

Proverbs Week #72 (8:1-3)

Does not Wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice? On top of the heights beside the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; beside the gates, at the opening to the city, at the entrance of the doors, she cries out. Prov 8:1-3

The first time we heard Wisdom calling out in the book of Proverbs she was inviting the young to listen to her voice. She shouted in the streets and lifted her voice in the square. She proclaimed her message on noisy streets and in city gates. (Prov 1:20-21) When we studied that portion of scripture we considered how noisy the streets were and we talked about how God reveals Himself in the heavens. We also talked about the “noise” that makes it hard to hear what God is saying; the distractions of everyday life.

The heavens are telling of the glory of God; and their expanse is declaring the work of His hands. Day to day pours forth speech, and night to night reveals knowledge. There is no speech, nor are there words; their voice is not heard. Psa 19:1-3

God has revealed Himself in a variety of ways. We learn a lot about Him as we look at the world He created. One thing we learn is that He has incredible creativity. If there were a contest to find out who would be the best artist of all time, God would be the undisputed winner. If we simply consider the vast variety of colors, smells, textures, shapes, and sizes that exist in all of His creation it would be clear that no one is as creative or artistic as God. God has more to communicate to us than just His works in creation. He has also showed up throughout history, met with people, and talked to them. He communicates to us in human language.

God communicates to us through the gospel. What exactly is the gospel? The power of the gospel changes lives. The message of the gospel affects the relationships of father, mother, brother, sister, son, and daughter. As families we can learn together about God’s love and faithfulness. God reveals His truth in the Bible and it teaches us what we need to learn not just in terms of book knowledge but also in how we relate to one another. Relationships are important to God. The gospel of Yeshua the Messiah is the power of God to salvation (Rom 1:16), it frees us to live our lives for God, and its message is one of reconciliation (2 Cor 5:18-19).

The main point I want to emphasize in this lesson is learning to make wise decisions. You will notice that in today’s verses that Wisdom lifts up her voice and stands where roads meet, in city gates, and at the entrance of doors. Her message is proclaimed in the places where lives intersect and meet. In today’s language we might understand this as ‘Wisdom cries out at cash registers, employment offices, board rooms, court rooms, and around dinner tables.’ God wants His people to learn from Him and we are directed to live our lives and make decisions based upon what is pleasing to Him. In Ephesians 5:10-17 Paul compares this process of learning what is pleasing to God to waking up from sleep (it must be a very deep sleep because he also adds “arise from the dead”).

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. Eph 5:15-17

1. Be careful how you walk. What does that mean?
2. Is what I’m doing something a wise or unwise person would do? Does it matter how I do it?
3. What is the best use of my time?
4. What is the will of the Lord for me and my family?

Depending on how old your children are and considering how they best learn, take these four things and impress them on their hearts and minds. I would also encourage each one of us to learn these lessons for ourselves and model them. Our children will learn best from our actions. As always, if any of this seems overwhelming, ask God to grant you wisdom (the skill) and power to trust Him and learn what is pleasing to Him. Keep asking as long as you have breath and don’t forget to thank Him when He gives you the wisdom you need.