

## Worship Guide - Lake Mary

# WORSHIP SERVICE - 6.19.2022

## WISDOM'S CALL

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### **PROVERBS 1:20-33**

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice;

21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:

22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

23 If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,

25 because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof,

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you,

27 when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you.

28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.

29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,

30 would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,

31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

32 For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

### II. WISDOM'S SERMON

- Why does the Father present wisdom as a woman?
- Literary device: personification is presenting an abstract idea by attributing to it human qualities or characteristics.
- The Hebrew noun for wisdom is feminine.
- To get his son's attention.

## 1. Wisdom's Call

- Notice where Lady Wisdom is giving her message: in the street, in the markets, at the intersection of noisy streets, and at the city gates. These represent all of the different places within the city.
- She is taking her message to where the people are.
- She extends an invitation to everyone, everywhere, to listen to her voice and to begin a relationship with her.
- Wisdom is crying aloud, she raises her voice, she cries out. Why?
- Because she is trying to cut through all of the noise of the competing voices.
- She is always crying out to everyone, everywhere and that means you actually have to ignore her.
- You have to actively suppress the call of wisdom.
- **Romans 1:18-20** 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

## 2. Wisdom's Message

22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?"

23 If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

- What is the content of Wisdom's message?
- Her message is aimed at three classes of people: the simple, the scoffers, and the fools.
- To the simple, which are the naive, the gullible, she appeals to them directly to stop ignoring her.
- "*How long...*", implies that they have ignored her for a long time. By now they should have embraced wisdom's teaching.
- "*...will you love being simple?*" They continue to desire to remain uncommitted to wisdom and are therefore open to alluring sin and folly.
- The scoffers and the mockers are not addressed directly, but if the simple continue to reject wisdom, they will be like the scoffers and fools.
- Scoffers are mockers. They crave their scoffing ways. They enjoy mocking.
- Fools are the ones who do not have the fear of the Lord. They hate wisdom and knowledge. They reject God.
- Wisdom's message is repentance.
- V23 If you turn at my reproof...
- There is still hope for the simple, but not forever. They must respond.
- Repentance is a turning away from something and a turning to something.
- The simple youth must turn back and listen to wisdom's rebuke and correction.
- Example from Acts 2

- Acts 2:14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words.
- What is he doing? The same thing as Lady Wisdom, he is *shouting for them to listen*.
- And what does he call them to do?
- Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Repentance is always the proper response to Jesus’s message.

### 3. Wisdom’s promise

23 If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

- The turning back is the action that implies that repentance has taken place.
- If they turn to Lady Wisdom and embrace her teaching, they are promised two things: the spirit of wisdom will be poured out upon them and they will know the words of wisdom.
- To turn to wisdom means you are open to wisdom’s teaching, correction, instruction, you will gain knowledge and understanding, and you will be able to follow wisdom’s way.
- Wisdom is a person and we see the exact same reality of this promise in Christ.
- Jesus IS the wisdom of God and when we turn to him and believe he becomes to us wisdom FROM God (1Cor. 1:24,30).
- In Christ are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3).
- How do we get Christ and His wisdom?
- Ezekiel 36:26-27 And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules. God promised that there will come a time where he will give them a new heart and will pour out his Spirit upon them and they would be able to obey him.
- The Spirit changes our hearts and gives us the capacity to respond to wisdom—which is Christ.
- The Spirit of God who inspired the Word of God will give us insight and understanding of His Word.
- Will you listen to wisdom?

## III. WISDOM'S REJECTION

### 1. THE ABSURDITY OF REJECTING WISDOM

- There is a transition in Lady Wisdom’s message in v24-31
- Rejecting Wisdom’s call has dire consequences.
- There is a window of opportunity to respond to the call but then it will be too late.
- Lady Wisdom recounts the record of rejection in v24-25
- The repetition in this interlude drives home the reality that there is no one else to blame for the consequences of rejecting wisdom, for rejecting Christ.
- Wisdom laughs and mocks at what is coming for them.
- Psalm 2:1-4 Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain?  
2 The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel

together, against the Lord and against his Anointed, saying, 3 “Let us burst their bonds apart and cast away their cords from us.” 4 He who sits in the heavens laughs; the Lord holds them in derision.

- How foolish that kings and rulers think they can come against the Lord. It’s absurd.
- Wisdom is laughing and mocking the absurdity of choosing folly over wisdom.
- Those who rejected her deserve what’s coming to them.
  
- This is why we have to listen to the good news and respond by repenting and turning in faith to Jesus Christ.
- Today is the day of salvation.
- There is a final judgment. There is a point of no return.
- Don’t ignore the warnings. The wages of sin is death but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus (Rom. 6:23).
- The writer of Hebrews exhorts us, “Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says, ‘Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts...’” (Hebrews 3:7-8).
- Jesus is calling, answer while the opportunity to do so is available to you.

## 2. THE POINT OF NO RETURN

- V28-31 reveals the reality that there are no second chances for those who refuse wisdom.
- The continual rejection will eventually catch up with them.
- If it doesn’t in this life, it will most certainly in the next.
- 28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me.
- You don’t get to call on your terms, you must respond to wisdom when she calls before it’s too late.
- After death, there are no second chances.
- Matthew 10:33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, 33 but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.
  
- Why doesn’t wisdom respond when they’re calling now?
- 29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord,
- 30 would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof,
- 31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.
- They did not choose the fear of the Lord. They hated wisdom and knowledge.
- The consequence—they will get what they deserve.
- A life lived apart from the knowledge of God will inevitably lead to one’s own destruction.
- The root of your life will determine the fruit of your life.
- If the root is Christ, the fruit you will eat is eternal life.
- If the root is not Christ, the fruit you will eat is eternal damnation.
- Wisdom will have an eye-for-an-eye retribution.
- They didn’t listen to her so she will not listen to them.
- They didn’t seek her so she won’t let herself be found.
- Because they didn’t respond to her in the time of salvation, she will not respond to them in the time of their judgment.
- Romans 2:4-5 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? 5 But because of your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed.
- It is the kindness of God that leads to repentance.

- Don't reject the kindness of God.
- Respond when he calls before it's too late.

## IV. WISDOM'S REWARD

V32-33 This is the moral of the call of wisdom. This is the proverb.

32 For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them;

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”

- We are all on a collision course with imminent judgment.
  - We all deserve the wrath of God (Eph. 2:1-3).
  - The gospel call goes out for us to turn from our waywardness, our stubbornness, our wickedness, our self-seeking, our sinfulness, and turn to Christ.
  - It is the only way to avert the disaster of judgment.
  - Wisdom is changing course and turning to Christ.
  - If you don't, you are on a collision course with God's wrath, and you don't stand a chance in that encounter.
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- The simple, who reject the call, remain in their waywardness, and that will kill them.
  - The fool, not only rejects the call, they won't change course, and when they shipwreck their life, they will curse God on the day of judgment.
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- **But we have good news.**
  - 33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster.”
  - Here is the reward for those who listen to wisdom.
  - They will live securely and won't have any fear of danger.
  - They have no fear of judgment, they have no fear of calamity, because they heeded Lady Wisdom's call and embraced her teaching.
  - You and I who are in Christ are dwelling safely and securely in him.
  - **Psalm 18:2** The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.
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- Will you hear the call of wisdom and respond?
  - Today is the day of salvation, today is the day to answer the call.
  - Do not despise the Lord's wisdom, which is Christ.
  - Repent and believe Jesus and he will save you from the wrath to come and you will have nothing to fear on the Day of Judgment.