralistically.

A) When we view the book of proverbs like a biblical fortune-cookie or little nuggets of helpful advice on being good,

B) We miss the point entirely! Proverbs is not a book that teaches us how to be good.

1) Rather it is a book that puts on display what a life redeemed by Jesus - submitted to God's will looks like.

C) Reverence and humility before God, not mere morality, is the aim of this book.

Author: King Solomon is the primary contributor to the book of proverbs – he has often been described as the wisest man who ever lived!

A) His problem is he didn't follow his own wisdom!

Guard your heart with all diligence Prv 4:23

B) What is interesting is after Solomon died – the Bible began to speak of another who would come – far wiser than Solomon –

“There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD...” — Isaiah 11:1-3

C) Isaiah was speaking of Jesus – 700 yrs prior

1) About 1,000 years after the death of King Solomon, Jesus arrived on the scene.

As a youth we are told in Luke 2:52 that Jesus increased in Wisdom

A) At age 12 he amazed the teachers of the law with his wisdom

B) Throughout the life and ministry of Jesus, wisdom is mentioned as one of his most prominent traits (Matthew 13:53-54).

C) Jesus is referred to as “the wisdom of God” (Colossians 1:30)

1) and the One “in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Colossians 2:3).

D) Jesus actually describes himself as greater than Solomon: *The queen of the South will rise up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it, for she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and behold, someone greater than Solomon is here.* — Matthew 12:42

As we approach the book of Proverbs, Jesus does not intend to crush us with layer upon layer of demand.

A) In the book of Proverbs, it is as if Jesus himself is taking us by the hand, showing us how to live,
1) Lovingly guiding us through this life.

B) So the invitation to come and receive wisdom is really an invitation to come and receive Jesus.

²⁸ Come to Me, all *you* who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke *is* easy and My burden is light.” Matt 11:28-30

C) He intends to help us.

1) The book of Proverbs is practical help from God for weak people like us stumbling through daily life.

D) It is his counsel for the perplexed, his strength for the defeated,

1) his warning to the proud, his mercy for the broken.

As we approach the book of Proverbs, we have three big hopes for you.

A) Our **first hope** is that you would clearly see and experience Jesus, the wisest person who has ever lived.

B) We want Jesus to lead, govern, and guide your steps as your great Counselor, friend, redeemer Lord

C) Our prayer is that you would be captured by his love and drawn by his wisdom.

Our **2nd hope** is that you would receive wisdom from God on what a lifestyle submitted to Jesus looks like.

A) Our prayer is that God would use Proverbs to show you how to live and **respond to everyday situations and relationships.**

B) We want to be a church that fears God, pursues wisdom, and rejects the foolish ways of this world
1) His wisdom: relationships, money, sex, work, parent

C) Our **third hope** is that you would display to the world what a life that has been redeemed by Jesus looks like.

1) Jesus said that we the church are to be like Salt and light in this dark world

D) Our prayer is that Proverbs would shape the way you live to such a degree that family, friends, neighbors,

1) and co-workers are drawn to the light and wisdom of Jesus.

E) Sound good? – Excited?

Ready to jump in ? Proverbs chapter 9

A) This book is framed as discussion on wisdom and one of the metaphors that it uses is that on an invitation to dinner from two ladies

B) Two ladies have set up a banquet feast and invited you to dine

C) The first lady that has prepared her table with her delicacies set a place for you and set out an invitation – IS LADY FOLLY

D) The 2nd lady that has prepared her table with her delicacies set a place for you and set out an invitation is LADY Wisdom

The lady folly and the lady wisdom both desire to be in an intimate relationship with you

A)Both as crying out today in Vista, OCSD SM,CB, FB – North County - Come and dine with me

B)Lets look first at Folly Chapter 9 – Who is this woman Folly that wants to be your friend ?

1)I am going to put this up on the screen because I like the way it reads in the ESV – better than the NKJV

13 The woman Folly is loud; she is seductive and knows nothing. 14 She sits at the door of her house; she takes a seat on the highest places of the town, 15 calling to those who pass by, who are going straight on their way, 16 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” Lurking, trolling And to him who lacks sense she says, 17 “Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” 18 But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

Notice the description of Lady Folly: She is loud, she is a seductress, she sits calling out – Come Dine

A)V.14 Interesting she targets those who are going straight – those trying to walk on the straight path.

