

Proverbs 1:8-33

~ Wisdom in the Wild ~

Introduction

Well this week I heard an interesting story of a man by the name of Stephen Lee...who on September 27, 1989 Stephen and his 2 accomplices attempted to rob a **truck** in Marin County!

And in the process of robbing this truck the owner came out and called the cops – which **caused these men:**

To **abandon** their theft and **flee the scene** on foot!

After running **several miles** across **several fields** – they came to a very **large steel fence** and proceeded to climb up **over the fence** and continue on foot – but in the process of **scaling** they **somehow managed** to **miss** the giant:

KEEP OUT SIGN that was posted on the **outside!**

You see fences in this world have a 2-fold **universal purpose:**

Fences serve to keep things **OUT** – but they also serve to keep things **IN**!

San Quentin

In the case of these 3 criminals – the fence surrounding the property was **belonging to:**

San Quentin Correctional facility!

One of California's most notorious prisons in the state!

These men **literally ran** right into the confines of prison while committing a crime!

Now that to me sounds like the Book of Proverbs!

Proverbs

The foolishness of **running** in **sin** and **NOT heeding** the warning...**NOT** heeding **the signs** serve as a **vivid reminder** of our passage this morning:

Sin always has a way of catching up with us!

It always has a way of finding us out!

Of pulling us in!

And enticing our hearts!

This is what the father says to his son in verse 10:

And so Solomon in this passage this morning is giving to us **2 great pleas** of wisdom – **2 great cries** to his son!

In verses 8 to 19 – Wisdom comes to us as a father **at a table** warning his son...

And he says that:

Sinners are going to entice you!

Sinners will corrupt you!

They will try to **turn you** away from **wisdom** and toward the **gallows** of death!

And then verses **20 to 33** – wisdom comes to us as a preacher in the market!

And she raises her voice **above the noisy clamour** calling all those to

Wisdom & to **come find life** and healing in the arms of her loving care!

Main Point

And so in this passage Solomon is giving us **2 great pleas** of wisdom in one large **overarching main point** – that:

We must heed to the voice of wisdom if we are to escape the enticement of sinners!

We're gonna see this in 2 points:

*A Father's Parental Plea
And Wisdom's Public Proclamation*

A parental plea [wisdom in the home] (verses 8-19)
A public proclamation [wisdom in the streets] (verses 20-33)

Proverbs 1

So Proverbs chapter 1 – beginning at verse 8 – hear now the voice of wisdom in the book of Proverbs:

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do NOT reject your mother's teaching, for they will be a garland of favour upon your head and pendants around your neck.

Opening Gambit

Proverbs **as you know** is a collection of wise sayings – many of whom were written by King Solomon addressing the nation of Israel – but in this first major **section** in chapter 1 verse 8 **all the way through** to chapter 9 verse 18 this begins a **very long section** of:

A **father** and a **mother** addressing their son **in the ways of wisdom!**

Now there's actually **10 or more parental pleas** in this first major section – many of which are indicated by the very popular phrase from Solomon:

My son

Chapter **1:8** – *My son!*

Chapter 1:10 – My son!

Chapter 2:1 – My son!

Chapter 3:1 – My son!

3:11 – My son!

3:21 – My son!

4:1 – My son!

4:10 – My son!

4:20 – My son!

5:1 – My son!

Over and over and over again – it is:

My son, my son, my son, my son!

Parenting

What I think this is demonstrating is that a **parent's primary purpose** in raising godly children – is teaching their kids from the earliest of days that:

There is a **body of knowledge** in the world to **know** and to **love** called wisdom!

A knowledge that comes first through the fear of the LORD through the Gospel of Jesus Christ!

And we **are to be** constantly teaching our children the way of God – through the voice of wisdom –
in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

And from the earliest days of a child's life – children are supposed to know that this world does **NOT revolve** around them – that they are **NOT the centre** of the universe – they are **created** – they are **a creature** made in God's image – created to **serve** – to **know** – to **love** – and to **obey** Him!

