

Intro / Review

- John 15:15 – I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #1) Creation

- Romans 1:20 – Since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made...

Twelve Ways God Speaks: #2) Wisdom

- Proverbs 1:20-23 – 20 Out in the open, wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square; 21 on top of the wall she cries out, at the city gate she makes her speech: 22 “How long will you who are simple love your simple ways? How long will mockers delight in mockery and fools hate knowledge? 23 Repent at my rebuke! Then I will pour out my thoughts to you, I will make known to you my teachings.”
- Proverbs 8:4-8 – 4 To you, O people, I call out; I raise my voice to all mankind. 5 You who are simple, gain prudence; you who are foolish, set your hearts on it. 6 Listen, for I have trustworthy things to say; I open my lips to speak what is right. 7 My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness. 8 All the words of my mouth are just; none of them is crooked or perverse.
- Wisdom, Knowledge, and Truth
 - Wisdom = the practical know-how to live a godly life
 - Knowledge = information about God and His Creation
 - Truth = the end-point where both Wisdom and Knowledge lead
- Quote: John Calvin – “All truth is God's truth.”
- Jesus is Wisdom and Knowledge and Truth
 - Proverbs 8:22-23 – 22 The Lord brought me forth as the first of his works, before his deeds of old; 23 I was formed long ages ago, at the very beginning, when the world came to be.
 - Paul called Jesus “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God” (1 Corinthians 1:24)
 - Colossians 2:3 – in [Jesus] are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.
 - John 14:6 – ...I am the way and the truth and the life
- We Honor God When We Use our Minds
 - Quote: Lord Kelvin – “Do not be afraid of being free thinkers. If you think strongly enough you will be forced by science to the belief in God, which is the foundation of all Religion. You will find science not antagonistic, but helpful to Religion.”
 - Quote: St. Augustine of Hippo – “The truth is like a lion; you don't have to defend it. Let it loose; it will defend itself.”
 - Mark 12:30 – Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.
 - John 4:23-24 – 23 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. 24 God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.
 - 2 Timothy 2:15 – Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.
- Life is Harder if You're Stupid
 - Quote: NOT John Wayne – “Life is hard; it's harder if you're stupid.”
 - Peter said we have an enemy who “prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour” (1 Peter 5:8)...
 - Paul said we can't be “unaware of his schemes” or Satan will “outwit us” (2 Corinthians 2:11)...

- Jesus said He was sending us out “like sheep among wolves” and so we need to be “as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)...
- “shrewd” = Doesn’t mean being smart or having a wealth of knowledge, but to be thoughtful, cautious, intentional
- God Conceals the Truth so We Have to Seek it Out
 - Proverbs 25:2 – It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; to search out a matter is the glory of kings.
 - “to search out” = Heb. chaqar = to investigate, examine thoroughly... lit. meaning “to pierce, penetrate, probe”
 - In Romans 16:25 (and elsewhere), Paul refers to the Gospel as “the mystery hidden for long ages past”
 - In 1 Corinthians 2:7, Paul says “We declare God’s wisdom, a mystery that has been hidden...”
 - 1 Corinthians 1:24 says that in Jesus are “hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”
 - Proverbs 8:17 – I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.
- What Does This Look Like, Practically?
 - Acts 15:28 – It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements...
 - Acts 14:5-7 – 5 There was a plot afoot among both Gentiles and Jews, together with their leaders, to mistreat them and stone them. 6 But they found out about it and fled to the Lycaonian cities of Lystra and Derbe and to the surrounding country, 7 where they continued to preach the gospel.
 - Acts 8:36-37 – 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water. What can stand in the way of my being baptized?”
- Four Steps to Hear Wisdom’s Call
 - Proverbs 1:20 – Out in the open wisdom calls aloud, she raises her voice in the public square
 - Daniel 2:22 – He reveals deep and hidden things; he knows what lies in darkness, and light dwells with him.
 - Proverbs 9:10 – The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.
 - “fear” = specifically awe, reverence, respect... not terror, horror, dread
 - James 1:5 – If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.
 - 1 Corinthians 2:14-16 – 14 The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit. 15 The person with the Spirit makes judgments about all things, but such a person is not subject to merely human judgments, 16 for, “Who has known the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?” But we have the mind of Christ.
 - Four Steps to Hear Wisdom’s Call:
 - 1) Understand that Wisdom lies with God
 - 2) Fear and Respect Him as God
 - 3) Ask Him for Wisdom
 - 4) Trust that you have the Mind of Christ