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Sermon Series – Snares

Avoiding the Snares

"The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 13:14 KJV

"The fear of the Lord *is* the beginning of wisdom; A good understanding have all those who do *His commandments*. His praise endures forever." Psalm 111:10

"The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death." Proverbs 14:27 KJV

"Wisdom is the principal things: Therefore, get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding." Proverbs 4:7

Proverbs 9:1-6

Wisdom has built her house,
She has carved out her seven pillars;
² She has prepared her food, she has mixed her wine;
She has also set her table;
³ She has sent out her attendants, she calls out
From the tops of the heights of the city:
⁴ "Whoever is naive, let him turn in here!"
To him who lacks understanding she says,
⁵ "Come, eat of my food
And drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶Abandon *your* foolishness and live,
And proceed in the way of understanding.”

James 3:17-18

¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ Real wisdom, God’s wisdom, begins with a holy life and is characterized by getting along with others. It is gentle and reasonable, overflowing with mercy and blessings, not hot one day and cold the next, not two-faced. You can develop a healthy, robust community that lives right with God and enjoy its results *only* if you do the hard work of getting along with each other, treating each other with dignity and honor. – The Message

An essential key to avoiding the snares of the enemy, is to get along with each other and treat each other with honor.

The seven pillars of wisdom:

1. The Pillar of Purity
 - a. Are my motives, actions, and thoughts pure?
 - b. Proverbs 15:9, “The Lord detests the lifestyle of the wicked, but He loves those that pursue purity.” – The Passion Translation
 - c. Establishing pillar of purity in my life will help me avoid the snare of immorality.

2. Pillar of Peace

- a. Do I react to situations and spread chaos, or do I respond and speak peace?
- b. Proverbs 12:25, “Anxious fear brings depression, but a life-giving word of encouragement can do wonders to restore joy to the heart.” – TPT
- c. Establishing pillar of peace in my life will help me avoid the snare of the fear of man.

3. Pillar of Gentleness

- a. Proverbs 13:2, “The words of the wise are kind and easy to swallow.”
- b. Proverbs 15:4, “When you speak healing words you offer others fruit from the tree of life. Unhealthy, negative words do nothing but crush their hopes.” TPT
- c. Do I offer correction with a sharp tongue or a gentle rebuke?
- d. Proverbs 17:8 – Wise instruction is like a costly gem; it turns the impossible into a success.”
- e. Establishing pillar of gentleness in my life will help me avoid the snare of offense.

4. Pillar of Reason

- a. Am I teachable? Do I value what others can teach me?
- b. Proverbs 15:31-33, “Accepting constructive criticism opens your heart and makes you right at home among the wise. Refusing constructive criticism shows you have no interest in improving your life, for revelation insight only comes as you accept correction and the wisdom that it brings. The source

of revelation knowledge is found as you fall down in surrender before the Lord. Don't expect to see Shekinah glory until the Lord see your humility." TPT

- c. Proverbs 12:23, "Those who possess wisdom don't feel the need to impress others with what they know." TPT
 - d. Establishing pillar of reason in my life will help me avoid the snare of pride.
5. Pillar of love (Aramaic), Mercy (Greek)
- a. Proverbs 17:9, "Love overlooks the mistakes of others, but dwelling on the failures of others devastates friendships."
 - b. Kenneth Hagin, book *Love the Way to Victory*
 - i. Do I operate in the God kind of love? Do I love people in a way that gives them hope?
 - ii. I Corinthians 13, the love chapter; "now abide faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these is love."
 - c. Establishing pillar of love in my life will help me avoid the snare of jealousy.
6. An unwavering pillar without hypocrisy
- a. Am I prejudiced? Am I prone to pre-judge based on appearance?
 - b. Do I hold myself to the same standard that I require of others?
 - c. Proverbs 11:1, "To set high standards for someone else and then not live up to them yourself is something that God truly hates. But it pleases God when we apply the right standard of measurement." TPT

d. Establishing an unwavering pillar without hypocrisy in my life will help me avoid the snare of dishonor.

7. Pillar of Righteousness

a. If wisdom is operating in our lives we will bear the harvest of righteousness, we will reap what we sow.

b. Proverbs 12:22, "Live in truth and keep your promises, and the Lord will keep delighting in you." TPT

c. Establishing pillar of righteousness in my life will help me avoid the snare of comparison.

In the life that wisdom builds there is banqueting table filled with truth. Feasting on the Word of God is the only way to gain wisdom. When we feast on the Word, we fill our hearts with truth. We pray in vain for God to give us wisdom if we fail to feast on His Word.