

## 11/17/24; Pastor Saolomon—Wisdom for Life--Proverbs 9

**Main Idea:** There are only two paths in life; wisdom or folly, life or death. Choose life.

**Sermon Summary:** There are 2 kinds of people examples: Cubs/Sox, conservative/liberal, etc. Proverbs 9 says folks are wise or foolish. The bible truly contains the very words of God. He knows exactly what we need. So God, thru King Solomon, is imparting wisdom to his son personified as 2 ladies in Proverbs 9. In 9:1-6; we hear the wise lady—she is a diligent worker and imparts life giving words. In 9:13-18, the foolish lady calls to the simple and inexperienced. She is loud, ignorant and seductive. Those who heeded her call are now dead in hell. Correcting a scoffer doesn't end well—but a righteous, wise person heeds instruction and betters their days.

### Sermon Outline:

- Its not “if” you choose one of these competing paths (wisdom/folly). The only question is which one.
- Verses 1-6 and 13-18 describe 2 ladies.
  - Similarities:
    - They both: are women, who call out from high places, and make invitations to the gullible, naive and uninformed and offer food and drink.
  - Differences:
    - Wisdom is a diligent worker (many action words in 1-6: built, hewn out, prepared, sent out, etc). Prov. 14:4 “Without oxen, a stable stays clean. But abundant crops comes by the strength of the oxen.” Folly is lazy (she sits).
    - Folly is loud, boisterous and ignorant—sitting to call attention to herself—especially to those on a straight path. Wisdom calls out to all along with her helpers.
    - Wisdom prepared her meal it is honest and pure. Isa. 55:1-3: Come, all who thirst, who have no money, come, buy, eat...without money or cost. Why spend money on what is not bread or what does not satisfy? Come to me...and live...”. Folly’s meal is stolen, sinful and alluring--but only satisfies short-term.
    - Wisdom’s way leads to life. Behind Folly’s enticing way is the grave and death.
  - 7-12; These “in between” verses, contrast a mocker/scoffer’s response to wisdom (insults, dishonor, hate) with a wise person’s response (love, more wisdom). The foundation or beginning of being teachable/wise is the fear of the Lord. Understanding, insight and wisdom come from knowing the Holy One (God).

### Discussion Questions (select several to discuss):

- Pastor Saolomon highlighted similarities of Wisdom and Folly. Both are ladies, both are in very visible places, both call out to gullible, unlearned and make invitations and serve meals. In plain language, how do you interpret this?
- In 9:15, Lady Folly calls to those “who are going straight on their way”. Does Folly have to distract people?
- In 9:4 and 9:16, Wisdom and Folly call to the naive, gullible, inexperienced, lacking judgment and understanding. Can folks with these traits obtain wisdom? Have you seen anyone grow from naive with poor judgment to wise? Explain.
- Prov. 9:7-8; Have you ever tried to correct a scoffer or wicked person? How did it go?

- Part of Lady Folly’s alluring deception is that sin is fun, meets immediate desires and has little cost. Can you describe a situation(s) where you convinced yourself of this? How did it turn out?
- The image of Lady Wisdom and Lady Folly competing has similarities to an angel on one shoulder and a devil on the other. Do you see wisdom and folly as good vs evil? Is James 1:14-15 or 1 John 2:16-17 relevant here?
- Perhaps you’ve heard this: Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay. Is this helpful in understanding 9:18?
- 9:10; “The Fear of the Lord” is mentioned about 14x in Proverbs (as well as elsewhere). What does it mean to you?
- 9:7-9;
  - Is there a difference between criticism, reproof and correction? Is the attitude of the “corrector” as important as the correction itself? Explain.
  - How well do you take criticism/correction? Are you typically grateful pretty quick—or do you need time to process?
  - Is this a valid saying: “there is nearly always at least a kernel of truth in criticism—sometimes its overflowing”.
  - When you hear, “I’m not judging you but...”, do you prepare to hear criticism? Is there a difference between correcting and judging someone? Does Jesus prohibit judging in Matt. 7:1?