



## Wisdom and Whispers PT. IV | Proverbs | Mark Allen | 05.17.26

### The Book of Proverbs

#### Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to open hearts and minds to His truth and to help group members apply what they learn.

#### Icebreaker

Share one piece of advice you received from your parents that has stayed with you throughout your life.

#### Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **The Soul's Three Parts:** Psalms addresses emotions, Ecclesiastes addresses the mind, and Proverbs addresses the will.
2. **The Mystery of Proverbs:** The book reveals how to align our will with God's will through wisdom and instruction.
3. **The Whisper of God:** "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Proverbs 1:7).
4. **Three Types of People:**
  - Those who learn from others' mistakes (wisest)
  - Those who learn from their own mistakes (most common)
  - Fools who never learn (tragic)

#### Discussion Questions

#### Understanding the Text

1. Why do you think Solomon wrote most of Proverbs as a father speaking to his son? What does this tell us about how wisdom should be passed down?
2. Pastor Mark mentioned that Proverbs is about bringing our will into submission to God's will. Why is this so difficult for us? What makes our will different from God's will?
3. Read Proverbs 3:5-7 together. What does it mean practically to "trust in the Lord with all your heart" rather than leaning on your own understanding?

### **Personal Reflection**

4. Pastor Mark shared that he read one chapter of Proverbs every day since high school. What spiritual disciplines have been most formative in your life? What keeps you from being consistent?
5. Which of the Proverbs mentioned in the sermon spoke most directly to you? Why did it resonate?
  - Choosing friends wisely (1:10)
  - Honoring God with your wealth (3:9-10)
  - Accepting God's discipline (3:11-12)
  - Avoiding adultery (5:8-15)
  - Controlling anger (22:24)
  - The power of the tongue (18:21)
6. Pastor Mark admitted he used to be an angry man but God changed him through Proverbs. What area of your life needs correction that you've been resisting?

### **Challenging Topics**

7. The sermon addressed tithing (Proverbs 3:9-10). How do you respond to the statement: "I would rather live with 90% blessed than 100% cursed"? What role does trust play in financial stewardship?
8. Proverbs 12:1 says "he who hates reproof is stupid." Why is it so hard to receive correction? How can we develop a heart that welcomes godly reproof?
9. Discuss Proverbs 18:21: "Death and life are in the power of the tongue." How have you seen this principle play out in marriages, families, or friendships? What needs to change about how you speak?

## Practical Application

10. Pastor Mark mentioned having godly counselors and mentors (Proverbs 11:14, 27:17). Who are the "iron sharpening iron" people in your life? If you don't have any, how can you find them?
  11. For parents: How does Proverbs challenge your approach to disciplining and instructing your children? What wisdom from Proverbs do you most want to pass on to the next generation?
  12. Read Proverbs 1:7 again. What does "the fear of the Lord" look like in everyday life? How is it different from being afraid of God?
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## Practical Applications for This Week

Choose one or more of these action steps:

### Individual Actions:

- Commit to reading one chapter of Proverbs each day this month (matching the date)
- Identify one area where your will conflicts with God's will and pray specifically for transformation
- Memorize Proverbs 3:5-6
- Ask God to reveal one person who could serve as a mentor or accountability partner
- Examine your speech this week—are you speaking life or death over your relationships?

### Relational Actions:

- If married: Have an honest conversation with your spouse about how you speak to and about each other
- If a parent: Discuss with your spouse what wisdom from Proverbs you want to intentionally teach your children
- Reach out to someone younger in the faith to share wisdom you've learned
- Ask a trusted friend: "What area of my life do you see that needs correction?"

**Financial Action:**

- [ ] If you don't currently tithe, prayerfully consider what God is asking you to do about honoring Him with your finances
- [ ] Review your budget through the lens of trusting God with the "first" of your produce

**Reflection Questions for Personal Journaling**

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to me through this study of Proverbs?
2. What specific change in thinking (repentance) is God calling me to make?
3. In what area of my life am I being "wise in my own eyes" instead of fearing the Lord?
4. What would it look like for me to move from being foolish to being wise in this area?

**Closing Exercise**

**Wisdom Inventory:** On a scale of 1-10, rate yourself in these areas from Proverbs:

- Choosing godly friends and influences
- Accepting correction and discipline
- Controlling your tongue
- Honoring God with your finances
- Seeking wise counsel before making decisions
- Staying faithful in your commitments
- Managing anger appropriately

Share one area where you rated yourself lowest and ask the group to pray for you.

## Closing Prayer

Pray together using Proverbs 3:5-7 as a guide:

"Lord, help us to trust in You with all our hearts. Forgive us for leaning on our own understanding. In all our ways, help us to acknowledge You. Make our paths straight. Keep us from being wise in our own eyes. Help us to fear You and turn away from evil. Amen."

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## For Next Week

Read Ecclesiastes in preparation for next week's discussion. As you read, pay attention to Solomon's search for meaning and purpose.