

## Topical Study 1: The Wise Man & The Fool

# THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

## Topical studies in Proverbs- *The Wise Man & the Fool*



### Notes & Questions:

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- The “wise man” is an “ideal type” which we can cumulatively sketch from the many verses spread throughout Proverbs which describe behaviors & attitudes that reflect wisdom. However, there is one place where a complete portrait presents a model of one who exemplifies & exhibits wisdom in character and life—the “Wife of Noble Character” in Proverbs 31:10-31. The “noble wife” embodies wisdom in action; situated in real life, in real circumstances. She fears the Lord, has moral integrity, is trustworthy, diligent, skilled, devoted to her husband & family, generous, & faithful in relationships. She also is an “ideal type,” a “larger-than-life” example held out as a worthy goal to pursue.

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The path of wisdom, like discipleship & sanctification, is a “long obedience in the same direction.” Growing in wisdom is a continuous endeavor which is never finished in this lifetime. The wise man or woman is never wise in their own eyes (3:7) and is always seeking to grow in discernment & understanding (1:5). Seeking wisdom, knowledge, discernment, & understanding is an aspect of loving God with “all your mind” (Matt. 22:37). Seeking to grow in wisdom means seeking to grow in Christ, “in whom are hidden all the treasures of knowledge and wisdom” (Col. 2:3).

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