

WORSHIP SERVICE - 9.18.2022

WISDOM'S BOAST

I. WISDOM'S SPEECH

Proverbs 8:1-5

1 Does not wisdom call?

Does not understanding raise her voice?

2 On the heights beside the way,

at the crossroads she takes her stand;

3 beside the gates in front of the town,

at the entrance of the portals she cries aloud:

4 "To you, O men, I call,

and my cry is to the children of man.

5 O simple ones, learn prudence;

O fools, learn sense.

- In ch 7, the adulteress raises her voice and calls out to the gullible. The adulteress is a placeholder term for all manner of sin and temptation, any distortion of God's Word and revealed truth.
- 7:11-12 says she is loud and wayward. She is brazen and shameless.
- Both of these are preaching a message.
- Both are appealing for the love of the uncommitted gullible youth.
- But their message is very different.

- Now it seems like in our world today, wisdom's voice is being drowned out.
- Her message is LOUD!
- But wisdom has not been silenced.
- In ch7 the forbidden woman was in the street, in the market, at every corner lying in wait (7:12). She is in the world, working covertly from behind the shadows, in the darkness.
- But look where wisdom is shouting her message from.
- On the heights. She is at the highest point of the city standing above everyone else, clearly visible and heard by all.
- Beside the way,. The way is a metaphor in Proverbs for the path one chooses in life.
- At the crossroads she takes her stand. A crossroad is a place of intersection where a decision needs to be made.
- Besides the gates. This is where people came together to buy and sell.

- At the entrance of the portals. Where the city elders would gather to hear grievances, settle disputes and pass judgment.
- Wisdom is there crying aloud!
- Both the adulteress and Wisdom are everywhere but their message and methods are not the same.
- The forbidden woman entices, seduces, deceives, is in the dark.
- Wisdom is clear, compelling, authoritative, operating in the light.

WISDOM'S AUDIENCE

4 "To you, O men, I call,

and my cry is to the children of man.

5 O simple ones, learn prudence;

O fools, learn sense.

- Wisdom's call is going out to young men in particular as this is whom these lessons are addressed to.
- But in a more general sense, it is to everyone, to the children of man (Adam).
- Everyone needs to hear this message.
- She narrows the aim of her call to the simple, the gullible, the immature.
- These are the ones who have not made a commitment to the ways of wisdom.
- She pleads with the fool to learn common sense.
- She invites them to learn.
- Much like there is a general call for everyone to follow Jesus Christ, and to enter into discipleship with him.
- Because wisdom points us to Christ, who is wisdom from God, we can see the spiritual application in wisdom's call.
- To commit to wisdom is to make a spiritual commitment, not an intellectual one.
- Wisdom's call is to come out from our ignorance and grow into maturity.
- Not everyone responds to Wisdom's call.
- Not everyone responds to the general call to follow Jesus Christ.
- In the gospels we can see that Jesus called many to follow him, but not everyone responded.
- Hebrews 3:15 As it is said, "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."
- That is why we must not delay when we hear the call to salvation, to follow Christ, he is the only one who can save us.
- He calls us first and then we call on him to save us.
- Romans 10:13 For "everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."
- We cannot call until he calls us first through the gracious and effectual call of His Spirit.

II. WISDOM'S EXHORTATION

Proverbs 8:6-11

6 Hear, for I will speak noble things,

and from my lips will come what is right,

7 for my mouth will utter truth;

wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are righteous;

there is nothing twisted or crooked in them.

9 They are all straight to him who understands,

and right to those who find knowledge.

10 Take my instruction instead of silver,

and knowledge rather than choice gold,

11 for wisdom is better than jewels,

and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

- Here's why Solomon's son must listen to Wisdom.
- It is because of what she speaks and how her speech is different from the forbidden woman.
- The speech of the forbidden woman is sweet at the beginning, but in the end brings bitter death.
- Wisdom's speech in contrast demands attentiveness and discipline in the beginning, but promises life in the end.

