



AT THE TABLE

A BIBLE STUDY TEACHING SERIES

SESSION 1

Complacency

Proverbs 1:29–33 • MSG

IN HIS PRESENCE

CROWN CODE • REAL MAN CODE • MOM CODE

AT THE TABLE

Session 1: Complacency

OUR TEXT

Proverbs 1:29–33 (MSG)

"Because you hated Knowledge and had nothing to do with the Fear-of-God, because you wouldn't take my advice and brushed aside all my offers to train you, well, you've made your bed—now lie in it; you wanted your own way—now, how do you like it? Don't you see what happens, you simpletons, you idiots? Carelessness kills; complacency is murder. First pay attention to me, and then relax. Now you can take it easy—you're in good hands."

1 WHAT COMPLACENCY MEANS

In everyday English, complacency is a quiet satisfaction with how things are — enough that you stop paying attention, stop striving, stop being alert. It's not laziness exactly. It's often dressed up as comfort. It's the feeling of "I've got this handled" that makes you stop checking.

That's exactly why the MSG translation is so jarring: "complacency is murder."

Complacency doesn't feel dangerous. It feels like rest. But Wisdom calls it lethal.

2 WHAT IT MEANS IN THE BIBLE

Proverbs 1 opens with Lady Wisdom personified — she is not tucked away in a temple, she is shouting in the street, at the town center, at the busiest corner. She is loud, public, and impossible to miss. She called, she reached out, and she was ignored — not through ignorance, but by people who laughed at her counsel and brushed aside her offers to train them.

"Carelessness kills; complacency is murder." It's the ease of the fool who mistakes silence for safety. The tragedy isn't that they didn't know better. It's that Wisdom was shouting, and they got too comfortable to listen.

Verse 33 is the turn: "First pay attention to me, and then relax." Notice the order. Attentiveness comes before rest. Real peace is downstream of listening, not a substitute for it.

3 ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURES

Amos 6:1 (ESV)

"Woe to those who are at ease in Zion, and to those who feel secure on the mountain of Samaria."

1 Thessalonians 5:6 (ESV)

"So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober."

Proverbs 3:5–6 (ESV)

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths."

4 TEACHING

Complacency rarely announces itself as rebellion. It announces itself as comfort. Nobody wakes up and decides to stop caring about their walk with God — they just stop leaning in. They coast. And coasting has a direction: downhill.

Complacency often shows up right after a season of faithfulness. You built it, you led it, it went well — and it's tempting to exhale and stop listening for the next instruction. Wisdom is still in the street, still calling out.

The question isn't whether God is speaking. It's whether we've gotten too settled to notice.

The mercy is verse 33. God isn't anti-rest. He's anti-*false* rest. He says: pay attention first, then relax. It's "listen, so that your rest is actually secure, not just comfortable."

5 PONDER

- Where in my life have I mistaken comfort for safety?
- Is there an area where I've stopped listening simply because things feel "fine"?
- What would it look like to trade complacency for attentiveness this season?
- Am I resting after I've paid attention to God, or resting instead of paying attention?

6 PUT IT IN ACTION

- Pick one area of your life that has felt "settled" lately — name it honestly this week.
- Set aside 10 minutes daily this week just to listen in prayer before you speak.
- Ask someone close: "Is there an area where you've noticed me coasting?"
- Journal one specific thing God highlights to you this week as you pay attention.

7 CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray

Father, forgive us for the times we've mistaken silence for peace and comfort for safety. Wake us up where we've grown complacent — in our worship, our relationships, our calling, our watchfulness over our homes. Teach us to listen first, so that the rest You give us is real and secure, not just comfortable. Make us alert, attentive, and hungry for Your voice again. In Jesus' name, Amen.

IN HIS PRESENCE

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