

## Lesson 5 – What does Wisdom Look Like?

Two character traits of the wise woman:

(1) A wise woman is trustworthy.

Proverbs 31: 11

The word trust in Hebrew is “batach.” It means to: trust, be confident, be sure (refuge), be bold, secure, safe.

Hebrews 6:13, 17-20a.

*“Thus God, determining to show more abundantly to the heirs of promise the immutability of His counsel, confirmed it by an oath, that by two immutable things, in which it is impossible for God to lie, we might have strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which enters the Presence behind the veil. ... even Jesus.”*

Two immutable things: God’ Promise and God’s Oath.

Our resource. John 4

Springing up: Jumping, Leaping or gushing (picture of an overflowing fountain.

Genesis 26:23-32

A picture of overflowing water in a dry land, of feasting and peace and blessing and God’s abundant gifts because of the presence of God with His people.

Beersheba: Well & Oath: God’s promised blessing. Because of His presence and provision in our lives, we have a resource that overflows to others.

Proverbs 31:11 “He will have no lack of spoil.”

Spoil: Associated with victory and the gains of victory.

(2) A wise woman is good and does good.

Proverbs 31: 12

The primary meaning is: she is trustworthy in her relationships and does not undermine her husband.

The broader meaning is: God is calling us to goodness, and His work in us is to produce goodness.

God’s Goodness is not deserved

Matthew 5:43-45  
Romans 5:8

Knowing what is good for people in our life requires wisdom.

Wisdom brings discernment about what is good for you and for the others in your life. The idea is that the wise woman builds up the people around her and is a help to them.

Proverbs 14:1  
Romans 14:19

The Greek word edify is “oikodome” and means: a structure or building; to edify. A related word “oidodomeo” means “House-builder.”

There is a broad meaning to the word “good.”

The Hebrew word for “good” in Proverbs 31:12 is “towb” and means: beautiful, best, better, bountiful, cheerful, favor, dine, glad, good, graciously, kindness, loving merry, most, pleasant, pleasure, precious, prosperity, ready, sweet, wealth, welfare, be well favored.

From this word we learn that we may have an influence for good in many areas, e.g. nutrition; social skills; relationships; wholesome entertainment; finances, etc.

Some things look good, but are not.

Genesis 3:1-7.  
The fruit of the tree looked edible.

Doing good and promoting good for others requires discernment.

Proverbs 11:27

How do we discern what is good?

Romans 12:1-2

So that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

What are the steps to achieving that goal – of proving what is God’s good and acceptable and perfect will?

- 1) Present your bodies as a living sacrifice
- 2) Do not be conformed to this world
- 3) Be transformed by renewing of your mind.

As we have seen, wisdom begins with the fear of the Lord.

Then we must apply wisdom --- two aspects of that according to Romans 12:1-2.

First: Recognize and avoid the world's way of thinking  
 Secondly: Get to know God's way of thinking.

Filter everything through the Word of God.

Some guidelines for what is good from the Book of Proverbs:

Prov 2:1, 9	“My son, if you receive my word, and treasure my commands within you. Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path. “
Prov 15:23	“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”
Prov 16:20	“He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the Lord, happy is he.”
Prov 17:20	“He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.” .
Prov 17:22	“A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”
Prov 17:26	Also, to punish the righteous is not good, Nor to strike princes for their uprightness.”
Prov 18:5	“It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.”
Prov 19:2	“Also, it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.”
Prov 19:8	“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul. He who keeps understanding will find good.”
Prov 20:23	“Diverse weights are an abomination to the Lord, And dishonest scales are not good.”
Prov 22:1	“A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, Loving favor rather than silver and gold.”
Prov 24:13	“My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste.”

Prov 24:25	“But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.”
Prov 25:27	“It is not good to eat much honey: So to seek one’s own glory is not glory.”
Prov 28:21	“To show partiality is not good, Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.”

What principles do you note in these passages that help to define what is good?

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Applications:

What promises have you made recently to your family or friends? How will you carry out those promises to them?

How does focusing on the trustworthiness of God provide a resource for you to meet the demands of life?

How do you define what is “good” for you and for your family? How does your definition of good possibly differ from the world’s definition of what is good? For example, is suffering a good thing for a believer? When and how?