

Pathways


Mockers, Simpletons, and Fools

Proverbs 1-2

Heritage Alliance Church

September 10, 2023

Pastor Shawn



“Trust in the Lord with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.” Proverbs 3:5-6

“Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.”
Ephesians 5:15-17

The wrong question we ask... “Is there anything wrong with it?”

The question we need to ask... “What is the wise thing for me to do?”

Mockers: Ridicule the truth about God & His ways

Simpletons: Doesn’t think about the potential consequences of decisions

Fools: Ignore wisdom and believe they will be the exception to the rule.

Wise: Listens closely to wisdom because they fear God and seek truth

“Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:

“How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded?

How long will you mockers relish your mocking?

How long will you fools hate knowledge?

Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise.”

Proverbs 1:20-23

In order to live a life of wisdom we need to understand what it means;

“Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom”. Proverbs 9:10

If you only live for self-fulfillment, then you do not fear God
and you will live like a mocker, simpleton, or fool.

“Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge,
but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”

Proverbs 1:7

Questions for Discussion: What is a decision you ended up regretting?

What was your motive in making that decision?

What would have changed if you asked “what is the wise thing to do?”

What do you think is the difference between wisdom and right & wrong choices?

Why is wisdom so hard to pass on to others?

What is wisdom trying to say to you about your current decisions you face?

Do you fear God? What does this mean to you?

Proverbs 1

These are the proverbs of Solomon, David’s son, king of Israel.

²Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. ³Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. ⁴These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. ⁵Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance ⁶by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles.

⁷**Fear of the LORD is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.**

A Father’s Exhortation: Acquire Wisdom

⁸My child,^[a] listen when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction. ⁹What you learn from them will crown you with grace

and be a chain of honor around your neck. ¹⁰My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them! ¹¹They may say, “Come and join us. Let’s hide and kill someone! Just for fun, let’s ambush the innocent!

¹²Let’s swallow them alive, like the grave^[b]; let’s swallow them whole, like those who go down to the pit of death ¹³Think of the great things we’ll get!

We’ll fill our houses with all the stuff we take. ¹⁴Come, throw in your lot with us; we’ll all share the loot.” ¹⁵My child, don’t go along with them!

Stay far away from their paths. ¹⁶They rush to commit evil deeds.

They hurry to commit murder. ¹⁷If a bird sees a trap being set it knows to stay away.

¹⁸But these people set an ambush for themselves; they are trying to get themselves killed. ¹⁹Such is the fate of all who are greedy for money; it robs them of life.

Wisdom Shouts in the Streets

²⁰Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square.

²¹She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate:

²²“How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded?

How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge?

²³Come and listen to my counsel. I’ll share my heart with you and make you wise.

²⁴“I called you so often, but you wouldn’t come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. ²⁵You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered.

²⁶So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you—

²⁷when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone,

and anguish and distress overwhelm you. ²⁸“When they cry for help, I will not answer.

Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. ²⁹For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the LORD. ³⁰They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I

corrected them. ³¹Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes. ³²For simpletons turn away from me—to death.

Fools are destroyed by their own complacency.³³ **But all who listen to me will live in peace, untroubled by fear of harm.”**