And that one day they will **give an account** to this God who made their very soul!

And it's that most **basic creational teaching** that Solomon says **should be** at the centre of every Christian home!

Children from the **earliest of their youth** need to know:

How to **love** God!

And **serve** God!

And **know** God!

And **worship** God!

And what it means to be a son!

What it means to be a daughter!

What it means to be a Christian in a world full of the enticement of sinners!

Is that your goal in parenting?

Is that your goal in teaching your children?

Because **that's the way** these **first 9 chapters** are laid out for us – it is:

A father and a mother **coming to their son** and **pleading with him** through the voice of wisdom:

My son!

Wisdom For All

But I **don't just** want you to hear that these first 9 chapters are **only for** the wisdom of **parents** – or **only for** the wisdom of **children** – Because Solomon **is linking** these **first 9 chapters** to the introduction of Proverbs that we saw last week in **verses 1 to 7!**

Remember Solomon has **just told us** – that:

*It's the fool who despises **wisdom** – and it's the fool who hates **knowledge** or **discipline** & **instruction**!*

In verse 8 he **connects the theme** of verse 7 to this word *discipline*:

*Hear my son your father's **discipline**!*

So it's the **same word** in **verse 7** as the one in **verse 8** to demonstrate that Solomon is **trying to link** these verses together!

He's **trying to connect** the way that wisdom comes to the **wise** in **verse 7** to the way that **it comes** to the **home** in **verse 8**!

And he says that in the book of Proverbs – wisdom will come to you in **many** different **ways** – and **windows** – and **words** of instruction:

Wisdom comes as a **parent** in verse 8!

A **preacher** in verse 20!

As a **father** in chapter 2:1!

A **shield** in 2:7!

A **path** in 2:9!

A **lover** in 4:6!

A **builder** in 9:1!

Because wisdom is **NOT just** an abstract **theological concept** for us to study:

It's a *voice to be followed*!

It's a *path to be walked*!

It's a *person to embrace*!

A *treasure to protect*!

Wisdom puts on the clothes of a **preacher** in **verse 20** – and the clothes of a **parent** in **verse 8**!

A Parent for all

And so Wisdom is **being to you** the mum and the dad that you **maybe had** or **didn't have** depending on the kind of home that you were raised in!

And see **the beauty** of the book of Proverbs is that **even if** you **did NOT have** the parents from God that you **wish you had**:

God Himself comes to us **in this book** as a loving father – as a tender father to guide us – and to love us – and to care for us in the most **tender of ways**!

And to remind us that the **wisdom** of this book **may one day** just save your life!

And that there's going to be competing voices in this world that **will pull you** – and **push you** – and **compel you** down the path of sin and foolishness!

And so the point of this section is **NOT just** that:

Wisdom is for those of us **who are parents** here this morning – or those of you that are children – but wisdom is for **young and old alike**!

Wisdom is for all **people** – in all **places** – and at all **times**!

Because Wisdom is the point of Proverbs!

And so we're gonna be **weaving** in and out of these chapters listening to the voice of wisdom that comes as a **parent** in the **home** – a **preacher** in the **streets** – a **voice** in the **market** – a **cry** from the **fields** – a **woman** at the **gates** – a **friend** at your **side** – an **ant** in chapter 6 – a **lion** in chapter 28:

These are the **many different voices** of wisdom that come to teach us of God!

Wisdom at Home

And so Solomon begins there **in verse 8** by speaking as a parent to his son!

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, and do not reject your mother's teaching...

Deuteronomy 6 says that parents are to be teaching their children:

As you walk by the way – and as you go by the path – and as you lie down – and as you rise up!

Parenting is a fulltime job – 24 hour – 7 days a week – everywhere you go – and everything you do!

You are to be teaching your children in the **ways of wisdom!**

Headship

Notice too that the mention of a **father and a mother** here should **also remind us** that a 2-parent home is the **leading factor** in childhood success!

