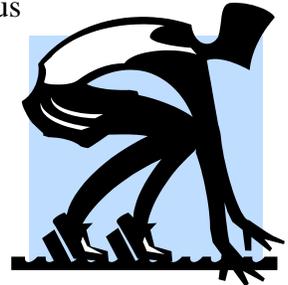


Proverbs Week #39 (4:6-7)

Do not forsake wisdom, and she will protect you; love her, and she will watch over you. The beginning of wisdom is this: get wisdom. Though it cost all you have, get understanding. Proverbs 4:6-7

Last week our verses presented wisdom as being taught in a multigenerational setting. A father spoke to his son about the son's grandmother and grandfather. It A father was saying in affect, "Your grandfather (my father) told me to keep his commandments and live." Today's verses teach two main things. They teach about the protection that wisdom will provide and teach about a starting place.

When runners begin a race they often line up on a track and position themselves in starting blocks. They ready themselves for the start of the race and with the shot of a gun they are off! The writer of the book of Hebrews teaches us that our lives can be compared to a race. "Let us run with endurance the race that is set before us." (Heb 12:1b) In the race of our lives the starting blocks begin with fixing our hope on the Messiah. We do not allow the circumstances of our lives to cause us to lose hope. The starting blocks of faith are more than just thinking the right things. They require skill and action—the wisdom that comes from God. We are running a race not thinking about one.



We have heard before that the beginning of wisdom (and knowledge) is the fear of the LORD. (Prov 9:10 and 1:7) Today we read that the beginning of wisdom is to get wisdom. Now I want you to think about these two ideas for a moment. First, without a proper fear of the LORD you cannot start to learn what it means to be wise. Next, each one of you must get wisdom. You may benefit from others being wise, because you share in the rewards they gain from wisdom, but individually if you do not get wisdom you alone will bear the shame of it. (Prov 9:12)

Once you have gotten wisdom you are commanded "do not forsake her." Part of being a good parent is providing for and protecting your children. We learn here that if we love Wisdom she will watch over us and protect us. This theme of protection and provision is common in the scriptures. We are taught in Psalm 23 that HaShem is a shepherd who provides for the needs of His sheep. Yeshua teaches us that He is the good shepherd. He knows His sheep and they know Him. This covenant language is what we are talking about in today's verses from Proverbs.

This life skill of wisdom can be compared to a life of faith. Being faithful to God involves more than just thinking about God. It involves the discipline of wise, godly living that is loyal to God. I want to suggest that the wisdom and understanding the Bible is directing us to get has a direct relationship to having a genuine faith. Thinking in this way, you might say, "Get real faith, even if it costs you all you have, get understanding!"

Yeshua taught a very similar message when He spoke about the kingdom of God. He said, "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it." (Matt 13:44-46) It is important for us as a community to remember and teach these things. If we lose sight of our Messiah (because of sin in our lives or distractions outside of us) then we have lost something of very great value. Parents, help your children to learn what it means to fear the Lord and to get wisdom. Help them to understand what living a life a faith looks like, by your example and words.