B)There are some people that she doesn't need to call out to – they just run to her.

1)But she targets those who are on the straight path – those wanting to do what is right

C)She is a seductress – V.13b – She knows nothing

1)In other words she is all looks but no substance – Like cotton candy

She is seductive because sin is seductive!

A)The Bible says that sin is pleasurable for a season!

B)How many of you have had fun SINNING?

1)Pleasure in Sinning – (Can I admit that in church)

C)The Bible says that there is pleasure in sin for a season but the end of it is death!

See the power of sin is that is deceptive.

A)It has a way of painting a picture that is **inviting, appealing, even tantalizing**

B)It seeks to suck you in but the problem is – Sin will kill you – sin destroys things

C)Very few people ever run into sin – knowing it is going to kill them

1)That looks like a great way to destroy my life – my family - Lets go for it! -

D)People run toward sin because it looks good – inviting!

1)It is like a cupcake laced with poison -

Lady Folly is seductive

A)But this woman folly promises things that her table can never deliver

B)Money can't satisfy – Rockefeller how many millions – 1 more

C)A husband or wife will not complete you

D)Your job is not going to give you the sense of purpose or identity that you are looking for

E)Sex doesn't produce love

But Folly yells out to us on a daily basis – Come eat at my table

A)But lady folly doesn't really want to you to dine with you her –

B)she wants to dine on you - - you are the main course – She wants to devour you

C)She calls out and those passing by saying – I have what is sweet, pleasant – our dirty little secret

V.18 But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of Sheol.

D)Under her table are corpses – Like one of those freaky movies – dead bodies in every room – coming out of closets

1)Basement full of corpses

Jesus said this about Satan – He is a thief and robbery who comes to kill to rob and to destroy – that is LADY FOLLY

A)Satan is not your friend

B)But Jesus said I have come that you might have life and that more abundantly

Here is the problem with lady folly: We are hard wired to hear her voice

A)Proverbs 22:15 - Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,

B)That is the life verse of every toddlers mom -

1)AMY LIGHT SOCKET

2)Al Cat poop

C)Sinful nature – we are born with – Born into Folly

1)Easy to find our way there – our flesh is drawn

D)We have all eaten at her table – Again she doesn't want to dine she wants to Devour!

E) So the first lady is lady folly!

But there is another lady in proverbs who invites us to dine and that is Lady Wisdom

A)Lady wisdom is also crying out in Vista.....

B)She has a cry that goes to the roof tops as well

Chapter 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

2 She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

3 She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, 4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!”

As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 5 “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

6 Forsake foolishness and live, and go in the way of understanding. Esv – Walk in the way of Insight

Lady wisdom calls out to us!

A)She promises Life – Forsake foolishness and live

B)She promises insight

C)Jump back into Chapter 8 – See what else she offers

Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice?

2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill,
Beside the way, where the paths meet.

3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city,
At the entrance of the doors: 4 “To you, O men, I

call,
And my voice *is* to the sons of men.

5 O you simple ones, understand prudence,
And you fools, be of an understanding heart.

6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things,
And from the opening of my lips **will come right things;**

7 For my mouth will **speak truth;** Wickedness *is*
an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth *are* with
righteousness;

Nothing crooked or perverse *is* in them.

9 They *are* all plain to him who understands, And
right to those who find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And
knowledge rather than choice gold;

11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies,
And all the things one may desire cannot be
compared with her.

12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out
knowledge *and* discretion.

13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil;
Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the
perverse mouth I hate.

14 **Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am
understanding, I have strength.**

15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of
the earth.- **Authority**

17 I love those who love me, And those who seek
me diligently will find me.

18 **Riches and honor** *are* with me, Enduring riches
and righteousness.

19 My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold,
And my revenue than choice silver.

20 I traverse (Walk in) the way of **righteousness,** In
the midst of the paths of **justice,**

21 That I may cause those who love me **to inherit**
wealth,

That I may fill their treasuries.

She offers that which is of Value!

A)Lady Folly – Pleasure for a season – that ends in death

B)Lies instead of truth – looks but no substance

C)Lady Wisdom:

- Life instead of death
- Insight and understanding
- Counsel and strength
- Value and authority
- Riches and honor
- Righteousness and justice
- An inheritance

D)**Is there really a choice?** And yet people choose lady follow every day!

