
JESUS: WISDOM PERSONIFIED IN PROVERBS

Ray Stedman: Life is simply too big for us to handle by ourselves.

INTRODUCTION

“How To”

What was the last, “How to” book or TV show that you read or watched?

Wisdom: _____ in an area of life

Proverbs specializes in wisdom. **Proverbs** teaches us how to get, use, and pass along godly wisdom (skills related to hearing and doing God’s Word).

John Piper: Wisdom must include a sensitive, mature judgment or discernment of how the fear of the Lord should work itself out in all the circumstances not specifically dealt with in the Bible. What are some life experiences that are not specifically dealt with in the Bible?

JESUS CHRIST

In **Proverbs 1-9**, Solomon personifies wisdom to help us understand wisdom. Personification is representing an _____ concept like wisdom as if it were a real _____.

_____ is the perfect fulfillment of Solomon’s personification of wisdom.

In **1 Corinthians 1:24**, Paul states that **Christ . . . the _____ of God**. Paul goes on to say in **1 Corinthians 1:30** that **Christ Jesus . . . became for us wisdom from God**. When we want to see a life lived wisely, we look to Jesus Christ.

Paul tells the Colossians that all wisdom is hid in Christ in **Colossians 2:2-3: For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge**. So, not only is Jesus the wisdom of God, in Him is hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. That sounds like something we should be looking for.

SERIES SCHEDULE

Week	Lesson	Reading Homework	Focus
August 1	Wise Writings	Proverbs 1-9	Listen to Learn; Look to Live
August 8	Wise Words	Gospel of Matthew	Clear Communication (in His Words)
August 15	Wise Way	Gospel of Mark	Dedicated Direction (to The Way)
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WISE WRITINGS

MAJOR DIVISIONS OF PROVERBS

Proverbs 1:1-1:7: _____

Proverbs 10-29: _____ Proverbs

Proverbs 1:8-9:1:

Proverbs 30-31: _____ of Agur & Lemuel

Discourses on _____/_____

WHAT IS THE BOOK OF PROVERBS ABOUT?

Proverbs 1:1-7: 1 The proverbs [Hebrew word is *mashal* and it means a sentence of ethical wisdom (the root word means to rule or command over, so a proverb is a short bit of wisdom that shows a command/understanding of the way life works)] **of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom** [skill] **and instruction** [discipline and correction], **To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive** [taking with you—example is theft by taking] **the instruction** [discipline and correction] **of wisdom** [a different word—this one means consideration, comprehension], **Justice** [that which is right], **judgment** [deciding what is right], **and equity** [evenness, smoothness, straightness, equality, fairness]; **4 To give prudence** [craftiness] **to the simple** [naive, open-minded about everything], **To the young man knowledge** [understanding] **and discretion** [ability to devise a plan of action]—**5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain** [get by purchasing] **wise counsel** [direction, advice], **6 To understand a proverb and an enigma** [meaning behind the meaning], **The words of the wise and their riddles** [puzzles, questions]. **7 The fear** [broad Hebrew word meaning everything from terror to respect to reverence] **of the LORD is the beginning** [first, beginning, best part] **of knowledge** [understanding], **But fools despise** [hold in contempt, view as insignificant] **wisdom and instruction.**

The book of **Proverbs** is about _____ to those that are wise (an understanding that I do not know it all), _____ from those that are wise (surrounding yourself with those that have been there and done that), and _____ those that are not yet wise (passing along the wisdom to the next generation).

Proverbs 1:7 reminds us that wisdom starts with _____.

WHAT IS A PROVERB?

A proverb is a sentence of _____ wisdom. Proverbs expose and distill life experience.

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT ACQUIRING WISDOM?

1. _____ to be wise. **James 1:5: If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him.**

2. Come to _____ to be wise. Jesus said He was greater than Solomon was, so go to the expert of experts. **Matthew 12:38-42**

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REVIEW

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WISE WORDS

What is the wisest advice you have ever received?

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAY ABOUT WISE WORDS?

Proverbs 8 is a speech that personified wisdom gives. Speeches are made up of words, so the entire chapter is what wise words actually say, but there are specific verses that refer to speech.

1 Does not wisdom cry out [call out, _____], **And understanding lift up her voice?** [Notice the personification]

3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city [Wisdom goes out to where the people are—and if you read through a Gospel, you will notice Jesus regularly moved around be near people.],

Wisdom is speaking now . . .

6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things [literally, leader, ruler, captain, prince; wisdom is speaking about things that are needed at the ____], **And from the opening of my lips will come right things** [the same Hebrew word is translated ‘equity’ in **Proverbs 1:3**—it means evenness, smoothness, straightness, equality, fairness; the word describes dedication to a path that does not ____ (**Matthew 7:13-14**)];

7 For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth are with righteousness [The first recorded words of Jesus in **Matthew** are **Matthew 3:1-15** and they express His desire to be all about righteousness]; **Nothing crooked or perverse is in them.**

9 They are all plain to him who understands [**Matthew 13:10-17**], **And right to those who find knowledge.**

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse [opposite of good, wrong ____] **mouth I hate** [**Matthew 15:10**].

32 “Now therefore, listen to me, my children [How many times did Jesus say, ‘_____’?], **For blessed are those who keep my ways** [**Matthew 5:1-12**].

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Our words should be _____ (**Proverbs 12:18; 25:15; Matthew 19:16-22**)
2. Our words should be _____ (**Proverbs 12:22; Matthew 16:13-17**)
3. Our words should be _____ (**Proverbs 10:19; Matthew 27:11-13**)
4. Our words should _____ (**Proverbs 17:14; Matthew 26:57-67**)

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WISE WAY

When was the last time you were lost and did not know the right way to go?

