

Proverbs Week #3 (1:6,7)

Proverbs 1:1-7

- 1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction, to discern the sayings of understanding,
- 3 To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice and equity;
- 4 To give prudence to the naive, to the youth knowledge and discretion,
- 5 A wise man will listen and increase in learning, and a man of understanding will acquire wise counsel,
- 6 To understand a proverb and a figure, the words of the wise and their riddles.
- 7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Three things to commit to memory:

- 1) To know wisdom and instruction
- 2) To receive instruction in wise behavior, righteousness, justice, and equity
- 3) To give prudence to the naive (to the youth knowledge and discretion)

This week's lesson continues to reinforce what we have learned in the last few weeks. We have reviewed the four different people/groups responsible for compiling the proverbs and learned that a wise person listens and adds to their learning. In the story of the wise man who built his house upon rock we learned about the right foundation for learning. A wise person listens to God and lives every day based upon what he hears from God.

The verses we will add this week continue to teach us about these themes. The proverbs and scripture are not always easy to understand, but these two additional verses give us more details on what we need in order to be wise. We learn here that "the fear of the Lord" is the beginning of knowledge. What does that mean? Does it mean being afraid like being afraid of the dark or being afraid of a bear? I think it means more than just being afraid – it is more like respect and absolute trust. The honor we give to those in authority also reflects this honor we give to God.

We learn what it means to fear God as we understand who He is and remember the things He has done. Listen to this story from the Bible, close your eyes, and try to imagine what this must have been like. What I'm about to tell you really happened! It is truer than the daily news.

On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, the whole mountain trembled violently, and the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder. Then Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him. (Exo 19:16-19)

When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning." (Exo 20:18-20)