- 6 Hear, for I will speak noble things,
- Personified wisdom speaks audibly, she cannot be ignored.
- And she demands a decision from her hearer, to listen and accept wisdom's teaching.
- Why can she demand attention and allegiance from her hearers?
- Because she speaks only what is righteous and of the truth.

- v9 They are all straight to him who understands, and right to those who find knowledge.
- Those who embrace wisdom, who find her and follow her, can see her words as straight and right.
- Only this person can recognize the truth of wisdom's words.

- The forbidden woman's speech is wicked, deceptive, crooked, full of flattery in order to deceive.
- Wisdom's speech is only what is right and true, nothing twisted or distorted.
- Sin causes everything to become distorted.
- Wisdom can make what is crooked straight.
- And that Wisdom is Christ.
- He came speaking only what is righteous and true. There was nothing that came out of his mouth that was twisted or perverted.
- Jesus declared that he was the Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).
- Jesus said that we would know the truth, and the truth would set us free from our bondage to sin (John 8:32).
- Luke 3:4-6 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.'"

- V10 shifts from wisdom's speech to a command to choose wisdom.

- If we listen to wisdom, if we hear and follow wisdom, if we choose wisdom and knowledge instead of silver and gold, wisdom will unlock treasures that are greater than all of the finest jewels that man can desire to possess.
- Solomon's exhortation is that we don't make the pursuit of riches the aim of our life.
- When we go after wisdom, we will get her reward.
- Do you value wisdom?
- Do you value Christ, the wisdom of God in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge?

III. WISDOM'S ATTRIBUTES

Proverbs 8:12-16

12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence,

and I find knowledge and discretion.

13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.

Pride and arrogance and the way of evil

and perverted speech I hate.

14 I have counsel and sound wisdom;

I have insight; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign,

and rulers decree what is just;

16 by me princes rule,

and nobles, all who govern justly.

- Wisdom expresses her valuable benefits and how she communicates them to those who value her.
- Wisdom talks about her attributes which she shares with those who love her.
- Let's look at God's attributes for a moment.
- God does not possess attributes, He is those attributes. God is whatever He has. His attributes are his essence.
- This is called the doctrine of Divine Simplicity. God is not composed of parts.
- God's attributes can be communicable or incommunicable.
- Communicable attributes are those attributes, which God graciously shares with his creatures. These are attributes that are true of God and reflected in some partial and limited way in his image-bearers.(e.g., love, goodness, mercy, kindness, justice, righteousness)
- Incommunicable attributes are those attributes true of God but are not possessed by his image-bearers. (e.g., omni-presence, infinitude, omniscience)
- And wisdom is one of His communicable attributes. We share in some limited, finite way, God's perfect and infinite wisdom.
- Wisdom communicates, bestows something, on those who love her.
- And here is why wisdom is to be valued and desired.

