



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 9:1-12

1 Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.

2 She has slaughtered her beasts; she has mixed her wine; she has also set her table.

3 She has sent out her young women to call from the highest places in the town,

4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" To him who lacks sense she says,

5 "Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.

6 Leave your simple ways, and live, and walk in the way of insight."

7 Whoever corrects a scoffer gets himself abuse, and he who reproves a wicked man incurs injury.


8 Do not reprove a scoffer, or he will hate you; reprove a wise man, and he will love you.

9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

11 For by me your days will be multiplied, and years will be added to your life.

12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself; if you scoff, you alone will bear it.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 9:1-12

AUTHOR: CLARESSA BARRETT


Jenny, a little 5-year old girl, was with her mother at the checkout stand when she saw a strand of glistening white plastic pearls in a pink foil box. She begged her mother for this \$2 treasure. Jenny loved her pearls. She wore them everywhere and rarely took them off.

Jenny had a very loving father who tucked her into bed every night and read her a story. One night he asked her, "Do you love me?" She replied, "Oh yes, Daddy, you know that I do." He replied, "Then give me your pearls." "Oh Daddy, not my pearls... I'll give you my favorite white toy horse," Jenny said. "That's okay, Jenny," her Daddy said as he told her he loved her and kissed her goodnight. This happened several nights over the next few weeks. Each time, Jenny offered her Daddy something other than her pearls. Finally, one night, tears ran down her face as she handed her Daddy her prized white pearls. At that moment, her Daddy pulled out a blue velvet case with a strand of genuine pearls and gave them to Jenny. He was just waiting for her to give up the "dime-store" stuff so he could give her the genuine treasure.

Chances are you have heard a version of this story before. (If not, you can google "Jenny and the Pearl Necklace" to read the whole thing.) While this is a paraphrased, shortened version, I couldn't help but think about this story of the pearls as I read about wisdom and folly in Proverbs 9.

What strikes me about this passage is that we see wisdom is generous; her house is well-appointed, lacking in nothing, and a beautiful table has been set for those who would dine with her (verses 1-2). She offers an invitation to everyone (verses 4-6). But we must respond. Much like Jenny's Daddy, wisdom does not force an acceptance.

While Jenny did not know that her Daddy had a greater treasure in store for her, we are not left with the same uncertainty. We are told in previous chapters that wisdom is better than gain from silver, more profitable than gold, more precious than jewels, and that nothing can compare with her (3:14-15; 8:10-11). There will be life for our soul; we will walk securely and not stumble; we will lie down and not be afraid (3:22-24). She will guard us (4:6) and give us insight and strength (8:14). Whoever walks with her will be blessed (8:32; 34-35). And yet, we still often grip our "plastic pearls" more tightly, not believing what wisdom, or God, promises. Instead, we believe that we know better (Proverbs 3:7), leading us to folly, and ultimately disappointment and death (Proverbs 9:13-18). Abba Father, Daddy, help us to trust You and Your promises more than ourselves!



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- *Proverbs*

Questions:

1. What "plastic pearls" are you holding onto? Why?
2. There is a parable in Scripture that Jesus shared about a banquet feast where many were invited but did not come. Read Luke 14:12-24. What are the reasons why they did not come? What else did you learn?
3. According to Proverbs 1:7 and 9:10, where does wisdom begin? What is one step you need to take to have an abiding relationship with God? If you are not sure, please reach out to pastor@stonepointchurch.com.