**Wisdom Cries Out**

**Theme:** Wisdom is like a godly compass that helps us stay on God’s paths of righteous living.

**Text: Proverbs 8:1-9 (Amplified)** Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice? **2**On the top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, wisdom takes her stand; **3**Beside the gates, at the entrance to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: **4**“To you, O men, I call, And my voice is directed to the sons of men. **5 “**O you naive *or* inexperienced [who are easily misled], understand prudence *and* seek astute common sense; And, O you [closed-minded, self-confident] fools, understand wisdom [seek the insight and self-discipline that leads to godly living]. **6 “**Listen, for I will speak excellent *and* noble things; And the opening of my lips *will reveal* right things. **7 “**For my mouth will utter truth, And wickedness is repulsive *and* loathsome to my lips. **8**“All the words of my mouth are in righteousness (upright, in right standing with God); There is nothing contrary to truth or perverted (crooked) in them. **9 “**They are all straightforward to him who understands [with an open and willing mind], And right to those who find knowledge *and* live by it.

**Introduction:** Proverbs opens with a father who is giving words of wisdom to his son, contrasting the ways of wisdom or God, that lead to a good life, as opposed to the ways of the world that lead to disaster and ruin. Then at the end of the book, we hear the words of a mother, as she compares wisdom to a virtuous woman who is well prepared for whatever life may bring.

Proverbs is Hebrew poetry, and as such it uses a literary style of parallels, especially contrasting parallels, such as ***Proverbs 10:1*** *A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish [stubborn] son [who refuses to learn] is a grief to his mother.*

***Proverbs 4:18-19 (NKJV)*** *But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.* ***19****The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.*

**THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVERBS: Proverbs 1:1-7 (NLT)** These are the proverbs of Solomon, David’s son, king of Israel. **2**Their purpose is to teach people wisdom and discipline, to help them understand the insights of the wise. **3**Their purpose is to teach people to live disciplined and successful lives, to help them do what is right, just, and fair. **4**These proverbs will give insight to the simple, knowledge and discernment to the young. **5**Let the wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. Let those with understanding receive guidance **6**by exploring the meaning in these proverbs and parables, the words of the wise and their riddles. **7**Fear of the Lord is the foundation of true knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

**Wisdom is the ability to make right choices that will lead to God’s ways being established in our lives.**

**Deuteronomy 30:11-20 (NKJV)** “For this commandment which I command you today *is* not *too* mysterious for you, nor *is* it far off. **12**It *is* not in heaven, that you should say, ‘Who will ascend into heaven for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ **13**Nor *is* it beyond the sea, that you should say, ‘Who will go over the sea for us and bring it to us, that we may hear it and do it?’ **14**But the word *is* very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it. **15**“See, I have set before you today life and good, death and evil, **16**in that I command you today to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, and to keep His commandments, His statutes, and His judgments, that you may live and multiply; and the Lord your God will bless you in the land which you go to possess. **17**But if your heart turns away so that you do not hear, and are drawn away, and worship other gods and serve them, **18**I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. **19**I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; **20**that you may love the Lord your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He *is* your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

**I. Wisdom Cries Out**

**A. Wisdom can be easily found if people will only listen to her. Proverbs 8:1-9 (Amplified)** Does not wisdom call, And understanding lift up her voice? **2**On the top of the heights beside the way, Where the paths meet, wisdom takes her stand; **3**Beside the gates, at the entrance to the city, At the entrance of the doors, she cries out: **4**“To you, O men, I call, And my voice is directed to the sons of men. **5 “**O you naive *or* inexperienced [who are easily misled], understand prudence *and* seek astute common sense; And, O you [closed-minded, self-confident] fools, understand wisdom [seek the insight and self-discipline that leads to godly living]. **6 “**Listen, for I will speak excellent *and* noble things; And the opening of my lips *will reveal* right things. **7 “**For my mouth will utter truth, And wickedness is repulsive *and* loathsome to my lips. **8**“All the words of my mouth are in righteousness (upright, in right standing with God); There is nothing contrary to truth or perverted (crooked) in them. **9 “**They are all straightforward to him who understands [with an open and willing mind], And right to those who find knowledge *and* live by it.

**B. The Value of Wisdom Proverbs 8:10-21 (Amp)** “Take my instruction rather than [seeking] silver, And take knowledge rather than choicest gold, **11**“For wisdom is better than rubies; And all desirable things cannot compare with her. “I, [godly] wisdom, reside with prudence [good judgment, moral courage and astute common sense], And I find knowledge and discretion. **13** “The [reverent] fear *and* worshipful awe of the Lord *includes* the hatred of evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate. **14 “**Counsel is mine and sound wisdom; I am understanding, power *and* strength are mine. **15 “**By me kings reign And rulers decide *and* decree justice. **16**“By me princes rule, and nobles, All who judge *and* govern rightly. **17 “**I love those who love me; And those who seek me early *and* diligently will find me. **18 “**Riches and honor are with me, Enduring wealth and righteousness (right standing with God). **19“My fruit is better than gold, even pure gold, And my yield is better than choicest silver.** **20 “I, [Wisdom, continuously] walk in the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, 21That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth *and* true riches, And that I may fill their treasuries.**

**B. Wisdom has seen it all.**

**Proverbs 8:22-31** “The Lord created *and* possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old [were accomplished]. **23 “**From everlasting I was established *and* ordained, From the beginning, before the earth existed, [I, godly wisdom, existed]. **24 “**When there were no ocean depths I was born, When there were no fountains *and* springs overflowing with water. **25 “**Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was born; **26** While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, Or the first of the dust of the earth. **27**“When He established the heavens, I [Wisdom] was there; When He drew a circle upon the face of the deep, **28**When He made firm the skies above,  
When the fountains and springs of the deep became fixed *and* strong, **29**When He set for the sea its boundary So that the waters would not transgress [the boundaries set by] His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth—**30**Then I was beside Him, as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight; Rejoicing before Him always, **31**Rejoicing in the world, His inhabited earth, And having my delight in the sons of men.

**C. The blessing of wisdom vs. the consequences of neglect.**

**Proverbs 8:32-36 (Amp)** “Now therefore, O sons, listen to me, For blessed are they who keep my ways. **33**“Heed (pay attention to) instruction and be wise, And do not ignore *or* neglect it. **34**“Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at my doorposts.**35**“For whoever finds me (Wisdom) finds life And obtains favor *and* grace from the Lord.**36**“But he who fails to find me *or* sins against me injures himself; All those who hate me love *and* court death.”

**1. Godly wisdom leads to a good life, while neglect to heed God’s wisdom is a recipe for disaster.**

**Proverbs 4:1-9 (NLT)** My children, listen when your father corrects you. Pay attention and learn good judgment, **2**for I am giving you good guidance. Don’t turn away from my instructions. **3**For I, too, was once my father’s son, tenderly loved as my mother’s only child. **4**My father taught me, “Take my words to heart. Follow my commands, and you will live. **5**Get wisdom; develop good judgment. Don’t forget my words or turn away from them. **6**Don’t turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. **7**Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment. **8**If you prize wisdom, she will make you great. Embrace her, and she will honor you. **9**She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown.”

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