Wisdom Breaks the Cycle of Destruction (III)

Read

Proverbs 4:7; Proverbs 9:10–18

Big Idea

Wisdom doesn't just ask what a decision gives me today. Wisdom asks where that decision will take me tomorrow.

Proverbs 9 presents two competing invitations: **Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly**. Both call out to people. Both offer something. But their destinations could not be more different.

One leads toward life.

The other disguises a road toward destruction.

1. Wisdom Can Protect the Life God Has Given You

Proverbs 9:11

“For by me your days will be multiplied, and years of life will be added to you.”

We cannot purchase additional years of life. Yet Scripture repeatedly connects wisdom with decisions and practices that protect us from unnecessary destruction.

Wisdom cannot make us immortal, but wisdom can keep us from allowing foolishness to destroy what God has entrusted to us.

Some consequences we call “bad luck” are actually the harvest of repeated unwise decisions.

Think About It:
Are there choices in my life that are unnecessarily putting my future, relationships, finances, health, calling, or spiritual life at risk?

2. Folly Makes Wrong Look Attractive

Proverbs 9:17

“Stolen water is sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”

Folly rarely introduces herself by saying:

“Follow me, and I'll destroy your life.”

Instead, she advertises the pleasure.

She emphasizes what you will **feel** and minimizes what you may **lose**.

She shows you **the moment** while hiding **tomorrow**.

The temptation is attractive precisely because the consequences are not included in the advertisement.

Key Principle

Folly shows you the pleasure but hides the price.

That is why something being attractive, exciting, pleasurable, popular, profitable, or easy does not automatically make it wise.

3. Sin Has Fine Print

Proverbs 9:17 gives us Folly's advertisement.

Proverbs 9:18 gives us the fine print.

“But he does not know that the dead are there, that her guests are in the depths of hell.”

The problem is not that Folly's invitation contains no pleasure.

The problem is that **the pleasure is temporary while the consequences can reach much farther.**

What looks like freedom can become bondage.

What looks like a shortcut can become a detour.

What looks like pleasure can produce pain.

What looks harmless today can become destructive tomorrow.

Folly's meal may taste sweet, but Proverbs warns us to look at who has already eaten at her table.

4. Wisdom and Folly Have Different Destinations

The real question is not merely:

“How does this make me feel?”

Wisdom asks:

“Where is this taking me?”

Lady Wisdom leads toward:

Life • Understanding • Maturity • Purpose • The Fear of the Lord

Lady Folly leads toward:

Destruction • Regret • Bondage • Brokenness • Death

Biblical wisdom forces us to think beyond the immediate moment.

Before making a decision, ask:

- Where will this take my finances?
- What will this do to my family and relationships?
- How will this affect my relationship with God?
- What habit am I creating?
- What will happen if I continue making this choice?
- **Where does this road end?**

Sometimes the best way to evaluate a decision is to stop staring at the entrance and look at the destination.

5. The Fear of the Lord Is the Foundation

Proverbs 9:10

“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”

Biblical wisdom is more than intelligence.

You can be highly educated and still make foolish decisions.

You can know facts without knowing what to do.

You can understand consequences intellectually and still ignore them personally.

Biblical wisdom begins when **God becomes the reference point for our decisions.**

The fear of the Lord means that honoring God matters more than satisfying ourselves.

Instead of simply asking:

“What do I want?”

Wisdom teaches us to ask:

“What honors God?”