

Proverbs Week #133 (13:1)

"A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke." (Proverbs 13:1 ESV)

"A wise son — it is through the discipline of his father; A scoffer — he never heard reproof." (Proverbs 13:1 JPS)

The book of Proverbs is a family book. With intelligent design, our Creator made the family learning environment His context for learning wisdom. If wisdom is to shine its brightest light, it must do so when we see both parents and children actively involved in the education process. If parents fail to teach or if children fail to learn then what God desires to show in the context of family is diminished. In Yeshua God gives us the ideal picture of what a family should look like.

"Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. "If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. "And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Yeshua said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. "If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; from now on you know Him, and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is enough for us." Yeshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? "Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; otherwise believe because of the works themselves. "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do; because I go to the Father." (John 14:1-12 NAS95)

A word for word translation of our proverb today would be "A wise son (is) the discipline of his father." What I see in the revelation of Yeshua is this very thing. The purpose for which God has revealed His scripture is embodied in the Living Torah – Yeshua. The example of a disciplined life, one that was wholly devoted to God, was demonstrated in the life, death, and resurrection of Yeshua. The amazing thing is that we are to be just like Him. Our families are to bear the family likeness of Yeshua. Together our lives are to show forth the greatness of the God who Himself lives within us.

Yeshua proclaimed that He is the way, the truth, and the life. Our approach to God is through Him. As we live each day, we live knowing our faith is based upon reality. Yeshua really lived. When asked to prove that God exists we need to understand what evidence God has given us for His existence. The events of the Bible are sometimes called stories but it would be more accurate to call them historical narratives. While one could present many arguments or proofs for the existence of God, the main point I'm trying to impress today is based more upon the rules of evidence than upon philosophy.

Yeshua was the wisest of sons. As He taught His disciples He did so in the context of family. The ideal father and the ideal son will look almost identical. Yeshua's life so mirrored His Father that He declared, "He who has seen me has seen the father."

In the end of the passage above from the book of John Yeshua says something amazing. He told His disciples that He was going to the Father and the works that they would do would be greater than the ones He did. How can this be true? Yeshua once taught that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. It is a very tiny seed that grows into a big tree. As disciples of Yeshua we are like branches in this big tree. Each generation of believers grows and causes the works of God to increase.

"A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher." (Luke 6:40 NAS95)