

Proverbs 1:20-33

Wisdom Beckons

Evangelina ...

I. Wisdom's Public Outcry

- A. Flee Deadly Ignorance
- B. Get Knowledge for Life
- C. Turn Before it's Too Late

II. Jesus' Public Ministry

- A. Come to Me
- B. Know the Truth
- C. Be Set Free

... and the wisdom of her Gospel.

Children, Listen ...

1. Who is wisdom calling out to in our passage?
2. What warning does "Lady Wisdom" give to those who refuse to listen to her?
3. What does she promise to those who do listen to her? v. 33
4. How does this remind us of the call of the Gospel?
5. Who does the Gospel call people to believe in?

The Wisdom of the Gospel

It is amazing how similar our text is to street preaching! Wisdom is personified as a woman calling out in the public square, beckoning people to turn from the ignorance of rebellious unbelief and embrace life-saving knowledge. Her message includes a stark warning of destruction for those who refuse to heed her words – but those who do listen, and by implication follow her ways, are promised security and protection from destruction. It is not a stretch to see Jesus' own approach to publicly declaring the Good News when He walked the earth foreshadowed right in here Proverbs. We cannot help but hear the voice of wisdom in variations of "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" and "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" in Jesus' call to sinners. This is the same Gospel we preach today. Proverbs and Lady Wisdom did not name a name through whom salvation from the deadly ramifications of unbelieving folly would come, but we know it is Jesus the Christ, Son of the Living God! We may not be street preachers or preachers at all for that matter, but we do declare that there is life in Christ Jesus. Wisdom from above still calls today through the Good News. The Apostle Paul put it like this: *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.* 1 Corinthians 1:18-25