



# WISDOM

## WISDOM: The Two Tests

May 23, 2021 | Speaker: Roger Record, Youth Pastor / Missions Director

### SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Honor the Lord with your wealth,  
with the first fruits of all your crops;  
<sup>10</sup> then your barns will be filled to overflowing,  
and your vats will brim over with new wine.  
<sup>11</sup> My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline,  
and do not resent his rebuke,  
<sup>12</sup> because the Lord disciplines those he loves,  
as a father the son he delights in.  
<sup>13</sup> Blessed are those who find wisdom,  
those who gain understanding,  
<sup>14</sup> for she is more profitable than silver  
and yields better returns than gold.  
*Proverbs 3:9-14*

### **Prosperity and Adversity are the two great tests.**

Here's why because they do two great things: One is that they show the good or evil in your heart. And they show what you worship. You can either deny what these things are showing you and become as Proverbs says "A fool", or you could embrace it and accept it even though it may be painful but then grow.

### **No matter who you are,**

You can be as close to God as you can be,  
You will experience prosperity and adversity,  
Success and suffering  
Everything going your way ...Nothing going your way!

### **Jesus and the Two Tests**

#### **Test #1: Success**

<sup>18</sup> Many people, because they had heard that he had performed this sign, went out to meet him. <sup>19</sup> So the Pharisees said to one another, "See, this is getting us nowhere. Look how the whole world has gone after him!" John 12:18-19

**Jesus used His success to help people,  
Heal people.  
Restore and resurrect people.  
Reach out in love on everyone around Him...point them to His Father in Heaven!**

## **Test #2: Adversity and Suffering**

“Abba, Father, everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me.”  
Matthew 26:39

Jesus added, “I want your will to be done, not mine.”  
Matthew 14:36

**Jesus was willing to face the suffering head-on if that’s what God wanted of him. Jesus is saying you will experience suffering but I changed things so that in Me there will be a day when there are no more tears no more suffering!**

In bringing many sons and daughters to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through what he suffered.  
Hebrews 2:10

“ The mark of wisdom is to be ready for suffering. If you aren’t, you aren’t competent with regard to the realities of LIFE. But suffering is also a discipline for growth in wisdom. It can drive you toward GOD into greater LOVE and strength.” Or away from God and into hardness of heart.”  
- Dr. Tim Keller

### **Closing Thoughts:**

You have to humble yourself in the Spiritual danger of success to become wise.  
On the other hand you have to you have to affirm yourself in the Spiritual danger of adversity in order to become wise.

## **PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

*(for personal and small group discussion)*

1. How have you done when tested with prosperity?
2. How have you done when tested with adversity and suffering?
3. Do you have people or a person who can say anything to you? Keep you accountable?
4. What does the word Discipline mean to you?
5. There is nothing more Spiritually dangerous than succeeding, There is nothing more Spiritually dangerous than to be suffering. Why?
6. What can you learn from Jesus as He takes the two tests?
7. Some other next steps
  - a. Serve – check out opportunities to serve at [damascus.com/serve](https://www.damascus.com/serve)
  - b. Be in community, join a group. Check it out at <https://www.damascus.com/groups>

