



Proverbs 9 | Lady Wisdom vs. Lady Folly 05.31.20

Matthew 7:13-14 *“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

In **Proverbs 8** we learn that (1) Lady Wisdom is visible, (2) Lady Wisdom is audible, (3) Lady Wisdom is valuable, and (4) Lady Wisdom is conditional.

What does Godly Wisdom look like?

1. We are doers of the Word and not just hearers. **Proverbs 1:5**
2. We place divine revelation over human reasoning. **Proverbs 3:5-7**
3. We see the value of hearing what we need to hear over what we want to hear. **Prov. 3:11-12**
4. We guard our hearts with great care. **Proverbs 4:23**
5. We receive reproof without sinful reactions or excuses. **Proverbs 9:8**
6. We listen to those who listen to God, seeking godly counsel. **Proverbs 11:14, 12:15**
7. We choose friends that protect and help in our walk with God. **Proverbs 13:20**
8. We are quickly willing to admit and confess all our sins. **Proverbs 28:13**
9. Our emotions are *not* the determining factor of our decisions. **Proverbs 28:26**

We should never forsake truth to stress a point. **John 3:21, 10:41**

Proverbs 8:6-11 *Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; ⁷For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. ⁸All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. ⁹They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. ¹⁰Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold; ¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her.*

Proverbs 9 *Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars; ²She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table. ³She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, ⁴“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ⁵“Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. ⁶Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding. ⁷“He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. ⁸Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.*

“Wisdom is to see life from God’s point of view as revealed in His Word.”

Proverbs 9:10 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.*

The fear of the Lord is an understanding that God sees and knows everything about me, and one day, I will give an account of myself to Him.

***Proverbs 9:11-18** For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. ¹²If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone. A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. ¹⁴For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, ¹⁵To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: ¹⁶“Whoever is simple, let him turn in here”; And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, ¹⁷“Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.” ¹⁸But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.*

Lady Folly’s appeal is on entitlement and immediate gratification with little thought about others, consequences, and, most importantly, what God has to say!

***Titus 2:11-15** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, ¹² teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, ¹³ looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. ¹⁵ Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.*

***John 1:6-13** There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷ This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe. ⁸ He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light ⁹ That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. ¹⁰ He was in the world, and the world was made through Him, and the world did not know Him. ¹¹ He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. ¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: ¹³ who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Digging Deeper: Study James 3 and note the differences between the two types of wisdom.

***James 3:13-18** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.*

Steps to developing a life that desires and pursues wisdom:

1. Have your plan. | Commitment
2. Follow your plan. | Discipline
3. Share your plan. | Accountability

A great plan is to read **The Proverbs of the Day**. Most months have 31 days; within one year, you would have read through Proverbs 12 times. Keep a journal on what God teaches you from this insightful book and what your learning about doing life on this side of Heaven.