This is what many studies are demonstrating **time and time again!**

That as the father speaks to his children in the chapters ahead:

He is speaking to them as the head of his home!

You see throughout the Proverbs it is assumed that the **primary responsibility** of teaching in the home lies **NOT upon** the mum but upon the dad!

That dads are to set the **spiritual trajectory** of the home in this world!

But notice that although the Father is the **primary teacher** – the mother is nevertheless **right there with him** backing him up!

Single Parent

Now **this does NOT mean** of course that a *single parent* **cannot produce** godly offspring – we have many **single parents** in this church who have done **that very thing!**

But it **does mean** that a single mum or a single dad are going to have to work **twice as hard** to attain the same goals!

But the primary way that a child will learn about wisdom in this world – is through a mum and dad **teaching these things** in the ordinary day to day lives of parenting!

Which assumes parents – verse 8 assumes that:

You are making wisdom a priority in your home!

The Effect

Now notice too that Solomon speaks **NOT just** of the benefit of wisdom – but the beauty of wisdom **in verse 9!**

Listen, my son, to your father's instruction, do NOT forsake your mother's teaching:

WHY?!?!

For they will be to you a ***graceful garland*** for your head, and pendants or chains around your neck...

A **graceful garland** was a victor's wreath that was placed on the head of a runner who **took his place** on the podium!

And a **pendant** of course was like a necklace or **gold medallion** you would **wear proudly** around your neck!

These were items of **recognition** – items of **beautification**!

He would **stand out** as the best – the brightest – the most beautiful of winners!

Wisdom's Beauty

The point is that Solomon is saying that:

When a **child listens** to the voice of their parents – when they heed to the voice of wisdom – they will become spiritually attractive to the world around them!

That they will stand out **amongst the crowd** as a shining light of glory – because:

They reflect **the wisdom** of our heavenly God!

Scarlet

This is something we're **trying to teach** our 3 year old daughter at the moment – as she wears the shoes – and she loves the dresses – and she tries to **adorn herself** as beautiful as she is – we say to her:

Scarlet you are certainly beautiful – but all that beauty on the outside needs to reflect what's going on the inside!

And so we say to her:

Scarlet where is true beauty found?

And she responds with:

In a gentle and quiet spirit that trusts in the LORD!

And we get that from Proverbs 31:

Charm is deceitful and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD will be praised...

1st Peter 3:4 says that:

*A gentle and quiet spirit which trusts in the LORD is of great worth in the sight of God! For this is how the holy women **who hoped in God** would adorn themselves in the past...*

Solomon is saying to us that:

When a **child heeds** to the voice of their parents – and when parents heed to the voice of the Scriptures and to wisdom – that:

This has a **massive cumulative effect** on the world around us!

2 Effects

And it's gonna open up opportunities for you to share the gospel:

Believe it or NOT!

Because when a child obeys the voice of their parents – it can often lead to the parents **explaining to other people** why it is that their **children** are so different!

Proverbs 20:11 says that:

Even a child is known by his deeds!

Even a child can exhibit the wisdom of God **through obedience** to their parents!

Wisdom for the Streets

But the **second benefit** comes in what Solomon explains in verses **10 to 19** that when a child learns the voice of wisdom – they will learn **to say no** to the enticement of sinners!

This is what we see in verse 10:

My son, if sinners entice you, don't be persuaded...

The word there means **to yield – to consent** – or to **give yourself to!**

Now that is a **particular precious** verse for teenagers in particular to learn in their teenage years!

I don't have teenagers yet – but **I'm told** that this one for parents to **store up in their noggin** and to consistently – repeatedly **whip this one out** in those difficult **teenage years!**

My son if sinners entice you – don't go along with them!

Do **NOT** give in to sin!

Do **NOT** be persuaded by their foolishness!

Children need to know early on that there are **people in this world** who are going to try and **get your kids to sin!**

And we are **NOT to be** ignorant of the Devil's design in **the way** that he **tempts our children** to sin!

