

# The Value of Wisdom

- *Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. Prov 4:5-8*
- What is wisdom?
- Step One: Learn all the facts.
- Step Two: Start applying these facts to our life.
- Step Three: Gain experience through application.

# Wisdom & Experience

- Our first use of wisdom:
- Learned 0-9 then + - \* /
- Some gain wisdom... Others struggle
- Typing on a keyboard
- Driving a car
- 1<sup>st</sup> we learn ... then we apply ... then we gain experience... then we have wisdom.
- We want the people we depend on: doctors, service people, etc. to have wisdom.

# Wisdom and Experience

- God spoke of two distinct types of wisdom.
- **There is the wisdom of this age.**
- We open doors into sin, then learn to practice.
- We have been on the receiving end of those who are experts in malice, gossip, jealousy.
- **There is the wisdom from the Scriptures.**
- We use Scriptures to learn all activities, then through application and experience
- A wide chasm between emptiness of worldly wisdom and the wealth of spiritual wisdom.

# Curse of Worldly Wisdom

- *For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written: “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” 20 Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 1Cor. 1:18-22*

# A Grave Need to Assess Wisdom

- Just because we are really good at something doesn't mean we are truly wise...
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 19 For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. 1Cor 3:18-19*

# Un-learning & Re-learning

- *For your obedience has become known to all. Therefore I am glad on your behalf; but I want you to be wise in what is good, and simple concerning evil. Rom. 16:19*
- *put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Eph 4:22-24*
- It is very difficult to learn new ways.

# Un-learning and Re-learning

- *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. 2Cor. 5:17-18*
- *since you have put off the old man with his deeds, 10 and have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, Col. 3:9-11*
- *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. Rom, 12:2*
- A difficult but rewarding part of being a disciple.

# The Greatest Obstacle

- Among the most difficult steps in exchanging folly for wisdom is recognizing folly!
- This is the goal of every sermon and class.
- We can't see all our faults.
- Those who listen and compare their lives to Scripture have the chance to become wise.



# The Greatest Obstacle

- *Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ... She cries out from the highest places of the city, 4 “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” ... 6 Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding. 7 He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. 9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning. Pr. 9:1-9*
- Are we a scoffer or a wise man regarding faults?

# We all Claim it: Can We Prove it?

- The very thing described in Proverbs is the key James uses to test ourselves.
- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom.*  
Jas. 3:13
- Not just conformed to old ways...
- Our works manifest “*meekness of wisdom*”

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- “*prautes...* **“mild and gentle friendliness,”** is the opp. of roughness... of bad temper, or sudden anger... and brusqueness...” (Kittel, Vol 6 p 645-646)
- **“In English, “meekness” suggests weakness to a greater or less extent, whereas “prautes” does nothing of the kind. The meekness manifested by the Lord and commended to the believer is the fruit of power.” (Vines)**

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- In the wisdom of the world the “*mee*k” are weak. They only acting meekly because they don’t have the strength to do anything else.
- Children often call the gentle and mild a “*sissy*”, or a “*coward*,”
- If we feel weak to turn the other cheek, it is because we don’t understand meekness.
- *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. Mt 5:5*
- *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. Mt. 11:29-30*

# “*Meekness of Wisdom*”

- *Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. Jas. 3:13*
- **A terrible paradox**
- It is not that we don't know. We feel demeaned and lessened because we are still worldly wise.

# What is Our Wisdom?

- Without the meekness of wisdom, we use a worldly wisdom God reveals it for what it is.
- *But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. Jas. 3:14-16*
- There is a wisdom that descends from above.
- There is a wisdom that is earthly, sensual, demonic
- Which wisdom animates our soul?

# The Wisdom from Above

- *But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. 18 Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace. Jas. 3:17-18*
- Is this our wisdom?
- Is it time to become a fool to become wise?
- *Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. 1Cor. 3:18-19*