

Essentials | Proverbs 1 | Sermon Manuscript

[All verses are NLT]

[Introduce yourself and pray]

Build Tension: [Make the point through an analogy - our source for directions matters. I told a story about when my wife got lost coming to visit me for the first time. I wrapped the story at the end of the message of how I found her and how even when we are lost, God is pursuing us. You could use a similar lost and found story if you have one]

Let me tell you a story. Me and my girlfriend at the time were long distance, so she decided to come visit me and on her way to meet me, so she drove for over 6 hours to visit me, and when she was about 5 minutes away, she ended up taking the wrong turn due to her outdated GPS and spotty cell service. As a result, she got lost for about an hour, having no way to really communicate with me. Leaving me worried and wondering. This incident made me ponder the significance of having the right directions in life. We all have a destination in mind, but the crucial question remains: Where are you getting your directions from?

Context:

So for today, I want to introduce you to a book that I think is helpful for giving us good directions in this world. The Book of Proverbs has long been regarded as a manual for wise living in God's world. However, there's a vital prerequisite for truly understanding the wisdom encapsulated within this book.

Walk Through The Word:

Proverbs 1:7 - *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction."*

These words emphasize the foundational importance of our submission to God as the Creator of this world if we are to comprehend how to live within it. God, as the ultimate source of wisdom, necessitates our reverent fear to fully grasp the depth and breadth of His divine insight.

The Fear of the Lord encompasses several dimensions:

Healthy Fear: As Jesus imparts in the Scriptures, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell." This healthy fear acknowledges the authority and sovereignty of God, bringing comfort and assurance in His protective embrace.

Reverence: God's character embodies holiness, goodness, righteousness, perfection, mercy, love, and justice, all intricately woven into His role as our Creator. Our reverence for Him acknowledges His supremacy and acknowledges our dependence on His divine wisdom.

Submission: Recognizing that we were created by God and for God, we must humbly yield ourselves to His will and purpose. Refusing to acknowledge His insights and guidance is ultimately a fool's errand, as it leaves us adrift in a world designed by Him yet lacking the understanding that only He can provide.

Even pagan philosophers have acknowledged the fundamental truth that this world is governed by a Creator, underscoring the timeless wisdom embedded in the concept of the Fear of the Lord.

What if He is shouting, and you're just not listening?

Proverbs 1:20-21 - *"Wisdom shouts in the streets. She cries out in the public square. She calls to the crowds along the main street, to those gathered in front of the city gate."*

These two verses depict Wisdom actively calling out to us, echoing throughout the fabric of creation and reverberating in the sacred texts of Scripture. God's voice speaks through the general revelation evident in the wonders of nature, serving as a testament to His existence and creative power. Moreover, His special revelation unfolds in the infallible and inerrant book of wisdom He has bestowed upon us, offering unparalleled guidance and insight into the mysteries of life and faith.

We are all listening to someone, but what if you're not listening to God?

Proverbs 1:22-32 - *"How long, you simpletons, will you insist on being simpleminded? How long will you mockers relish your mocking? How long will you fools hate knowledge? Come and listen to my counsel. I'll share my heart with you and make you wise. I called you so often, but you wouldn't*

come. I reached out to you, but you paid no attention. You ignored my advice and rejected the correction I offered. So I will laugh when you are in trouble! I will mock you when disaster overtakes you— when calamity overtakes you like a storm, when disaster engulfs you like a cyclone, and anguish and distress overwhelm you. When they cry for help, I will not answer. Though they anxiously search for me, they will not find me. For they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. They rejected my advice and paid no attention when I corrected them. Therefore, they must eat the bitter fruit of living their own way, choking on their own schemes."

This passage highlights the consequences of ignoring God's wisdom and pursuing satisfaction in worldly pursuits or in our own limited understanding. Fools settle for simplistic, self-serving paths that ultimately lead to their destruction. Seeking fulfillment in anything other than the Lord leads to spiritual bankruptcy and unfulfilled desires. Only by turning to God and acknowledging Him as the ultimate source of satisfaction can we begin to comprehend the true purpose and fulfillment He desires for each of us. Fools may choose temporary substitutes for genuine satisfaction, but God beckons us to a more profound and lasting fulfillment that can only be found in Him.

Main Idea:

At the heart of it all, the call is simple: *Listen to God so you can be loved by God.*

It is in this act of listening that we align ourselves with His divine purpose for our lives and discover the true fulfillment that can only be found in Him.

Main Illustrations: [Use an analogy that emphasizes the benefits of listening - I used an analogy of my dog that struggles to listen. Then I proceeded to talk of examples of when I listened to God.]

To further illustrate this point, I often think of my beloved dog. She loves going for walks, but her inability to heed commands and instructions limits our outings. Due to her failure to listen and respond appropriately, we are unable to take her out as often as we would like. Reflecting on this, I can't help but draw parallels between my dog's situation and our own struggles when we fail to listen to God's guidance and direction in our lives. We miss out on the richness and fullness of life that God desires for each of us.

Essentials | Proverbs 10 | Small Group Questions

Main Idea: You can live wisely in God's world if you have God's heart

Questions:

Can you think of any historical figures or contemporary individuals whose words and actions make it challenging to discern their true character?

