

Apply The Word

www.crosswaypa.org



Message Info

Title:

Lady Wisdom

Speaker:

Peter Privitera

Date:

January 15, 2023

Scriptures:

Proverbs 1:20-33

Theme: Take Lady Wisdom's hand, before it's too late, and she will lead you to safety.

Introduction: In Proverbs 1, wisdom is personified as a great Lady, holding out her hand to us (1:24). She is the loveliest and most faithful of women, the picture of nobility and dignity. She is powerful and offers to teach us about the contours of reality in God's world. She is offering us safety in a dangerous world and calling us to respond to her offer.

We see Lady Wisdom doing 3 things in this text:

1. She's calling out (20-21)

Lady Wisdom is being quite aggressive in this passage. She has placed herself at the middle of it all—the city gates—and she calls out to everyone.

Life requires wisdom, and wisdom is not hard to find. The problem is not that we cannot find wisdom, but that we tend not to listen to her.

Part of the folly of mankind is that we work hard to ignore and dismiss wisdom, pursuing to go our own way in rebellion against God (cf. Rom 1:19-20).

2. She's warning us (22-32)

Everyone that Wisdom calls out to is in trouble in some ways; and they are in trouble because of their own, active wills.

Simple ones love being simple; *scoffers* delight in their scoffing; and *fools* hate knowledge. This is culpable rebellion.

Even though we all face various challenges and sufferings from our pasts, we have to reject worldly thinking that turns those things into excuses.

We all have agency, and we all choose whether or not to take Wisdom's hand.

Our growth is always contingent on God's grace, which he holds out freely to us.

Wisdom warns us: a) if we disregard her, we will be mocked; b) we must repent; c) folly leads to destruction; and d) at some point, it's too late to repent.

3. She's making a promise (33)

Wisdom's promise is tremendous: if we listen to her we will dwell secure, at east, without dread. It's a surpassingly great promise.

In general, those who are wise will do far better in this life. Further, they will be steady even in the midst of life's trials. And they will have ultimate security because they know that these promises are sure, secured in Christ.

Questions:

1. How do you need to grow in wisdom?
2. In what areas of your life are you pursuing growth? What are doing to grow?
3. How have you resisted taking responsibility for your own life and its fruits?