

Proverbs: Great Advice for Everyday Living

Lesson 24 - Wisdom is Calling

Warm up -

1. What was the good advice that the following people received but chose to ignore?
 - a. Cinderella
 - b. Lot's wife (see Gen. 19:17,26)
 - c. Darva Conger (of *Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire* fame)
 - d. fill in your own example
2. Who was the last person who gave you good advice that you wish you had taken?
 - coach
 - friend
 - parent
 - other:
3. Why do you think it's so hard to take advice from others?

Lesson -

Last time, we learned that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. That we should examine life by the rules made by the Creator God. That if we do so, we'll have a good life (but not necessarily one that is easy or free of suffering).

What are the effects of not listening to wisdom? In a word, not good.

If you're listening for it, wisdom isn't so hard to hear. In fact, Proverbs tells us that wisdom makes sure she is heard by standing at the corners of busy main streets, urging us to do what is right. The opposite of wisdom, folly, usually whispers her destructive advice in secret.

Generally speaking, there's a big difference between doing what's right and doing what's wrong. Certainly, some decisions are more difficult than others. Sometimes doing what's right falls into a gray area where there are a number of right things to choose from. Should you apply to this school or that one? Major in art or business? Try out for the soccer team or the improv team? No matter what we need to decide, wisdom speaks to us from many sources - teachers, parents, youth group leaders, friends, pastors.

Folly is choosing not to accept wisdom's advice. When you choose folly over wisdom, disaster results! Don't expect to lie to your folks about where you've been and still be able to enjoy their trust. Don't expect to sleep with

your boyfriend/girlfriend and not get hurt. Don't expect to skip classes and neglect your homework and get good grades and a scholarship. Disaster, distress, and trouble are the fruit of folly, says the writer of Proverbs. A painful lesson most of us have learned.

Here's the deal: when we act with wisdom, God gives us more wisdom. When we choose to ignore God and act like fools, God allows us to experience the consequences of our actions. So get out and listen to the clear voice of wisdom. Ignore the siren song of folly. It's a no-brainer.

Read Proverbs 1:20 - 33

1. As you read this, look for the results of refusing wisdom and of accepting wisdom.

2. How difficult is it to hear the voice of wisdom? Where can one go to hear wisdom?

3. How does wisdom react when she is ignored repeatedly?

4. What are the sources of wisdom in your life?

- parents

-magazines

-teachers

-friends

-the Bible/God

-movies

-other:

What stops you from listening more closely to wisdom?

5. Think of a foolish decision you made. Did you make a conscious choice between wisdom and folly? What were the consequences?

6. How will you apply what you learned from this lesson to a situation you are facing right now?

7. Sometimes, a friend won't listen to wisdom about poor behavior or unhealthy relationships. Is there anything you can do? What is your responsibility to that person?

8. "For waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them: but whosoever listens to me will live . . .without fear of harm"

(vv. 32-33). Is this true in your experience? Why is it that all foolish people sometimes seem to get ahead while those who listen to wisdom suffer?