Verse 11 – Solomon gives these **vivid** and **violent** temptations:

If they say to you—“Come with us! Let's set an ambush and kill someone. Let's attack some innocent person for fun! Let's swallow them alive like Sheol, like those who go down to the Pit...Don't travel that road with them, or set foot on their path, because their feet run toward evil and they hurry quickly to shed blood...

Now you've **probably had** a few temptations thrown at you this week – but I'm **NOT sure** that you've had someone say:

Hey! Let's go murder and rob that guy – let's go stab him for fun! Let's go kick an old lady down the street for fun!

Probably **NOT** what you've faced with this week – maybe if you live in Logan or Inala – but for the most part we **haven't been tempted** to kick an old lady down the street!

And if you have – if that is a particular temptation for you – you need to **come see me** after the service!

You need God!

Most Extreme

The point of this section however is to demonstrate the **fool-heartiness** of sin!

The **violent-ness** of sin!

The **graphicness!**

What sin **ultimately does & leads to** if we **continue to stay** the path of **sin** and walk the path of **folly!**

It's as if these parents **in verse 8** are trying to **prepare their son** who's about to **go into** the city in verse 10!

He's about to walk these streets – and **experience** these **life-threatening realities** that are seeking to **steal his heart** away from God!

That's what sin does to us – it **steals our hearts** away from **joy** & away from **God** – and away from **satisfaction in Christ!**

And so what these parents do **in verse 11** is that they give to their son:

The **most extreme** examples!

The **most extreme** paths!

So that when these **lesser sins** comes – and these lesser **temptations** attract him – he's **going to know** where the path of sin will **ultimately lead him!**

They're gonna lead to **death!**

They're gonna lead to **pain!**

They're gonna lead to **sorrow!**

Model of Reality

Really what these parents are doing is giving to their son:

*A **little model** of reality!*

And that's what the Proverbs are friends:

Little models of reality!

They are **ways for us** to test the **bounds of folly** without **actually walking** in the **consequences** of sin!

They are **ways for us** to **discover** something about life – **before** you step out into **actual reality!**

So that we can know **in advance** what's going to fly and what's going to crash if we give way to sin!

Wright Brothers

Let me see if I can illustrate this – do you guys remember the Wright Brothers?

They flew their plane in 1903 – and they knew **ahead of time** that their plane **would take off** and **NOT** crash!

Because in their preparation for flying – they had constructed a *wind tunnel* where they would test *various-wing designs* before taking flight!

And it's the **very same thing** in the book of Proverbs – these proverbs are **little models of reality** – they are the testing of proverbial wisdom:

So that you can know **in advance** what's **gonna fly** in life and what's **gonna crash**:

If you visit a prostitute!

If you live with your boyfriend!

If you disrespect your parents!

If you fail to neglect the discipline of your children!

If you fail to uphold the promises of marriage!

If you spend too long in the office with your secretary!

Or in the case of Proverbs 1:

If sinners entice you – you're going to know what the end of that sin is going to cost you!

And you're gonna be prepared to look out for the **warning signs** of sin so that when that sin comes:

You know where it **leads** – and how to say **NO**!

The Sin

And so in verse 11 the father warns the son that **sinners** are going to **entice him** with:

Murder – and **violence** – and **theft** motivated by **greed**!

This is a pack of wild dogs – on the prowl – looking to **kill/ devour/and maim** the innocent by force!

This is **violent** – it's **bold** – it's **jarring** – and **it's senseless**!

Notice verse 11:

Let's attack some innocent person **for fun** – literally:

For no reason!

These men are **senseless** – they're **pointless** – they're **irrational**!

And they're motivated **NOT just** by their boredom but by their **greed** – notice verse 13:

We'll find all kinds of valuable property and fill our houses with plunder... Throw in your lot with us, and we'll all share the loot together...

