

"Ordinary Advice for Extraordinary Times"

2. Choose wisdom not folly

Trinity Church Adelaide - May 2020

Proverbs 1:8 Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 9 They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck

1:10 My son, if sinful men entice you, do not give in to them.

11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for innocent blood, let's ambush some harmless soul;

12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit;

13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder;

14 cast lots with us; we will all share the loot"—

15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths;

16 for their feet rush into evil, they are swift to shed blood.

17 How useless to spread a net where every bird can see it!

18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they ambush only themselves!

19 Such are the paths of all who go after ill-gotten gain; it takes away the life of those who get it.

The Structure of the Book of Proverbs		
Chapters	Section	Talk Topics
1:1-7	Introduction	1. Do you want to be wise?
1:8-9:18	Instruction	2. Choose wisdom not folly
10:1-31:9	Sayings	3. Ethics by soundbites
		4. The ant and the sluggard
		5. What can we learn from worldly wisdom?
31:10-31	Conclusion	6. The (impossibly) perfect wife

1. Lessons from a Father to a Son (1:8-19)

- vv8-9: the reason to pay attention

- vv10-19: the advice: "company shapes character"

2. Poems about Lady Wisdom and Dame Folly (9:1-18)

- vv1-6

- vv13-18

- vv7-12

- the diagnostic test: _____

- what makes constructive criticism more palatable?

- case study (Solomon): wisdom ≠ obedience

Mt 7:24 Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.

3. So what, for us?

"wisdom is learned in community"

- 2 Cor 6:14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers ...

- Ecc 4:9 Two are better than one ...

www.trinitycity.church/resources/church-online/sermon-outlines/

=> enter the Proverbs competition

=> download "The art of rebuking"

For discussion/reflection: whose rebuke might you listen to? What's stopping you asking for constructive criticism?

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom has built her house; she has set up its seven pillars.

2 She has prepared her meat and mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her servants, and she calls from the highest point of the city,

4 "Let all who are simple come to my house!"

To those who have no sense she says,

5 "Come, eat my food

and drink the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways and you will live;

walk in the way of insight."

9:7 Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse.

8 Do not rebuke mockers or they will hate you; rebuke the wise and they will love you.

9 Instruct the wise and they will be wiser still; teach the righteous and they will add to their learning.

10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11 For through wisdom your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

12 If you are wise, your wisdom will reward you; if you are a mocker, you alone will suffer.

9:13 Folly is an unruly woman; she is simple and knows nothing.

14 She sits at the door of her house, on a seat at the highest point of the city,

15 calling out to those who pass by, who go straight on their way,

16 "Let all who are simple come to my house!"

To those who have no sense she says,

17 "Stolen water is sweet;

food eaten in secret is delicious!"

18 But little do they know that the dead are there, that her guests are deep in the realm of the dead.