

- A. "Turn to my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you." Proverbs 1:23
- We often pause, but don't turn.
- B. "There is no wisdom and no understanding and no counsel against the Lord." Proverbs 21:30
- This has to do with knowledge and authority
- C. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding." Proverbs 9:10
- Reverence and awe of the greatness of God's character and grace. Wisdom begins with the gospel.
- D. "Cease striving (be still) and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10a
- We must find a quiet place for ourselves and our children.
- E. "Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your days." Proverbs 19:20
- Discipline is humbling. There is no wisdom without humility.

VII. Some Final Thoughts About Wisdom

\*Resource: God's Wisdom For Navigating Life by Tim & Kathy Keller

I. Introduction:

Two Recurring Fantasies: Job & Solomon

What Solomon asked for is our subject this morning: Wisdom

Solomon wrote a whole book on how to become wise: Proverbs

II. Wisdom Defined: The ability to see ourselves and our lives from God's perspective which results in the ability to apply God's truth to the reality of life on this earth. It is rooted in reverence for God and His Word.

III. Wisdom Shouts In The Street: Proverbs 1:20-23

Wisdom is personified as a woman crying out in the streets of Jerusalem where all the people of Israel come to worship God.

IV. Who Are These People Wisdom Is Shouting To?

They are God's people. People like you and me who have encountered obstacles and dangers that would keep them from wisdom.

A. The Obstacles: (vs. 20-21) Obstacles are things that get in the way and keep us from getting where we need to go.

- 1. They are Distracted: So distracted that they can't seem to hear the voice of wisdom over the noise of their lives.

When you see "noisy", think busy. Busy with activities of all kinds.

2. They have lost the ability to see and hear: In their busyness they have lost “eye contact” and the ability to hear as well.

“Noise” represents a life overcome by doing that which ultimately leads to hearing loss.

B. The Dangers (v. 22) The fact that wisdom is crying out in the streets indicates a sense of urgency and an indication that danger is approaching.

The people are in danger of becoming 3 kinds of people: a naïve one, a scoffer or a fool. The “storm” and the “whirlwind” are coming which represents the consequences of becoming this kind of person (v. 27)

1. The Naïve One: A naïve person sees the world as he/she wants it to be, not how it actually is. Proverbs describes it as “simple minded”. Not the inability to think but the refusal to think. It is life lived on the surface subject to the deception of others and of culture.

2. The Scoffer: The opposite of naïve but not in a good way! It is cynicism, sarcasm and arrogance packaged as wisdom. To the scoffer everything and everyone is suspect. Everyone has an angle. Scoffers tear down, they do not build.

3. The Fool: There are 3 character qualities present in a chronically foolish person. A fool is rebellious, obstinate and unteachable. Fools are their own authority and they do not learn from pain. (Proverbs 19:29b)

V. So Is Wisdom Shouting To You And Me?

If so, what is wisdom shouting to us?

\*Wisdom involves both positive and negative. The negative is the warning aspect. The positive is the instruction aspect. We must hear the warning before we can hear the instruction.

Questions to ask ourselves:

A. Distraction: Are you ever really quiet? Is there any margin in your life? How much effort is expended in maintaining your blessings?

B. Eyesight and Hearing: When was the last time you saw God do something in your life? When was the last time you heard Him speaking to you? How big of a deal is gratitude and thanksgiving in your life?

C. Naïve: What do you believe will make you happy? How often are you surprised by the results of your decisions? Do you find yourself easily swayed in your beliefs?

D. Scoffer: Do you often find satisfaction in the failures and shortcoming of others? Do you often find you are the exception to the rules? When you encounter Biblical teaching you disagree with, how do you react?

E. Fool: Do you find yourself in the middle of drama over and over again? When you are corrected or rebuked, what is your typical reaction? Do you ask for advice or counsel when you are unsure of what to do? Are you ever unsure?