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAY ABOUT A WISE WAY?

Proverbs 8 is a speech that personified wisdom gives. Wisdom calls out to the simple and implores him to go the right way. Today we look at the places where Jesus fulfilled this example of skillfully going the right way and doing things the right way.

1 Does not wisdom cry out [call, _____], **And understanding lift up her voice?**
[Personification]

2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill [Jesus was tempted by Satan in **Mark 1:12-13**], **Beside the way, where the paths meet** [The paths meet at several places—places of decision. Jesus' way was directed by the _____ (**Mark 1:12**)].

3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city [**Mark 1:1-3**; Notice how many times He goes to a place with a societal _____. He interacted with normal, broken, hurting, needy people.]

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold [**Mark 6:7-13**: Jesus sent out the 12 and told them not to take money, but rather to take His instructions.]

13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil [Hate, not avoid—**Mark 1:35-39**: The right way is not necessarily the _____ way. The right way does not deviate from the objective.]; **Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate** [**Mark 11:15-17**].

17 I love those who love me [**Mark 6:45-51**], **And those who seek me diligently will find me** [**Mark 10:46-52**].

20 I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice [**Mark 10:32a**: Jesus is the Way, but He also _____ the way; **Mark 6:30-44**],

32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways.

34 Blessed is the man who listens to me [there is a direct relationship between our _____ and our _____], **Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors.**

35 For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD;

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Our way should be _____ (**Proverbs 23:26; Mark 16:14-20**)

2. Our way should be _____ (**Proverbs 4:26; Mark 1:16-20**)

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WISE WORK

When was the last time you saw someone not skilled at his or her work?

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAY ABOUT WISE WORK?

Proverbs 8 is a speech that personified wisdom gives. Wisdom calls out to the simple and instructs him to work the right way. Open to the gospel of **Luke** and we will look at the places where Jesus fulfilled this example of skillfully working (for Him it was teaching).

What was Jesus' job on earth? How did He make survive? Luke 4:15, 31, 44: He was a _____ (teacher) in synagogues and was supported by many women that followed Him

What was the response when Jesus taught? Luke 4:22, 28-30: _____

What were His office hours? Luke 4:31-40: As _____

Did Jesus do everything Himself? Luke 6:12-16; 9:1-2; 10:1: ____

1 Does not wisdom cry out [call out, _____], **And understanding lift up her voice?**

4 “To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men [Jesus came to seek and to save _____: **Luke 5:27-31; 9:51-55; 19:1-9**].

5 O you simple [open-minded about everything] **ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart** [Jesus called people to understand _____: **Luke 9:37-42, 57-62; 10:25-37; 11:1-4**].

12 “I, wisdom, dwell with prudence [shrewdness, craftiness: Several times Jesus would heal or illustrate some truth and would tell people not to _____ about it: **Luke 5:12-15; 8:26-39, 40-56; 9:18-22**], **And find out knowledge and discretion.**

17 I love those who love me [Do you believe that Jesus loves you? Do you believe that He desires you? Do you believe that He waits for you day after day?], **And those who seek me diligently will find me** [**Luke 7:1-10; 18:35-42**].

32 “Now therefore, listen to me, my children [Jesus was constantly telling those around Him to _____: **Luke 8:8b, 18a; 11:35; 17:3; 21:8, 34**], **For blessed are those who keep my ways** [**Luke 6:20-23; 11:27-28**].

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Our work should be _____ (**Proverbs 16:3; Luke 9:57-62**)
2. Our work should be _____ (**Proverbs 16:11; Luke 20:21**)

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WISE WALK

Who has been the most faithful friend to you in your life?

WHAT DOES THE BOOK OF PROVERBS SAY ABOUT A WISE WALK?

Proverbs 8 is a speech that personified wisdom gives. Wisdom calls out to the simple and instructs him to walk the right way in regards to friendship. Open to the gospel of **John** and we will look at the places where Jesus fulfilled this example of skillfully walking with His friends.

What were some ways in which Jesus showed friendship?

John 6:16-20: He _____ those in need and was a _____ influence

John 8:1-11: He was a friend to those that had ___ friends

5 O you simple [the disciples were simple men (for the most part)—they were not the best of the best; **John 1:29-42:** Jesus goes to the '____ good enough' and the 'not educated enough' and decides to use them] **ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart.**

14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength [**John 6:1-6:** Jesus pushed them to be better through _____. **Who are you pushing to be better? John 6:60-66:** Friends tell the truth even when it could end the relationship because the truth _____ more.].

17 I love those who love me [Do you believe that Jesus loves you? Do you believe that He desires you? Do you believe that He waits for you day after day? Do you believe that He longs to hear the sound of your voice?], **And those who seek me diligently will find me.**

32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. [**John 13:17** sums up the _____]

34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD [The disciples found a friend to the _____ in Jesus (**John 13:1**) and Jesus put their _____ in front of His own (**John 13:1-5**)]

If you have gone through this study and do not see that it is all about Jesus, look at what Jesus told His disciples on the road to Emmaus in **Luke 24:13-32**—the whole Old Testament is about Jesus, not just the wisdom in Proverbs. Watch this video: <http://tiny.cc/09u97>.

FOR FURTHER STUDY:

1. Our walk should be _____ (**Proverbs 18:24; John 15:11-15**)
2. Our walk should be _____ (**Proverbs 12:26; John 1:43**)