You see what motivates this band of **senseless** and **vile** sinners is their greed – their financial gain – a **motivation for more**!

And they promise **instant wealth** to the son!

Now there's nothing **inherently wrong** with storing **precious goods** and **gaining wealth** in this world... in fact many of the Proverbs encourage storing up wealth and working for money!

But there is something **significantly wrong** with taking **other people's goods** and storing them up in your house!

And there's a complex *theological word* for that kind of action – it's called:

Hmmmmmm.....stealing!

Theft!

Pilfering!

Deuteronomy 5 is pretty clear:

*You shall **NOT** steal!*

Seems pretty basic!

Exodus chapter 20 says:

You shall not covet your neighbour's wife or house...

Seems pretty basic!

Proverbs 13:11:

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it...

Proverbs 21:6 says that:

The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death...

And in 1st Corinthians 6 **thieves are listed** among those:

*Who will **NOT inherit** the Kingdom of God...*

Speed of Sin

And so the father in these verses is coming to his son and warning the son **NOT** to walk the path of folly – because the path of folly has a way of leading us to the path of death:

At a rapid rate!

Notice verse 15:

*My son, don't travel that road with them or set foot on their path,¹⁶ for their feet **run** toward evil and they **hurry** to shed blood...*

The father is saying that sin can **creeping up upon us** at a very rapid pace!

Sin (**if we're NOT careful**) has a way of sneaking up on us **quickly** and taking us out **severely**!

Isaiah 59:7 uses this Proverb to explain:

Their feet run to evil, and they are swift to shed innocent blood...

The same idea is **repeated by Paul** in Romans 3:15:

Their feet are swift to shed blood; and in their path are ruin and misery...

And in the context of the book of Romans 3 Paul is speaking of the heart of the unregenerate person!

These people are on the path to destruction!

And if we're NOT careful we will be **quickly swept up** in their lifestyle of sin and folly!

End result

And so the entire point of this section is to demonstrate that:

NOT only does sin creep up on us at a **rapid** and **rigid rate** – but sin if it is **NOT dealt** with will lead us down the path of death – notice verse 17:

*It is useless to spread a net where any bird can see it, ¹⁸ but they [these sinners] set an ambush to **kill themselves**; and they **attack their own lives**. ¹⁹ Such are the paths of all who make profit dishonestly; it takes the lives of those who receive it...*

The wise father wants his Son to know that **NOT only** do sinners lose – I mean that's true enough – but he wants him to see that:

Sinners **hunger** for death!

They **run** toward destruction!

One pastor says:

They crave the electric chair!

That's how **foolish & destructive** their actions are!

That's how **irrational** and **foolish** sin is!

Sin **always pays** death!

Death

Romans 6 says that:

The wages of sin is death!

And so sin is like an employer says Paul... if you work for sin do you know what comes on the 1st and the 15th of every month?!?!?

Death!

That's what sin pays out **every time!**

Haman

These men are like Haman in the book of Esther – who upon trying to kill **Mordecai** [Esther's cousin] ending up taking his own life!

Haman wanted the position of **wealth** – **power** – and **authority** and **riches!**

And so he set up **the gallows** to hang Mordecai upon – but upon being discovered as a murderous/ravenous thief Haman **NOT only** goes down hard – but:

He **goes down upon** the **very gallows** reserved for **another!**

These men are quick to shed blood!

And Solomon says that it's their **own blood** that they end up shedding!

They think that they are targeting others — but in reality Solomon says they're just **destroying themselves!**

This is how Sin works!

Verse 17:

*Even a bird **knows when** a trap is set in ambush to catch it!*

Solomon says that:

Even **birds**, who are NOT known for their intelligence or wisdom – even they are wise enough to
NOT fall into an obvious trap!

Birds have tiny brains – and even they are wise enough **NOT** to fly into a net spread in their sight!

But these men have been so corrupted by their sin that they **don't even realize** the obvious death
 that's coming at the end!

Sin never satisfies friends!

How Sin Works

And what we need to see here is that:

This is exactly how the enticement of sinners works!

Sin always **over promises** and **under-delivers!**

And it brings with it an **appetite for more!**

A **craving** for more!

A **desire** for more!

Sin is never satisfied – sin is **always on the prowl!**

Greg Lamond (the five-time winner of the Tour de France) has a saying that I'm pretty sure **he stole**
 from Robert Strauss (the American businessman) about **climbing mountains** – he says:

*Climbing a mountain is like fighting a gorilla – you **don't stop**
 when **you get tired** – you **only stop** when the gorilla **gets tired...***

And friends...the gorilla of **sin never gets tired!**

Sin is a **relentless enemy** that constantly seeks to rob, kill, steal, and destroy our souls!

And the father is constantly pleading with **his child** in this book:

My Son – my son – my son – my son!

DO NOT GIVE WAY TO SIN!

Point 2

And so thanks be to God that He has **NOT left us** empty handed to fight sin alone by ourselves in this world!

He has **NOT** left us to fight sin alone by the power of our own strength!

But He has given us lady of wisdom who is fighting **in our corner** – to fight for the hearts of men – to fight for the freedom of our souls!

And this is what we see in our **second point** of Proverbs this morning – **NOT only** is there a *Parental Plea* – but:

A public proclamation

Notice verse 20:

Wisdom calls out in the street; she makes her voice heard in the public squares. ²¹ She cries out above the commotion; she speaks at the entrance of the city gates: ²² “How long, inexperienced ones, will you love ignorance? How long will you mockers enjoy mocking and you fools hate knowledge? ²³ If you respond to my warning, then I will pour out my spirit upon you and teach you my words...

Wisdom Cries

The first thing we notice about **lady wisdom** – is that wisdom is an eager woman!

She **cries aloud** in the public square!

She **cries aloud** at the city gates!

She is a faithful friend!

Who **contrary to these sinners in verse 10** – she desires that you actually the **get wisdom** of God!

And this should be **great encouragement** for us as Christians – because **it demonstrates** that:

Wisdom stands **in your corner!**

Wisdom stands **on your side!**

The deck **is NOT stacked** against you!

She does **NOT** run away from you!

But she is eager to **guide the hearts** of young men!

One pastor says:

God has made this world and He's crying out to us in a number of different ways. Psalm 19 says that: "the heavens declare the glory of God, and the skies proclaim His message." And Jesus in the Gospels sent His disciples out into the world to proclaim His message on the housetops...

Wisdom has **gone out** into the world!

And the wisdom of the gospel has been going out for 2000 years and it's **still going out** to sinners in the streets!

The Clamour

But although this gospel and this **cry for wisdom** go forth **in Power** – notice that it goes out into **busy streets** and **to noisy markets**:

Verses 20 & 21!

These verses are teaching us that there are a **number of different voices** crying out for us!

And **if we are to yield** to the voice of wisdom in the streets – then we must **tune out** the white noise of sinners!

The idea here is that:

If you just try **to coast** in the Christian life – if you put yourself on **cruise-control** – then you will be **swallowed up quickly** by *the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life!*

And the **worldly wisdom** and **mindless counsel** that comes through media – & movies – and popular T.V shows – if just read books and blog-posts that **cut down** the voice of wisdom – then wisdom says that you will be **quickly swept up** in the spirit of this age!

And you will NOT hear the voice of wisdom – because she will become to you a **faint & distant** voice crying in the market!

Calamity

Verse 24 says:

*Because I called out and you refused to listen, I have extended my hand and no one paid attention, and since you neglected all my counsel and did not accept my correction, I, in turn, will laugh at your calamity. I will mock you when terror strikes, when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when trouble and stress overcome you. Then they will call for me, but I will not answer; they will search for me, but will not find me. Because they hated knowledge, and didn't choose to fear the LORD, they were not interested in my counsel, and rejected all my correction, then they will eat the fruit of their way and **will be gluttoned** with their own schemes...*

Wisdom is like a woman who is ticked in **all the right ways!**

She is the kind of woman that will mock you when you are being **foolish** and **stupid!**

She's the kind of woman that you **do NOT want** to get on her bad side with!

And **in that** she is like the **Old Testament Prophets** of Old:

Who first preaches **to** those who reject her message – and then she preaches **about** those who reject her message!

She is like Christ in Matthew 25:

*Who takes away from the **unfaithful** and gives to the one who is **faithful**!*

Or in Matthew 13 when Christ said to His disciples:

*This is why I speak to them in parables, because **seeing** they **do not see**, and **hearing** they **do not hear**, nor do they understand. Indeed, in their case the prophet Isaiah says: “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive...”*

Jesus is saying to us that **if we neglect** the voice of wisdom – **if we decide** to go the path of sinners – **if we go our own way** in life – then in our rejection:

We will be mocked!

We will be scorned!

And we will be laughed at in our calamity!

She will mock when terror strikes you!

Wisdom says that:

She has **no problem** allowing us to suffer the **full weight** of our sin & consequences!

Dear Ear

And perhaps the **most terrifying aspect** about Lady Wisdom – is that if you **refuse to heed** her voice – **NOT only** will she mock you – but **she refuses** to even **listen to you** when you come calling for her **later in life!**

She promises **in verse 28** to turn a **blind eye** and a **deaf ear** toward our calamity – look at this:

*Then they will call me, but I **will NOT answer** them; and they will seek me, but **will NOT find** me...*

Friends listen to what wisdom is saying to you!

If you turn away from wisdom **now** – she turns away from you **later!**

If you **refuse to heed** to the voice of wisdom – she refuses to come at the time of your distress!

She will **NOT be** mocked & **motioned** at your beck and call!

Wisdom is on her **own schedule** – she is on her **own timetable!**

And she says to us:

Don't come knocking on my door when calamity strikes you...

You know those people who say to us:

*Well I **do want Jesus** but just **NOT right now!***

Just **NOT** at this moment – maybe later...

I'll repent on my deathbed!

I'll repent later in life!

When it's convenient for me – when I've had my fill!

But the problem with that set-up is that:

Such an attitude signals that wisdom will NOT respond to them later in life

One pastor says:

*Jesus will NOT be the quarter for you to put into the salvation slot-machine **whenever you want**... Jesus is Lord! And He calls you to embrace His wisdom today!*

At this very hour!

Today if you hear his voice – today if you hear His cry:

Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion!

But repent and come to Jesus Christ today!

Before it's too late!

Her Spirit

Look at **verse 33** – this is **the hope** we have in this text:

But whoever listens to me will live securely, and be undisturbed by the dread of danger...

It's what she says in verse 23:

If you respond to my warning, then I will pour out my spirit upon you and teach you my words...

She's the kind of generous lady who keeps on giving!

And who wants to give **her love** to you!

She's **NOT** all wrath – She's **NOT** all anger!

But she is the kind of woman who generously **talks straight** to us like a loving mother would!

And it's because of that – that she NOT only **warns** those who are **foolish** – but she **welcomes** those who are **wise**!

Wise enough to **listen** – and wise enough to **learn** – and wise enough to **live securely** in the wisdom that she's given!

Conclusion

Brothers and sisters this is the wisdom of God in Proverbs chapter 1!

That:

*We would heed to the voice of wisdom if **we are to escape** the enticement of sinners!*

And the way that we get **this wisdom** from above – this wisdom first begins by listening to her voice that comes to us **in the home** of a loving father – and the home of a generous mother:

*My son **do not forget** your mother's teaching – my son **do not reject** your father's instruction...*

My son if sinners entice you!

My son – my son – my son!

