



The 12 Lessons of Wisdom

The Epic Battle

between

Wisdom and Folly

Two Paths - Wisdom or Folly

The Epic Battle

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Six Types of People



Fear of the LORD is the beginning of KNOWLEDGE

Pro. 1:7

Fear of the LORD is the beginning of WISDOM

Pro. 9:10

And KNOWLEDGE

of the HOLY ONE

is

UNDERSTANDING / DISCERNMENT

Pro. 9:10

Lesson One

Choose Your Friends Wisely

Proverbs 1:8-19

My Son,

- Stay away from those who take advantage of the weak
- Stay away from those who are greedy for gain

Wisdom's First Appearance

Proverbs 1:20-33

How long you simple one's will you love simplicity?
How long ye mockers will you delight in your mocking?
How long you fools will you hate knowledge?

Lesson Two

Turn at My Reproof/Correction

...and I will pour out My Spirit and make My
Words known to you. (Pro. 1:23)

My Son,

- If you refuse to hear God's rebuke and fear man more than God, then fear and insecurity will be your constant companion. (1:24-33)
- If you choose to hate knowledge and act as a fool, despising Wisdom and ignoring correction, there will come a time when Wisdom will ignore you. (1:24-33)

Lesson Three – If, Then

My Son,

If you seek wisdom more than silver, gold, or hidden treasure,

- *then* you will:
 - Understand the Fear of the LORD
 - Find the Knowledge of God
 - Understand Righteousness, Justice, and Fairness

- *then...* Wisdom will enter your heart and Knowledge will become pleasant to your soul.

- *then...* Wisdom will protect you from the:
 - Froward Man and
 - Loose-Lipped Woman.

Lesson Four

Remember these Teachings!

Proverbs 3:1-12

My Son:

- If you keep Love and Faithfulness as your close companions (vs. 3):
 - Then you will be rewarded with a long life, peace, prosperity, and be favored by God and man (vs. 2-4)
- If you trust in the LORD and acknowledge him in all your ways/actions (vs. 5,6):
 - Then he will guide your paths.
- If you give back to the LORD a portion of your blessings (vs. 9):
 - Then your barns will be filled and your presses will burst with new wine (vs. 10)
- If you don't despise chastening and correction when your blessings blind you, (vs. 11, 12):
 - Then you will be able to enjoy God and he will be able to enjoy you!
 - “For whom the LORD loves he corrects; even as a father the son in whom he delights.” – **“This is my beloved Son!”**

Wisdom Interlude

Proverbs 3:13-20

Happy is the man who finds Wisdom and
Pays a Price for Understanding/Discernment

She is more precious than:

- Rubies
- Silver
- Gold
- Anything you can desire
- *Happy is everyone who holds on to her

She gives:

- Length of days
- Riches
- Honour
- Pleasantness
- Peace
- Life
- Tree of Life

Lesson Five

Benefits of Fearless Faith and Dedicated Determination Proverbs 3:21-26

My Son:

- Let not these truths depart from you
- Guard Wisdom and Foresight/vision
 - *Then:*
 - they shall be life to your soul and you will receive favor
 - you will walk safely
 - your foot won't stumble
 - when you lie down you won't be afraid
 - your sleep will be sweet
 - you will not be afraid of sudden terror
 - the LORD will be your confidence and guard your steps

Lesson Five continued

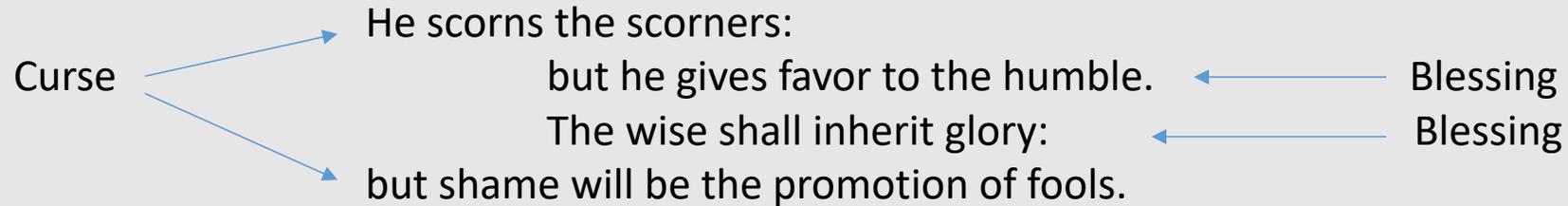
6 Not's

Proverbs 3:27-35

My Son,

- Withhold not good to those to whom it is due
- Say not to your neighbor that you will help another time
- Devise not against your neighbor for your advantage at his disadvantage
- Strive not with a man who has done you no harm
- Envy not those who prosper through ill gotten gain
- Choose not any of their ways

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Lesson Seven
Coming of Age: ROMANCE!
Proverbs 4:1-27

My Son,

- Get Wisdom, get Understanding (4:5);
 - Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore
- get wisdom: and with all thy getting get Understanding! (4:7)

Pursue Wisdom Romantically as a Priority: (4:5)

- Love her (4:6)
- Prize her (4:8)
- Exalt her (4:8)
- Embrace her (4:8)

In Return, Wisdom will: (4:8,9)

- * Honor you
- * Favor you
- * Exalt you

But don't forget!!! **Take fast hold of correction**, don't let her go, for she is your life! (4:13) **Why?**

Lesson Eight

Folly's Flattering Intoxicating Lips

My Son, because

If you do go near and not heed correction, you will incur the loss of your (5:9-11):

- virtue - lest you give your honor to others
- valor - your years of laboring to the merciless
- value - lest strangers be filled with your wealth
- vigor - your labors be in the house of a stranger
- vitality - your flesh and body are consumed

Then you will say, “How have **I hated correction**, and my heart **despised/scorned reproof**; and have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that **corrected me!**” Pro. 5:12, 13

Listen to Wisdom's words:

- Folly's goal is to take you to hell with her flattering words (vs. 5)
- Don't go anywhere near her house! (vs. 8)

Lesson Eight continued

Wisdom's Intoxicating Defense

My Son,

Be intoxicated with love for the wife of your youth (5:19).

