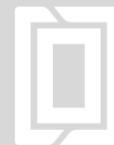


## SPIRIT EMPOWERED WISDOM

Selected Scripture



August 18, 2019 | DAVID ANDERSON

- There are those who love Proverbs because they want to know how bad they are and how much they fall short every week.
- There are those who love Proverbs because finally those around them will be straightened out by God's wisdom.
- There is another category of people, and probably the biggest category, made up of those who struggle with Proverbs because they feel so helpless when the wisdom and will of God is held up like mirror to their lives.

Some Christians who have heard the commands of Scripture have tried to live the commands of Scripture and have failed miserably. Somewhere in the process and the defeat, these Christians may have disengaged their hearts and decided to go into cruise control. They listen, but they aren't listening. Is it possible that this is describing you this morning?

The Bible is one continuous story. We have been in the wisdom genre in Proverbs and there are many other different genres and a variety of authors and backgrounds. The Bible is composed of many books, but in the end it is a single book. It has many authors, but ultimately it is a single Author. With every book we study, we need to sit in it and allow it to convict us and sometimes frustrate us. In the end, though, we have to weave it all together because this is a single book with a single Author.

We can't finish Proverbs without talking about the end. As we finish up Proverbs I don't want any of you to think for a second that you can live the Proverbs on your own, in your own strength, in your own power. I don't want you to think that is what God expects of you.

There are a couple of times in the Gospels when Jesus shows great frustration because His disciples failed to understand the essence of what the Old Testament is talking about.

"These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and the psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds so they could understand the scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it stands written that the Christ would suffer and would rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." –Luke 24:44-49

Remember that the disciples' expectations involved a political movement. When Jesus didn't rally the troops to lay siege on Jerusalem, this was very confusing to the Jews and the disciples. Jesus had another way he was going to bring the kingdom of God. The kingdom of God would come as Jesus lay siege on the hearts of every man, woman and child. His interest wasn't circumcision, but the circumcision of the heart, in the Spirit (Rom. 2:29).

As Tom Wright says, "Israel had viewed their history as a long story of how Yahweh would deliver Israel from suffering. But this is not a long story of how Yahweh would deliver Israel from suffering. This is a story of how Yahweh would deliver Israel through suffering." Jesus would lay claim on the hearts of all humanity by suffering, dying and rising again on the third day.

In Luke 24, Jesus gives His disciples a hermeneutics lesson. It's the same hermeneutic lesson we need to hear as we exit Proverbs today. From this point on, the disciples could not read the Old Testament except in the light of the resurrected Jesus and the indwelling presence of the New Covenant Holy Spirit. We will not have any success in living the Proverbs except through the resurrected Jesus and the indwelling presence of the New Covenant Holy Spirit. Listen to what He says, "And look, I am sending you what my Father promised. But stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

What did the Father send? Paul says, "For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God *did* by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those *who live* according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit." (Rom. 8:3-5)

Jesus makes a statement to those who rejected his wisdom. Jesus says - when the Queen of Sheba heard about the great wisdom of Solomon, she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon. But before you, Jesus says, there is someone far greater than Solomon here (Luke 11:31).

Jesus is our black box. He is our encryption code in this broken, sin-stained world. Jesus declaration to you is - I have become for you wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption (1 Cor 1:30); in Me are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (Col. 2:3).

Paul says, "14 Therefore He says: "Awake, you who sleep, Arise from the dead, And Christ will give you light." 15 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is*. 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:14-18)

As believers in Jesus Christ, as we come to the wisdom of the universe, we need to understand the wisdom that we have in our hands. We lack nothing. We cannot live wisely without Jesus. His cross, His resurrection, and His Holy Spirit empowering us is the only way we can be wise.

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Our prayer this morning:

- 1) Confession: God, I have disengaged my heart from Your commandment, Your Spirit, Your Bride. As you confess, open yourself to the deep love of Jesus through the Holy Spirit. You can confess that and acknowledge that in complete love and sufficiency in Jesus.
- 2) Intercession: O Spirit, teach me how to trust You, for apart from you I can do nothing.
  - a. Why am I afraid?
  - b. Why am I angry?
  - c. Why do I always feel alone?
  - d. Why do I always think my problems are someone else's fault?
  - e. Why do I think everything in my life is contingent on what my spouse does or doesn't do?
  - f. Why am I always chasing perfect circumstances?