



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

SERMON TEXT: Proverbs 1:1-7

KEY POINT: God has given us wisdom, but we must apply ourselves to obtain it.

FOR LEADERS

- Theology Thursday: This week on Theology Thursday, pastors Alex & Doug will be starting a 3-week miniseries on "How to Study the Bible"!

GETTING STARTED

- [1] Communities Video: Watch this week's community extras video!
[2] Icebreaker: Share one piece of random wisdom you've received in your life that you'll never forget!
[3] Opener: What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

WHAT WISDOM LOOKS LIKE

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 1:1-7.

Ryan began this sermon by calling to mind a stereotypical wise sage—a reclusive old man with a beard living on top of a mountain. But the book of Proverbs, he argued, shows us quite the opposite; True wisdom is "dusty," shown in the practical outworking of our lives.

- [1] In your own words, how would you describe what it means to be "wise?" What does wisdom look like today?
[2] Give an example of a wise person God has placed in your life. Why do you consider them wise?
[3] Name an area of your own life that you feel you could grow in wisdom.
[4] The opposite of wisdom, we learned, is foolishness. When was a time where the fruit of your own foolishness was evident to you or others?

OBTAINING WISDOM

In the book of Proverbs, the "simple" person (called the "youth") is the one who is in danger of becoming a fool and must obtain wisdom in order to experience blessing in life. As we learned this week, nobody starts out wise in life...rather, we gain wisdom by realizing four things: (1) We need wisdom; (2) Wisdom is passed on; (3) wisdom comes through listening; (4) wisdom requires understanding.

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 1:20-33.

Here in this passage, wisdom is being personified as a woman calling out in the streets to warn and admonish the simple. Unfortunately, many of us take issue with being called simple, even though we are already being foolish if we resent being addressed this way.

- [5] In your own words, how would you define what it means to be foolish? How do we establish a definition of foolishness in a world where "everyone is right in their own eyes?"



Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 2:1-8.

[6] Given this passage, how would you describe the way in which wisdom is passed on? What’s the “chain of transmission?”

In the sermon, Ryan shared a bit about what mentorship looked like in his own life, and mentioned two things he did which were wise: first, he sought out mentorship (didn’t wait for it to fall into his lap), and second, he sought out multiple mentors for different aspects of his life.

[7] What do you think keeps people from actively seeking out others to mentor them?

[8] What has mentorship looked like in your own life? Are there any areas now that you feel you could stand to be mentored in?

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 26:4-5.

[9] This passage reminds us that it is discernment (or understanding) is needed in order to skillfully use wisdom. How do we grow in this type of discernment?

ULTIMATE WISDOM

Sometimes, wisdom can have a very “secular” flavor to. After all, it is closely related to “common sense.” *Don’t be lazy. Don’t be arrogant. Plan for tomorrow.* But, as we see in these passages, biblical wisdom goes far deeper than this, grounding all wisdom in the fear of God.

Ask for a volunteer to read Proverbs 1:7, 3:5-8, and 9:10.

[10] What are some ways in which grouping all wisdom in the fear of God impacts how we determine what is wise and foolish?

Ask for a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 1:18-31

Consider the way Paul here speaks of wisdom and foolishness. By now, it should be obvious that “wisdom,” especially for a Bible-saturated Jewish man like Paul, is a very loaded term. There is no way Paul can use words like *wisdom* and *foolishness* without thinking about Proverbs.

[11] What do you think Paul means here by portraying the Gospel as God’s “wisdom?”

PRAYER

[1] Pray for any areas your group shared about where they could grow in wisdom!

[2] Pray that God would reveal to us, both as a church and individually, areas where we need to grow in wisdom.