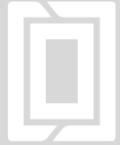


TRUST WISDOM a study in proverbs

HUNGER FOR INSTRUCTION Proverbs 9



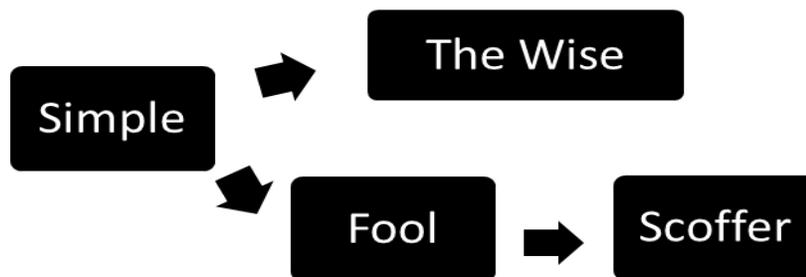
November 11, 2018 | DAVID ANDERSON

What's your reaction when you hear someone say: *I just want to start by saying I love you . . . Can we meet? I need to talk to you about something in your life . . . I need to share some things on my heart with you . . . Do you have a second? We need to talk.*

If you are anything like me, just hearing those opening lines starts your engine of defense mechanisms and reveals your heart's reluctance towards instruction.

Proverbs describes 4 approaches to instruction:

- **THE SIMPLE:** naïve, the simpleton. The “simple” are exactly that - easily influenced and manipulated and their actions are directed by others. There is an inability to discern and to problem solve.
- **THE FOOL:** The “fool” has a negative mindset and he or she chooses against God and His character. He or she is hard-headed and quite frankly hates knowledge.
- **THE SCOFFER/MOCKER:** “Mockers” delight in having a closed mind. Not only do they not learn from their mistakes, but they defend and are committed to their negative choices and lifestyle.
- **THE WISE:** The “wise” are basically the opposite of the first three characters. He or she is not easily manipulated, and has a discerning heart and passion for knowledge. He or she is fixated on God and His character.



In Proverbs 9, Solomon says an invitation has been sent out. To what have we been invited? We have been cordially invited to two competing banquets: Wisdom's Banquet and the Fool's Banquet. This is Solomon's description of each banquet.

WISDOM'S BANQUET (vs. 1-6)	FOOL'S BANQUET (vs. 13-18)
Strategically prepared, 7 carved out pillars, beauty and strength.	No preparation, clamorous, ignorant, and arrogant
Glorious feast with all the trimmings	Stolen water and bread
Everyone invited, even pursued by maidens	Everyone invited
Targeting the “simple,” urgency to the invitation	Targeting the “simple,” urgency to the invitation
Located on the highest place of the city	Located on the highest place of the city
Life and understanding is offered	Appeal to sinful instincts and destruction is offered

According to Solomon, why do we accept one invitation over the other?

⁷ *Whoever corrects a mocker is asking for insult; whoever reproves a wicked person receives abuse.* ⁸ *Do not reprove a mocker or he will hate you; reprove a wise person and he will love you.* ⁹ *Give instruction to a wise person, and he will become wiser still; teach a righteous person and he will add to his learning.* ¹⁰ *The beginning of wisdom is to fear the LORD, and acknowledging the Holy One is understanding.* ¹¹ *For because of me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.* ¹² *If you are wise, you are wise to your own advantage, but if you are a mocker, you alone must bear it.* (Proverbs 9:7-12)

HUNGER FOR INSTRUCTION: If you correct a scoffer or a fool you just harm yourself. He/she will hate you and make you pay. On the other hand, rebuke or correct a wise man and what will he/she do? He/she will love you! We orient our lives and schedules to avoid instruction. We run from it; the wise run to it. Solomon uses “wise” and “just or righteous” interchangeably. For Solomon the wise person is the righteous person and the righteous person is the wise person; there is no difference.

When we fear the Lord we will be instructed by Him and our days will be multiplied and years of life will be added to us. Long, prosperous life is seen in those who dine at Wisdom's Banquet. The Fool's Banquet offers destruction and ruin. *If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, and if you scoff, you will bear it alone* (vs. 12). Ultimately this is our life to live. Ultimately the banquet we feast on is a decision that “I” and “I” alone can make. “I” and “I” alone will have to bear it alone.

Rebuke a wise man and he will love you!

This is Satan's lie to us: “You must have it all together . . . You must be flawless . . . If you aren't perfect don't let anyone tell you otherwise.” What a great strategy to keep us from growing. This lie paralyzes us from truth and any kind of real growth. Satan knows that if we hunger for truth and instruction we will be like Christ and we will have great influence and fruit in this world.

What an absolute tragedy to come to the place in which you were made and you can't move forward because you are shackled by your inability to be corrected! Our lack of hunger for instruction is devastating our lives. It is keeping us from a breathtaking experience with the Almighty and His people that is beyond our wildest dreams.

Do you make people pay a heavy price to instruct you?

What is keeping you from receiving God's loving instruction through others?

Is there something that God is trying to reveal to you this month through others?