

Apply The Word

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Message Info

Title:

A Tale of Two Parties

Speaker:

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Date:

April 23, 2023

Scriptures:

Proverbs 9:1-18

Theme: Feast on wisdom and leave simple foolishness behind.

Introduction: Children generally operate with a simple faith: they believe whatever they are told. That is how God has made the world, and it helps parents to train and raise their children. But as we grow and mature, it is necessary to grow in discernment. We must leave behind our simple ways and grow in wisdom and knowledge. In Proverbs 9, the father calls his son again to turn away from Folly and to pursue Wisdom in the fear of the Lord. In that way, he will receive God's blessings.

The father identifies 2 contrasting parties and 2 contrasting characters under 3 points:

1. Wisdom's feast (1-6)

Wisdom is presented as a hard-working woman who has built her stately home and prepared a lavish feast for her guests.

She calls out especially for the simple (the immature) to come to her feast, and to leave their simple ways behind.

The right response to her invitation is two-fold: "come, eat...and drink"; and "leave your simple ways." We feast in faith, being blessed by her work. And we turn away from simple immaturity, choosing to grow by what she offers us.

2. Folly's crumbs (13-18)

Folly is presented as a lazy woman who does not work, but lives by stolen goods and illicit means. She offers crumbs to her guests.

She also summons the simple, but what she offers is pitiful compared to Wisdom, and entering her home leads to death.

Though the contrast is stark and obvious, every time we sin we are listening to Folly and scorning Wisdom. The father is warning us to avoid such foolishness.

3. Two characters (7-12)

The father introduces and compares the scoffer and the wise man. The scoffer will receive no reproof. He will not be corrected or instructed.

He is wise in his own eyes, so he abuses and injures those who reprove him. He hates them and their counsel.

The wise man is humble and loves the one who reproves him. He grows wiser and more knowledgeable because he responds rightly to the Lord.

We are personally responsible for how we respond to the Lord (v. 12). We cannot blame anyone else for how we respond.

Questions:

1. Do you take responsibility for your sins and failures? How do you blame others?
2. Is God's word your source for wisdom, or do you turn to other sources?
3. How is your practice of seeking and extending forgiveness? Are you truly experiencing God's grace, or are you just trying to 'do better'?