

Prov. 8:1-11 “The Voice of Wisdom”

For the Children: A Teacher who stands in front of a class usually raises his or her voice. This is so that everyone can hear and learn, even the kids sitting at the back of the class. In Prov. 8, we read about a woman called Wisdom (she represents God’s Word). She is calling out so that all can hear – especially among God’s children. For the Lord wants us to learn, understand and remember the Truth – the Truth about the Lord Jesus and our salvation; His commandments, so we know how to serve Him; and the warnings against those who might lead us astray. The Lord teaches us these things because He loves us. **Questions:** Do God’s children ever have an excuse for sinning? What does God’s Wisdom have to do with the Lord Jesus? Why do many people not see God’s Word as true or good?

Introduction:

First Point: Wisdom’s Vantage-Point

- 1) A Very Public Call: The “woman,” Wisdom, calls loudly from on high, to those in the gathering places of the cities. Her cry is very public, so all can hear.
- 2) To All Men: The public nature of it is reinforced by the scope of the audience in v. 4. It is “To you, o men...to the sons of men” – to all types of people. In the OT, the Word was meant for all Israel, delivered by priests and prophets, taught to children in the home as well (Dt. 6). Today, it is also to be heard each week in Christian homes and from the ministry of the church. The church also strives to spread the Gospel so unbelievers can hear, both at home and abroad.
- 3) Including the Naïve and Foolish: God’s Wisdom is designed for the “naïve” – the “simple” – for children and the relatively uneducated, as well as for intellectuals. However, “naïve” can also mean someone who is inexperienced in life, gullible and easily led astray by others. Hence, the woman of Prov. 8 is set in contrast to the Wicked Woman of Prov. 7. The harlot of ch. 7 lurks in the dark by the street corners (7:12). She tells lies and flatters to ensnare the naïve young men. In contrast, Wisdom calls openly, speaking only truth and righteousness.
- 4) Leaving No Excuses: Since Wisdom’s call is so public, none of the covenant youth has any excuse for going astray. We all have a good awareness of God’s Word, including His law. The covenant-member who turns from God’s Way is therefore doubly accountable.
- 5) From the Vantage of Love: Wisdom makes the effort to be heard - even with the naïve and foolish – because the Lord loves His creatures, especially His people. This is reflected in the Lord Jesus, who is the Wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24). He demonstrated God’s love for sinners not only by dying for us, but also by going out after the erring sheep.

Second Point: Wisdom’s Message

- 1) Listen and Understand: Wisdom calls for men to listen to her and understand (vss. 5-6). Listening and understanding follow from *loving* God’s Wisdom (Ch. 4). This can only be done with God’s gracious aid. “Understanding Wisdom” in v. 5 literally refers to the *heart*, the whole inner person. The heart must be changed by God, to enable sinners to receive His Wisdom.
- 2) Only Truth and Righteousness: The message Wisdom brings is wise, noble, right, true and straightforward – unlike the harlot’s lies and flattery (vss. 7-9). However, this will only be understood by the one whose heart is changed (v. 9). The one who makes evil good and good evil will see God’s Wisdom as foolishness (1 Cor. 1:23).
- 3) Better Than Anything: The one given understanding sees God’s Wisdom – sees the Lord Jesus – as better than anything else in life (vss. 10-11). We can see that “all desirable things cannot compare with her” – with Him – by considering the meaninglessness, bondage and death of the world’s “wisdom,” compared to the life and blessedness of knowing Christ.

Conclusion:

