



Sermon Title: Pastoral Passages week 1

Sermon Title: Proverbs 9

Date: 7/10/2022

Proverbs 9 reminds us that making wise choices is always a possibility.

BIG IDEA: Allow The Wisdom of God to be your guide.

HOW IS GOD'S WISDOM LIFE-GIVING?

Proverbs 9:1-6

This passage shows five life-giving attributes that the personified wisdom embodies. Recognizing these will help us to better identify and choose wisdom.

1. Wisdom welcomes everyone
2. Wisdom delivers on the gifts it promises
3. Wisdom intentionally pursues us
4. Wisdom offers protection in the midst of your vulnerability
5. Wisdom keeps us accountable to the ways of Christ

But it doesn't do all of this unchallenged. Wisdom has an adversary, and that adversary is folly.

FOLLY IS MANIPULATIVE AND DEADLY.

Proverbs 9:13-18

This moment of being lured off of the path God has prepared for us by folly is exactly what folly wants from us. So here are five characteristics of Folly that can keep you from falling prey to her deadly snare.

1. Folly Voice is enticing
2. Folly's invitation will never fulfill you (She knows nothing)
 - a. It may give you temporary satisfaction, but it will never fulfill you
3. Folly will approach you when you least expect it

4. Folly justifies sin

- a. When the passage refers to stolen water, what it's doing is using a cultural phrase at the time that would refer to unfaithfulness, and in this context, what folly is trying to do is say that unfaithfulness tastes good, so you should do it.

5. Folly's house is the house of the dead

You have the opportunity to choose which one will help to guide you in life.

EMBODYING WISDOM IS EMBODYING CHRIST

Proverbs 9:7-12

Within this passage, we see the reflection of two different kinds of people. One is a scoffer, meaning they mock faith and those who share it with them. And the other is one who receives not only correction but also has a healthy fear of the Lord. When we break down these passages, we see

(v.7) A scoffer responds to corrections with Verbal abuse. In other words, when someone corrects a scoffer, they don't listen. They attack them. The scoffers' priority is a feeling of self-preservation at the expense of others.

(v.8) A scoffer hates people who share wisdom with them. When someone tries to counsel with wisdom, the scoffer runs them away. Now a wise person loves those who help them grow and keep them accountable.

(v.9) A Wise person has no limit in their growth, but a scoffer has no potential for growth.

(v.10) A wise person understands their position before God, and this leads them to consistently choose wisdom.

So in this life, you will be 1 of these two people. You will either be a foolish scoffer who mocks Jesus or a wise person whose very motive in life is Jesus.

1 Corinthians 1:24 but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

Discussion Questions:

- **What about the sermon stuck with you this week? What part challenged your thinking?**
- **Can a fool ever become a wise person? What would have to happen for that to take place?**
- **Is the ability to make wise decisions linked to a person's intelligence? Explain.**
- **What are some wise decisions you've made in life? What are some foolish decisions? How have they impacted your life today?**
- **How would you counsel someone on the best way to start making wise decisions?**