In your opinion, what are some indicators that help differentiate between the path of the wise and the path of the foolish, as highlighted in Proverbs 10:2-11? Can you recall any specific scenarios where you have witnessed the consequences of wise or unwise choices in your own life or the lives of those around you?

How do the contrasting effects of hatred and love, as discussed in Proverbs 10:12, influence our relationships and interactions with others? Can you think of any practical ways to cultivate an attitude of love and reconciliation in the face of conflict or disagreement?

Reflecting on the main idea that living wisely in God's world requires having God's heart, how can we actively align our lives with God's heart and wisdom in our daily choices and interactions? Can you share any personal experiences where following God's heart has led to positive outcomes or blessings in your life or the lives of others?

How does the concept of embracing God's heart correlate with the notion of experiencing His blessings? Can you share any personal testimonies or stories of individuals whose lives have been transformed by embracing God's heart and wisdom?

In response to the call for seeking after God's heart, wisdom, and divine counsel, how can we practically incorporate this pursuit into our daily lives? Can you share any specific prayer requests or intentions that align with seeking after God's heart and wisdom? How can we support and encourage one another in this journey of spiritual growth and transformation?

Essentials | Proverbs 31 | Sermon Manuscript

[All verses are NLT]

[Introduce yourself and pray]

Build Tension: [Share a marriage story that sparks interest in wanting to know the key to a thriving marriage. It could even simply be a couple that encourages you.]

This one couple I knew, in their 30s, was as happy as could be, clearly head over heels for another. The type of people you want to take marriage advice from. But I remember being shocked one day because they shared in a small group that they had serious marriage issues for a decade and almost got divorced. It completely threw me off because they were so happy in the present. They were the type of people that made you really want to learn and listen to the key to marriage.

I asked quite a bit of people before this message what they thought the key was to a successful marriage, there were a lot of great answers. Some said trust, some said communication. Some statistics show that positive attention is a common denominator in 90% of happy marriages. But often, we tend to misinterpret the byproducts of a successful marriage as its defining elements, overlooking the profound underpinnings that fortify and sustain a lasting bond. This realization compels us to reexamine the intricacies of the keys to a fulfilling and enduring union.

Context:

Today, we're going to look at Proverbs 31 which gives us some great insight to thriving marriage. The main passage begins in verses 10-31, but let's look at verse 1 first for the context.

Proverbs 31:1

The sayings of King Lemuel contain this message, which his mother taught him.

Here we see the words penned in this passage stem from a mother's loving counsel to her son, embodying the timeless wisdom that mothers often

impart to their children. In other words, godly mamas can give great dating advice.

The passage we are looking at today is crafted in the form of a chiasmus alphabetical poem. [\[Show chiasmus poem slide here\]](#) A chiasmus poem is meant to be easily remembered, repeat concepts and symbolize completeness. An example of a phrase is “It’s nice to be important, but it’s more important to be nice”. Jesus was known for doing this too. The pattern of the poem in English might look like this - ABCDEFGHGFEDCBA.

The passage resonates with completeness and encompasses a range of concepts vital to fostering healthy and thriving relationships. It encapsulates the essence of prioritizing virtues that reflect the fear and reverence of the Lord, serving as a guiding light for both men and women in their pursuit of godly relationships.

Walk Through The Word:

Proverbs 31:10-22

10 Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is more precious than rubies.

11 Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life.

12 She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life.

13 She finds wool and flax and busily spins it.

14 She is like a merchant’s ship, bringing her food from afar.

15 She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day’s work for her servant girls.

16 She goes to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard.

17 She is energetic and strong, a hard worker.

18 She makes sure her dealings are profitable; her lamp burns late into the night.

19 Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber.

20 She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy.

21 She has no fear of winter for her household, for everyone has warm clothes.

22 She makes her own bedspreads. She dresses in fine linen and purple gowns.

This passage unveils the virtues that significantly impact a woman's role within her marriage, family, work, and community. These verses shed light on the exceptional attributes that define an excellent wife, emphasizing her rarity and invaluable contribution to the well-being and success of her family and community. Her virtues encompass diligence, trustworthiness, and an unwavering commitment to serving others, all of which form the bedrock of a thriving and harmonious household.

Proverbs 10:23

23 Her husband is well known at the city gates, where he sits with the other civic leaders.

This verse is the cent or the chiasmus poem. It embodies a pivotal reflection of what a godly wife does for her husband. It highlights the pivotal role a virtuous wife plays in fostering and nurturing her husband's growth as a godly leader. Her genuine desire to see her husband flourish is a testament to her unwavering support and commitment to their shared journey, exemplifying the significance of mutual encouragement and spiritual growth within the context of marriage.

Proverbs 10:24-31

24 She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants.

25 She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs without fear of the future.

26 When she speaks, her words are wise, and she gives instructions with kindness.

27 She carefully watches everything in her household and suffers nothing from laziness.

28 Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her:

29 "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!"

30 Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.

31 Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

This passage further expounds on the profound impacts of a virtuous wife, underscoring the transformative power of God's influence in shaping her character and conduct. Her unwavering confidence, faith, and hope become the catalysts for not only her family's well-being but also for her

This preview includes a select number of pages from this resource.

If you like what you see, download the entire resource today!

downloadyouthministry.com