- V12 “I, wisdom...” That is her proper name, this is her essential character.
 - She is a communicable virtue because all throughout the father’s lessons the son is exhorted to get wisdom, to keep her and she will keep him, to know wisdom, to marry wisdom. This communicable attribute of God can be obtained.
 - And wisdom has several virtues that are closely associated with her.
 - She dwells with prudence or shrewdness, knowledge and discretion.
 - Where wisdom works you will see all of these with her.
 - Wisdom is the skill of living rightly.
 - You need shrewdness, to know when to do something and when not to.
 - You need knowledge in order to apply information correctly for the right solution.
 - You need discretion for wise decision-making and planning.
 - These attributes are necessary to practically apply wisdom.
- In the gospels we see Jesus apply wisdom and her virtues perfectly.
 - Isaiah 11:1-5 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse, and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. 2 And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. 3 And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide disputes by what his ears hear, 4 but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. 5 Righteousness shall be the belt of his waist, and faithfulness the belt of his loins.
 - Wherever wisdom dwells we see these virtues most clearly applied as we see them in Christ.
- You and I need this kind of practical wisdom.
 - The good news is that God has communicated wisdom to us so that we can learn wisdom and apply it rightly to a given situation.
 - Jesus taught his disciples the practical application of wisdom.
 - Matthew 10:16 “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.
 - They should be shrewd and discerning as they go out and preach the good news.
- V13 The fear of the Lord is hatred of evil.
 - An indispensable and essential quality of wisdom is to hate evil.
 - God’s hatred is pure, right, and just. He does not sin in his anger.
 - But there are things that he hates. He hates evil and evildoers.
 - He hates the arrogant and the way of evil.
 - Do you hate what God hates?
 - If you have the fear of the Lord, if you love God, you will hate what he hates.
 - If you love what God loves you will also hate what he hates.
 - Wisdom teaches you to hate what is evil.
- V14 Wisdom has a treasury full of virtues and she bestows them on all those who love her.
 - Job 12:13 “With God are wisdom and might; he has counsel and understanding.
 - Wisdom has all the counsel of God.
 - The Lord in his common grace has granted to humanity a measure of wisdom.
 - He gives wisdom as you see in v15-17 so that rulers and those who govern can do things for the common good and flourishing of society.

- Any wisdom is God's wisdom, there can be none apart from God because He is Wisdom.
- Anywhere you see wisdom and truth it is because of God's benevolence, even though the world cannot recognize it.
- In God's common grace, even unbelievers can exercise some wisdom for the common good.
- Wisdom does common good for the general flourishing of humanity.
- But it cannot do spiritual good. It cannot save but only point us to the One who can.

IV. WISDOM'S REWARDS

Proverbs 8:17-21

17 I love those who love me,

and those who seek me diligently find me.

18 Riches and honor are with me,

enduring wealth and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, even fine gold,

and my yield than choice silver.

20 I walk in the way of righteousness,

in the paths of justice,

21 granting an inheritance to those who love me,

and filling their treasuries.

- 17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me diligently find me.
- There is an intimacy required to move from the common grace of wisdom to saving and life giving grace.
- Wisdom beckons us to love her, to love the God whom she represents.
- Those who seek her diligently will find her.
- Love wisdom and wisdom will love you.
- When we receive wisdom's teaching, when with great affection we take into our heart God's Word, it is assimilated into our character.
- Wisdom offers herself to all of humanity but only those whose hearts have been regenerated by the Spirit of God and respond to the efficacious call, can truly love her.
- Those who love wisdom get wisdom's rewards.
- They get enduring and righteous wealth, riches and honor.
- Proverbs teaches us that riches and wealth are not evil in and of themselves, unless they become the chief affections of one's heart and the aim of one's life.
- God blesses and rewards those who love wisdom and gives them enduring wealth.
- Oftentimes, it is in the form of material possessions and riches, but ultimately, it is not the temporary and fleeting riches of this world.
- Seek the things that are valuable to God and you will find his blessings there.
- Matthew 6:33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- Those who walk with wisdom on the way of righteousness and the paths of justice are granted an inheritance.
- And wisdom's inheritance depicted here is a type of the glorious spiritual inheritance we receive in Christ.
- What is this inheritance?
- 1 Peter 1:3-5 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, 5 who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
- Ephesians 1:11 In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will
- This inheritance is only for those who are in Christ Jesus, who love him, and who have a rightful claim to this enduring wealth.
- And as a guarantee that we will one day possess our inheritance that is already ours by faith, God has sealed us with the promised Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13-14).

- So what are we to do?
- Ask God for wisdom.
- Lean into Christ, who is wisdom from God for us.
- Believe the gospel's promises.
- Grow in your love for God and His Word.
- He has blessed you with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places
- He has granted you enduring wealth in Christ Jesus, and he is our enduring wealth and treasure.

• **Ephesians 1:15-22** For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love[f] toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.