Proverbs chapter 10 says that:

A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son, brings grief to his mother

That's why you **don't consent** to sinners – that's why you **don't give in** to sinners – because you **care about those** people in your life who sat you down at the family table and opened up the Scriptures – and told you to repent and come to Jesus Christ!

Because you care about the God that they represent to you!

And you care that you wanna **honour** your **Father** – and **obey** your **mother** – and follow their instruction – because:

Their instructions are godly!

And because you fear the LORD!

And because you wanna live long and have a fruitful life!

And glorify God and enjoy Him forever!

And because you **don't want to** listen to these **losers** who are trying to drag you to **hell with them!**

Do you really think those friends at school care about your soul like your parents?!?!

Do you really think that they value your soul...when they ask you to **do the stuff** that you know you **should NOT be doing!**

The bible says that:

*A true friend is one who consistently points you **closer to Jesus Christ NOT** further away...*

And so the **true friend of Christ** in Proverbs is one who:

Yields to the voice of wisdom!

And that's what the Proverbs are all about – it's **NOT** trying to make you earn your way to heaven!

It's trying to show you that **apart from** lady Wisdom who is **the wisdom of Christ personified**:

We are NOT going to be wise Christians or avoid the enticement of sinners!

And so the grace of Jesus is what's offered to us as He sits us down at the kitchen table and He tells us:

Well there's really only 2 ways to live – follow me and you'll receive the reward of eternal life – or follow those voices and you'll **only ever receive** the reward of eternal death!

Do you wanna be wise – or do you wanna be foolish?

Come to Christ and live – reject the voice of Christ and die a **quick but painful death!**

We must heed to the voice of wisdom if we are to escape the enticement of sinners!

Proverbs 1:8-33

Discussion Questions

[Read Proverbs 1:8-33].

Main Point: *We must heed to the voice of wisdom if we are to escape the enticement of sinners.*

Q1. [Read verses 8-9 again]. What do these verses demonstrate about children & parents? – Why is parenting such a critical thing to get right? [See **Deuteronomy 6:6–7; Psalm 78:1-7; 127:3**]. – How can parents practically teach wisdom in the “*everyday*” moments of life? [cf. **Deuteronomy 6:6–7**]? – If you are a parent, give some practical examples of “*teachable moments*” you’ve had or have missed in your parenting?

Q2. How does verse 8 inform us of the structure of the home? – What is the hope in these verses for Christians who did not grow up in a godly Christian home? – Solomon links obedience to parents with “*beauty*” (v. 9) – What does it mean to be “*spiritually attractive*” in a culture that often celebrates rebellion? – How should Christian families view and pursue this kind of beauty?

Q3. Verse 10 says, “*My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent.*” – What does it mean to be “*enticed*”? – What does the father warn the son to look out for in their enticements? – Why does he give such “*extreme*” examples?

Q4. [Read verses 15-19]. Verse 15 warns, “*Do not walk in the way with them; hold back your foot from their paths.*” – Why is distancing ourselves from sinners an important strategy when dealing with temptation? – What are some practical/concrete ways to do this? [**Be specific**]. – What does Solomon say is *the end* of all sin and

rebellion in this world? **[See verses 18-19].** – How does knowing this help us to fight against our own sin & temptation?

Q5. [Read verses 20-33]. In verses 20–21, Lady Wisdom raises her voice in the public square. – What does this imagery communicate about God’s desire for all people to hear His wisdom? – What “*noise*” in the world today can drown out the voice of wisdom? – What does the passage mean when it says Wisdom will laugh at the calamity of those who rejected her? **[See verses 24–27].**

Q6. Verse 28 says Wisdom won’t respond later to those who ignored her now. – What warning is this to people who delay repentance? – Why is it dangerous to assume we can turn to God “*later in life*”? **[See Isaiah 1:15; Amos 8:11–12; Hebrews 12:17].**

Q7. [Read Proverbs 1:24, 33]. What promises does wisdom make to those who listen to her voice? – Why are these verses such a great encouragement for us? – How are they fulfilled in Jesus?