

The Bible 20/20 Week 22: “Wisdom Calls” (6-7-20)

Introduction: Personal example of my need for wisdom

Wisdom Calls . . .

Proverbs 1:5-7 (ESV)

(5) Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance, (6) to understand a proverb and a saying, the words of the wise and their riddles. (7) The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Note: We all need wisdom. **It’s a life long journey of growth and discovery!** Only a fool can’t see that.

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge”

If we seek to grow in wisdom and understanding - it starts right here . . .

1) Seek Wisdom from God

- **Wisdom doesn’t accidentally land on you - obtaining it requires action!**

Proverbs 2:1-5 (ESV)

(1) My son, if you **receive** my words and **treasure** up my commandments with you, (2) making your ear **attentive** to wisdom and **inclining** your heart to understanding; (3) yes, if you **call out** for insight and **raise your voice** for understanding, (4) if you **seek** it like silver and **search** for it as for hidden treasures, (5) then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.

Note: receive, treasure, attentive, incline, call out, speak up, seek, search.

Example: My kids - can’t find anything! I used to find everything for them. Now, I teach them how to look.

When we really seek and treasure wisdom - we will pursue the Lord and His direction. THEN . . .

(vs. 5) **We get understanding (of reverencing God) and knowledge (of God)!**

- **Wisdom comes from God**

Proverbs 2:6-8 (ESV)

(6) For **the LORD gives wisdom**; from his mouth come **knowledge** and **understanding**; (7) he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who **walk in integrity**, (8) **guarding the paths of justice** and watching over the way of his saints.

Note: Wisdom comes to people who will treasure God and the wisdom he offers.

Because if we value it, then we will do something with it - **walking in Integrity and paths of Justice!**

- **Wisdom is a wonderful gift**

Proverbs 2:9-11 (ESV)

(9) Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path; (10) for wisdom will come into your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; (11) discretion will watch over you, understanding will guard you

Note: Wisdom guards, guides, and refreshes the soul

2) Learn wisdom from God (Jesus' example)

Isaiah 11:1-4 (ESV)

(1) There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (2) 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. (3) And his delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, (4) but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

Note: Listen & Learn from God - **This is primary!**

Question: In the rush to know what to do, and how to respond - how much time (comparatively) have you spent seeking the Wisdom of God vs. the Wisdom of Man?

There is power in the Word & Presence of God: Learn to Pray, by **listening w/ your Bible!**

Then . . . Listen & Learn from Others - **This is essential and important, but secondary!**

Example: Jesus as a young man . . .

Luke 2:40 (NKJV)

And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

Note: First he received wisdom at home from God, then he went into the public square . . .

Luke 2:46-47 (NKJV)

(46) Now so it was that after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions. (47) And all who heard Him were astonished at His understanding and answers.

Note: He is found in the midst of teachers (listening & questioning), All those listening to him were astonished at His understanding & answers.

- **Understanding follows "Inquisitive" Learning!**

Examples of Jesus listening & discerning: Nicodemus (John 3), Women at the well (John 4), Roman centurion (Matt 8), Rich young ruler (Matt. 19, Mark 10, Luke 18), Thief on the cross (Luke 23)

Consistently there are 2 key ways Jesus listened:

1) Love & Empathy - Value all people (image-bearers), worthy of respect & honor (All Equal)

2) Discernment & Wisdom - All people have equal value, all ideas do not.

- I should honor and listen to other perspectives. I should empathize in love with others experiences.
- I should use wisdom and discernment when listening to ideas and solutions.

Healthy Approach: You are of immense value, but your idea may not be. BTW - my idea might not be either!

Luke 2:52 (NKJV)

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Note: Jesus increased in wisdom and stature with God and men, & we can receive this gift from him . . .

3) Receive the Life (Spirit) of Wisdom

Homework: On your own - prayerfully explore: **Ephesians 1:15-2:10**

Paul's prayer for the believers who are already known for Trusting God & Loving Others . . .

Ephesians 1:17-21 (ESV)

(17) that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, **may give you the Spirit of wisdom** and of **revelation in the knowledge of him**, (18) having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that **you may know** what is the **hope** to which he has called you, what are the **riches** of his glorious inheritance in the saints, (19) and what is the immeasurable greatness of his **power** toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might (20) that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, (21) far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come.

Note: There is another Kingdom - above all the kingdoms and powers of the earth. God wants to give me the Spirit of wisdom so I can see this kingdom and live accordingly!

*Paul continues into the next chapter with a reminder of How far I've come - rescued by God's mercy & grace

Ephesians 2:8-10 (ESV)

(8) For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, (9) not a result of works, so that no one may boast. (10) For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Note: In Jesus - we have all received privilege (That's what Grace is: The un-merited Favor of God)

- Therefore, we should remember where we have come from (don't take credit for it) and then . . .
- Invite God to reveal to us the good works he is inviting us into - personally and specifically!

Conclusion: We need wisdom. I can't tell you what you should be doing right now, but he can & he will!

It may require adjustment, even repentance, but remember the offer of God's Wisdom still stands . . .

Proverbs 1:20-23 (ESV)

(20) Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; (21) at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: (22) "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? (23) If you turn at my reproof, behold, **I will pour out my spirit to you**; I will make my words known to you.

Let's Pray!

Discussion Questions:

- 1) Why does wisdom begin with the fear of the Lord? What does that phrase mean, and how can we live that out?
- 2) Why does receiving wisdom from God require action on our part? What steps do we take to receive wisdom from God? What can we learn from Jesus' example?
- 3) How did Jesus approach dialog with others? What are some keys to listening and learning from others? Why are empathy and love such an important part of hearing other people's experiences and perspectives?
- 4) Why is it important to position ourselves to receive wisdom from God, before pursuing wisdom from men? How does discernment help us to listen and learn from others, while challenging other's perspectives as well as our own?
- 5) What is the most challenging thing to you from this message? What might God be asking you to shift or change right now in your pursuit of wisdom?