If the grass looks greener on the other side, you can be sure that there are grubs under the turf (5:12-21). If you flirt around with Folly, be sure, the cords of sin will hold you tight as you go astray in the greatness of your folly, and die **without correction** (5: 22,23).

Wisdom's 9th Lesson

Run! Hate what God Hates

More CORRECTION!!!

- 6:1-19 Deliver yourself like a trapped gazelle (don't put off!) from business ventures that require partnerships with people of unknown character.
 - Hate what God hates: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.
- (6:20-35) – Reproofs of correction are a way of life—embrace it!
 - Folly is relentless and is coming after you with her FLATTERING LIPS as well as her BEGUILING BEAUTY!
 - Stop lusting after her beauty (25).
 - The game is on; the stakes have been raised; she is now turned from SEDUCTRESS to STEALTH HUNTER! (26).

Wisdom's 10th Lesson

CLOAKED CHARACTER – Stealth Hunter

7:1-27 - Unless you remain intimate with Wisdom and the wife of your youth, Mistress Folly will escalate her enticements from flattering words, flirting eyelids, and beguiling beauty, to Stealth Hunter—enticing touch.

- She no longer waits in her house for the unsuspecting to come her way (7:12)
- She now sets traps to ambush on every corner (7:12).
- She attacks at night when the sons of Adam are most vulnerable, by cloaking her character with the twilight of the evening (7:9-10).
- The father uses a play on words to drive these warnings home: twilight, evening, black, dark, night, harlot's attire, and concealed heart; all build upon one another to describe the great deception that is about to unfold. No longer will her feet abide in her house; it is now time to hunt her prey by the most fiendish tactics—the kiss of death. Even the mighty cannot withstand her seductions.
- “She caught him and kissed him and said”—I’M RELIGIOUS and LOOKING FOR LOVE! And all my life, I’ve been diligently searching for a soul-mate like you!!! And now, I’ve found you! (7:15).
- I’m want to give my entire self to you; my body and my soul (7:16-18).

Don’t fall for it! It’s a trap! Run! “For there are many wounded in her wake, and her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death, and many mighty are already there!” (7:25-27).

Lesson # 11

Breathe!

8:1-36 - Take a break! Breathe! Wisdom is sovereign and eternal; she means what she says and says what she means.

- One of her most important truths, “heeding correction,” is once again brought to the forefront.
- In verses 10 and 11 she says, “Choose my correction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold. For Wisdom is better than rubies and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to her.”

8:15, 16 - Fools are invited one last time. Only a fool would reject her offer.

- Wisdom reintroduces the theme of the fear of the Lord but now gives more insight as to what fearing the LORD looks like: to hate what God hates—to hate evil, pride, arrogance, an evil way, and a perverse mouth (8:12-13).
- In contrast, loving what Wisdom loves results in riches, honor, enduring wealth, righteousness, and an inheritance of treasuries full (8:17-21). She is serious in her requirements but romantically and creatively playful in her relationships.
- Obey correction, Be wise, and Be blessed (8:33,34)
- For whoever find Me, finds life, and obtains favor of the LORD (8:36).

Lesson Twelve

THE EPIC BATTLE ~ WISDOM vs. FOLLY

Proverbs 9:1-18

- In chapter 1, the simple, mockers, and fools are invited to know Wisdom and visit her.
- In chapter 8, the simple and fools are invited to Wisdom's house; the mockers are excluded.
- In chapter 9, the mockers and fools are now excluded. The door is closed. It is the Simple's last opportunity to become wise or remain a fool.

- A. Wisdom has built – 9:1
- B. She has hewn, killed beasts, mixed, set – 9:2
- C. She sent out – 9:3
- D. She calls from highest places of city – 9:3
- E. Whoever is gullible – 9:4
- F. Let him turn in here – 9:4
- G. Lacks sense – 9:4
- H. Eat my bread and drink the wine I've mixed – 9:5
- I. Understand – 9:6
- J. Mock himself alone, insults, stain, hate – 9:7,8
- K. Wise, Love, Wise, more wisdom – 9:9
- L. Increase (Joseph) – 9:9

WISDOM**Wisdom** – 9:10**Fear of LORD** → **Knowledge of Holy** – 9:10**Understanding** – 9:10**FOLLY**

- L'. Increase (Joseph) – 9:11
- K'. Wise, wise, advantage – 9:12
- J'. Mock, you alone, bear it – 9:12
- I'. Knows nothing – 9:13 (see Hosea 4:6)
- H'. Secret bread, sweet stolen waters – 9:17
- G'. Lacks sense – 9:16
- F'. Let him turn in here – 9:16
- E'. Whoever is gullible (going on their own way + path) – 9:16
- D'. On a throne in the high places of the city, calling out – 9:14, 15
- C'. She sits at the doorway – 9:14
- B'. She regards nothing at all [she regard not the end] – 9:13
- A'. Foolish woman is destructive – 9:13