

WISDOM'S CRY

Tuesday, November 25

Reading: Proverbs 8:1-21

Proverbs 8:1 *Does not wisdom call out? Does not understanding raise her voice? 2 At the highest point along the way, where the paths meet, she takes her stand; 3 beside the gate leading into the city, at the entrance, she cries aloud:*

Once again, Lady Wisdom is seen making her appeal in the busy streets and gates of the city (see 1:20-33). She cries out in the same streets and squares as the wayward woman roams (7:11-12). “Of course, wisdom does call. She shouts, in fact. She cares too much to keep silent. Her message is too important to be whispered. She has no intention of letting her righteous cause be drowned in the sea of wicked propositions that threaten to engulf the young.”¹ This reminds us that God’s message cannot be confined to the church building. We must take it out into the very streets where Satan ‘sells his wares.’

HER WORDS ARE TRUTH (8:6-9) – Wisdom’s appeal is urgent. People must make a decision. In a world full of troublemakers with corrupt mouths (6:12) and temptresses with smooth talk (7:21), God’s truth is sorely needed. And it is available for those who are willing to seek after and live by it!

HER WORDS ARE PRICELESS (8:10-11) – Like today, people in Solomon’s day sought material success and riches. But what wisdom offers is far greater than any wealth you could desire. Following wisdom leads to right and just paths (8:18-21).

HER WORDS ARE PRUDENT (8:12-16) – The words “prudence” and “discretion” carry the idea of knowing what to do and the right way to do it. Wisdom teaches us that “to fear the Lord” means we must hate what God hates. “Pride and arrogance” are the opposite of the fear of God for they claim the glory for themselves instead of giving it to the Lord. “Evil behavior” follows its’ own selfish path instead of the right path and “perverse speech” twists and corrupts instead of encouraging and comforting.

To fear God also means we must love what He loves. “Counsel” refers to the ability to make decisions and shape plans. “Sound wisdom” is all about making plans that advance the right cause and bring success. “Insight” means getting to the heart of an issue. It is by following wisdom that rulers reign justly.

“Wisdom provides the perspective and the power to see issues clearly and pursue them courageously. What a sorely needed word this is in a world where politicians boast of their exploits and bury their failures in their frenzied efforts to grasp or maintain positions of power. How much more honest would we all be if God’s wisdom got the credit for our success...”²

HER WORDS SHOW US GOD’S PATH (8:17-21) – True “riches and honor, enduring wealth and prosperity” are not found in bank accounts and social status. They are found in fearing the Lord and loving and seeking His ways. Our “rich inheritance” of righteousness and faithfulness will last long after our material possessions and popularity have faded away.

¹ David A. Hubbard. Proverbs (The Preacher’s Commentary, vol. 15), p. 119

² Hubbard, p. 123