



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 1:20-33

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets
she raises her voice;

21 at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the
entrance of the city gates she speaks:

22 "How long, O simple ones, will you love being
simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?

23 If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my
spirit to you; I will make my words known to you.

24 Because I have called and you refused to listen,
have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded,

25 because you have ignored all my counsel and
would have none of my reproof,

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when
terror strikes you,

27 when terror strikes you like a storm and your
calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and
anguish come upon you.

28 Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently but will not find me.


29 Because they hated knowledge and did not
choose the fear of the LORD,

30 would have none of my counsel and despised all
my reproof,

31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and
have their fill of their own devices.

32 For the simple are killed by their turning away, and
the complacency of fools destroy them;

33 but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will
be at ease, without dread of disaster."



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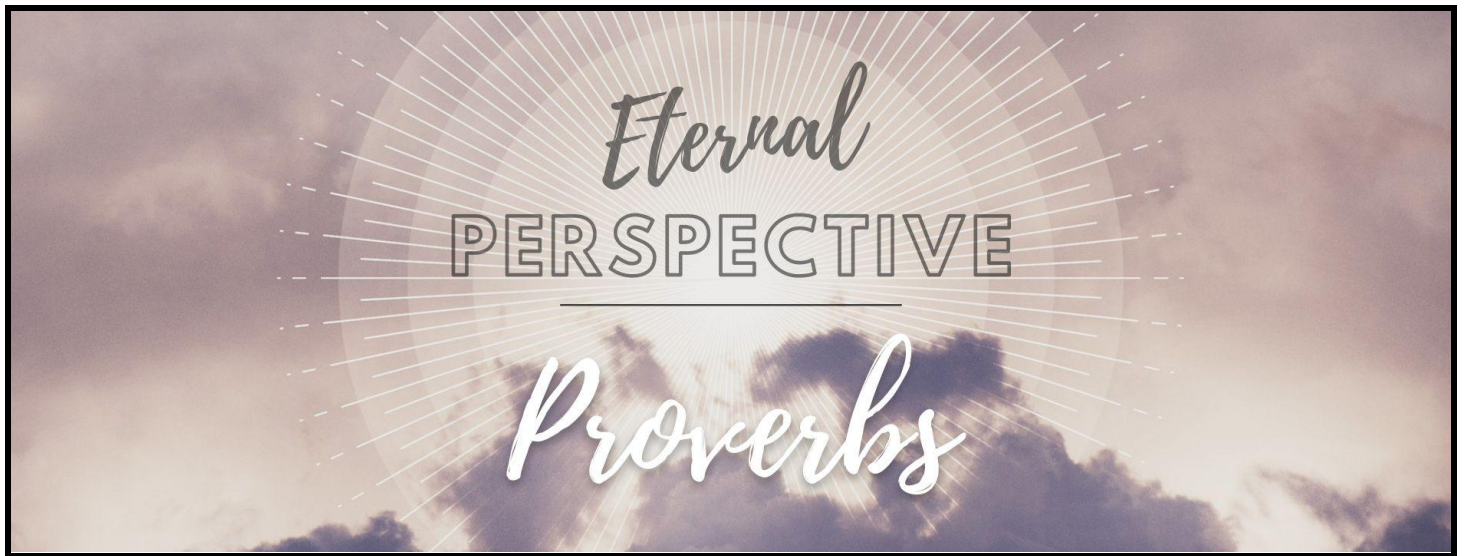
DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 1:20-33

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At first read, this passage may come across intense and harsh; and, it kind of is. Wisdom is being portrayed as urgent and with a seriousness that should not be overlooked - free to cry out in the middle of the busiest streets! It's too easy to not compare wisdom to parenthood. How often do we tell toddlers: "Don't touch that;" "hold my hand in the street;" "wait for me to help you;" or to teenagers: "choose your friends carefully;" "watch how you're dressing;" "don't rush a relationship". Why do we say these things over and over and over? Because we have wisdom from experience, age, maturity, and we so desperately want to impart that on our kids. We want to keep them safe and from unnecessary consequences. We have the wisdom and want them to heed the truth! Like the good Father that He is, the Lord is trying to get us to heed to His truth. It's not just about making good, moral decisions, but choosing to live according to God's word and building spiritual character.

Right away, wisdom (personified feminine) is trying to get the attention of three groups of people: the naive, the scoffers, and the fools (verse 22). It's like she's saying "Hellooo, how else am I to get your attention except by shouting in the streets? You're missing it! Pay attention!" 1 Corinthians 14:20 says, "Brothers, do not be children in your thinking. Be infants in evil, but in your thinking be mature." For the scoffers and mockers 2 Peter 3:3 says, "knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires," Second Timothy 4:3 describes the foolish, unbelievers who will not listen to the truth: "For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions."

We can look around and see each of these groups portrayed in our current culture and across the world. It is no different from two thousand years ago. Time after time, we have seen throughout history people fall to destruction and death because of turning away from true wisdom. God has laid it out clearly for us to understand, In verses 23-32 it's as if God is saying, "Choose to follow Me in wisdom, reproof and counsel, and I will pour it out to you! I will give you My Spirit to lead you and make My words known to you. For you to live securely, just choose Me. But if not, if you continue to reject Me, and choose your own way, and turn your ear from Me, I will give you over to it. I will have given you every opportunity to choose My help and counsel, but when you turn from it, you will have to accept your consequences." Romans 1:24-25 says, "Therefore God gave them up in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, to the dishonoring of their bodies among themselves, because they exchanged the truth about God for a lie and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever! Amen." I don't know about you, but I don't want to be found in that place! Again, like the good Father He is, He does not leave us solely with admonishment, but



with hope - the hope that is only found in Him: "but whoever listens to me will dwell secure" (verse 33). What a praise! The word wisdom is found over two hundred times in scripture. We would do well to pay close attention to God's counsel, His wisdom.

Questions:

1. When have you exchanged God's truth for a lie? Have you turned away from that lie? If not, pray and repent from that.
2. Has there been a time you have chosen God's truth and wisdom and seen the fruit and blessing from that? Share that experience with someone today!
3. Do you know of someone who falls into one of the categories mentioned in verse 22? Is it you? Stop and pray for that person now.