

Proverbs Week #82 (9:1-6)

“Wisdom has built Her house, She has hewn out Her seven pillars; She has prepared Her food, She has mixed Her wine; She has also set Her table; She has sent out Her maidens, she calls from the tops of the heights of the city: “Whoever is naive, let him turn in here! To him who lacks understanding She says, come, eat of My food and drink of the wine I have mixed. Forsake your folly and live, and proceed in the way of understanding.” Proverbs 9:1-6

As I mentioned last week, the first nine chapters of the book of Proverbs are preparing us to learn wisdom and discipline ourselves according to God’s instructions. What a picture these verses paint! There are two invitations in this chapter: one from Wisdom and the other from folly. What young man does not want to go to a feast! In this invitation, God compares His ways with the best of food and wine. The invitation is to those who are naïve and the message is to forsake your folly and live. If we will listen to Wisdom and accept Her call, we will proceed down the paths of understanding. We considered last week the importance of placing God’s commandments on our doorways and in our gates. We read that Wisdom seeks to meet us in these places. If we choose not to decide whether to accept her invitation, we still have made a choice. If we are naïve and have not forsaken our folly, we still are in folly. Does that make sense? These words are also very similar to what Yeshua taught. Let us consider the words of our Messiah and explore their meaning and application for us today.

“1 Yeshua spoke to them again in parables, saying, 2 “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son. 3 “And he sent out his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding feast, and they were unwilling to come. 4 “Again he sent out other slaves saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited, “Behold, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fattened livestock are all butchered and everything is ready; come to the wedding feast.”’ 5 “But they paid no attention and went their way, one to his own farm, another to his business, 6 and the rest seized his slaves and mistreated them and killed them. 7 “But the king was enraged, and he sent his armies and destroyed those murderers and set their city on fire. 8 “Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 ‘Go therefore to the main highways, and as many as you find there, invite to the wedding feast.’ 10 “Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered together all they found, both evil and good; and the wedding hall was filled with dinner guests. 11 “But when the king came in to look over the dinner guests, he saw a man there who was not dressed in wedding clothes, 12 and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you come in here without wedding clothes?’ And the man was speechless. 13 “Then the king said to the servants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ 14 “For many are called, but few are chosen.”

Matt 22:1-14

When Yeshua taught people He often spoke in parables. Those who were listening were naïve and foolish but they thought they were wise. God’s people, the nation of Israel, did not receive the words of this parable. Some did receive what Yeshua taught and as John teaches us, “... as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.” John 1:12,13

The invitation of wisdom is a family matter. What makes us worthy to be part of His family is what He does for us not what we do for Him. Our response is to “turn in” and take part in the feast He has prepared. Proverbs are like parables. They need to be understood and applied. Consider this week how we can respond to Wisdom’s call and dine with Her. Don’t pass by her table or you may find that you are dining at the table of another woman (folly). We will learn more about folly in the weeks to come.