So how do we walk toward the banquet with Lady Wisdom? Where does it start?

A)Chapter 9:10 **The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.**

B)What does it mean to fear God? Afraid of God?

C)Step out of line smack you – breaks go out on your car **GOD FATHER** – not the God who is your father

D)What then is the fear of the Lord?

1st Reverence – A sense of Awe! – Deep Respect

A)Think of God – He is awesome in his power and majesty

B)He is Holy – He is a consuming fire

1)But his heart is not to burn me up – but to burn in me – to brighten me up

C)Although –He is Holy Awesome – Majestic – he always presents this invitation to Know Him

1)To draw near to him –

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

A)Often when the Bible talks about **Knowing God** it uses a word that speaks of knowing him in a intimate way!

B)The more our knowledge grows the More our Reverence grows – sense of awestruck grows

1)But also the More we enjoy Him

Think of it this way: There is a legendary surf Spot near Newport beach called the Wedge

A)On a big day – the wedge is pumping 20 foot faces!

B)It is absolutely **AWESOME to behold** – shear power of the waves

1)and the unique way it breaks is INCREDIBLE

C)As a kid we would go down the wedge big day – blown away

Some people no understanding approach it casually end up getting wiped out/ messed up killed

A)Stupid like slapping a lion on the face – who does that right

B)But when someone respects it and understand it – Actually really enjoy it

C)Friend **Mike Harris** – Respects the wave – great surfer - He understands – So it and enjoys – PICS

D)**Ventures out Fearless** – this is not going to Kill me

1)But a respect – He knows that it could

The Fear of the Lord is a Reverential Awe!

A)This is God I am dealing with!

B)Not the man upstairs, or the big guy in the sky or whatever other trivial names people have invented for God!

C)Maker of the Universe – spoke into existence

1)The one in whom my very breath us held!

D)**Reverence and respect – but also a knowledge and understanding from the Word that He loves me**

1)That He is for me!

2)He LONGS for me to enjoy life with Him

2nd Adoration

A)I love Him and adore him and worship Him with a deep love!

B)The More I understand and grow in the knowledge of HIS love for me!

1)The more my heart falls in love with him!

C) Produces in me this utter dread of doing something to cause him grief

1) Girl with Dad – party

You could say I have this type of Fear of Denise

A) Not afraid of her – poison in my eggs tomorrow

B) But about a year into our marriage my wife said something that rocked me to the core

1) All the Men in my life let me down – Very Dysfunctional family - 3 dads

C) All of that had caused great pain – that Jesus has been able to overcome – even though hard at times

1) This was one of those hard moments

When She said that – seeing the pain on her face!

A) Rocked me – I don't want to ever do anything that would cause her that kind of pain.

B) I love her so much – I don't want to cause her grief in that way

C) When we were dating: Heavy sexual attraction – I won't lie – TEMPTED!

Listen up you single people – dating people – the thing that kept us pure – dating

A) I knew if we crossed that line – it was going to really hurt her relationship with Jesus

B) And that was the most attractive thing to me about her!

1) No way I wanted to hurt her in that way!

C) So the Fear of the Lord is an adoration that is born out of love

1) Where I don't want to do anything to cause the Lord grief

D) Understanding – God is for me – wants the best

1) How do I know that? The Cross!

Romans 8:32 - He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?

E) He already gave you his best/ His Son - so he is not going to leave you hanging now.

So Talking these two ideas of Reverence & adoration

A) The Fear of God could be summed up to one simple question - Jesus what do you want?

B) My relationships – WDYW – Money – WDYW – Sex life – WDYW – Singleness – WDYW

1) Parenting – WDYW – Work ethic – WDYW Home – WDYW

Listen His will is not against you!

A) So even if his will for you for some reason involves suffering - Here is what you can BANK ON

B) If He laid down His life for you – if he took your punishment – YOU CAN TRUST HIM

1) He didn't save you to leave you alone – Finish the Work

C) You can trust Him – Something allowed into your life

1) You can handle it – because you can do all things... thru Christ who strengthens you

D) Not a Christ follower – Fear of God same question – What do you want? –

1) Answer - Your heart – where it starts

E) Died Rose.... Relationship – Today- Come