

### Monday, June 3, 2019—Proverbs 8-11

Solomon knew he needed wisdom more than anything to lead the kingdom God had given him. Proverbs 8 celebrates the true gift wisdom is for those who pursue her and possess her. Wisdom is more valuable than silver and gold and gives strength and help (8:19-16). “I love all who love me. Those who search for me will surely find me” (8:17). “For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the Lord. But those who miss me have injured themselves. All who hate me love death” (8:35-36).

Wisdom makes herself available to everyone (9:1), but Folly does the same. Folly calls out with the same pleas and promises as Wisdom but offers shortcuts and easier paths. What the ignorant do not know is that all who have come to her banquet and her house are dead (9:18).

The wisdom Solomon shared spoke against laziness and cheating. These truths call people to discipline and hard work. To heed these words means people will admit fault and change their direction. Proverbs promises benefit from this course correction. “People who accept correction are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore it will lead others astray” (10:17).

“Riches won’t help on the day of judgment, but right living is a safeguard against death” (11:4). “Evil people get rich for the moment, but the reward of the godly will last” (11:18). Wisdom benefits the wise in the present and the future. Investing time to seek and obtain wisdom provides a return on investment that nothing else can promise.

Praise God for His wisdom that blesses in the present and prepares for the future.

### Sunday, June 2, 2019—Proverbs 4-7

Paul told the Galatians that the fruit of the Spirit was love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, and self-control. There was no law against these things because the law was designed to rein in behavior, to place boundaries that weren’t to be crossed. What the Spirit produced needed no boundaries. There was never too much of any of it.

Solomon would agree to this in reference to wisdom. “Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do, get good judgment” (4:7). Wisdom has an endless supply because wisdom comes from God, and wisdom protects the one who possesses it while putting the possessor in position to make good decisions and be a valuable part of a community. There is never too much wisdom.

As a good father, Solomon shared wisdom about life with his son. His advice to avoid an immoral woman is as applicable today as then. The pleasures of immorality are fleeting, and the losses incurred by immorality are devastating. Instead, enjoy the deep benefits of fidelity (5:1-23, 7:1-27).

He told his son to avoid co-signing loans and to avoid being lazy (6:1-12). He did not need to stand in the gap for someone else’s lack of discipline, so his own life did not need to display laziness either. He needed to speak the truth and live with a desire for prosperity for self and others.

Thank God for His endless supply of wisdom. Pray for the ability to hear His Spirit and read His Word to gain more wisdom each day.

#### Saturday, June 1, 2019—Proverbs 1-3

One of the greatest challenges for teenagers and young adults today is anxiety. They have so many sources of information—internet, social media, school, friends, and more—that they are not sure how to keep up with it all. They don’t want to miss out. They don’t want to disappoint. They worry they won’t measure up or fulfill their dreams and plans.

Solomon was the wisest man who ever lived, and he wrote to his son a collection of wise thoughts and sayings. The book of Proverbs provides timeless, godly wisdom for living an abundant life. Combined with the indwelling Holy Spirit, the believer has deep wells from which to draw.

The proverbs help the simple become wise and the wise become wiser (1:4-5). The key Solomon understood was to fear the Lord (1:7). Placing Him as the authority in life allows all things to fall into place. Those who choose not to fear the Lord and drink of His abundant, available truth, will find wisdom one

day mocking their downfall (1:24-33).

Though abundant, wisdom does not simply soak into a person's heart and mind. He has to seek wisdom intentionally (2:1-4). She has to desire the knowledge of God like one seeking buried treasure. This search uncovers what is right, just, and fair, and the searcher comes to know God Himself better and to understand what it means to fear Him.

Thank God for the blessing of wisdom (3:33). Pray for increasing trust and obedience as you follow Him.

Friday, May 31, 2019—1 Kings 1-4

Ideally, everyone grows up. No one thinks a child is healthy if she weighs the same at two years old as she did at six months. Everyone celebrates when the 15-year-old boy puts away childish habits and adopts more mature practices and characteristics. There's always room for growth.

Even in old age, God can develop people. While he had not been the disciplinarian his children needed earlier in his life, when Adonijah wrongly proclaimed himself king, David pushed back against this and had the nation publicly proclaim and anoint Solomon the king. Though weak, David showed he was strong.

He further demonstrated strength in giving final words to Solomon. He didn't tell him to broaden his territory or build his army. David told Solomon to obey the Lord and follow Him (2:3). Above all his military success and national fame, David had a heart for God, and he wanted his son to do the same. This was the only way they could experience all that God had promised. Worship was the way to abundance.

Solomon's beginning was not perfect or easy. When God appeared to Solomon in a dream, He asked Solomon what he wanted. God promised to give it to him. Solomon asked for wisdom to lead such a great nation (3:9). His beginning was not perfect, but his request was. Because he had not asked for riches or long life, God gave him wisdom as well as so much more, including great riches and global fame.

Pray for increasing maturity and obedience for His glory.

Thursday, May 30, 2019—Psalms 148-150

In the United States, though observed on the last Monday of May, Memorial Day is officially May 30. The day allows citizens the time to reflect on the greatness and the sacrifice of those who died in service to the country—to win, preserve, and defend its freedoms.

The final three psalms have a similar theme. Who God is and what God has done should stir His people to worship. “Praise him for his mighty works; praise his unequalled greatness” (150:2). Their amazement at a relationship with God Almighty ought to elicit praise. The awareness of His creative and sustaining abilities should stir awe, thanks, and wonder.

The Psalmist realized the greatness of God should bring praise elsewhere as well. The angels and all of creation should praise Him, too (148:1-6). Everything that has been created, in heaven and on earth, has been created by Him and for Him. The proper response of any creature is to worship its Creator. “Let them all praise the name of the Lord. For his name is very great; his glory towers over the earth and heaven!” (148:13).

Above all, His people owe Him praise. “For the Lord delights in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation” (149:4). He has given them salvation. He loves them, and He has put them on mission. “Let the praises of God be in their mouths, and a sharp sword in their hands . . . This is the glory of his faithful ones” (149:6, 9). Praise the Lord!

Wednesday, May 29, 2019—Psalms 145-147

Because man is made by God in the image of God, man has the ability himself to be creative. Misguided, this ability can lead man to create a god in his own image—a god who is a trusty mascot. Guided well, this ability to be creative leads man to live with purpose and to honor God as Master. He finds ways in all areas of life to worship the One so worthy.

David used his creative ability to write songs that captured the immense character of God. In Psalm 145, he admitted God was King. David knew God

was the only one deserving of praise, though David himself was the greatest king of Israel. He was in awe of all God had done and meditated on those truths day and night. Though lofty and powerful, God was also king, merciful, patient, and compassionate. He showed Himself to be faithful and gracious. He was righteous and responsive. “He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cries for help and rescues them” (145:19). David knew a Master worthy of honor.

Psalm 146 continues this lavish praise. “Don’t put your confidence in powerful people; there is no help for you there” (146:3). Instead, happy are those who put their confidence in Yahweh. He made everything. He heals the sick and frees the prisoner. He will reign forever. Praise Him!

The Lord’s delight is in those who honor him (147:11). Praise Him today for making Himself known and dwelling in those who trust Him.

Tuesday, May 28, 2019—Psalms 142-144

Being lost or trapped is a terrible feeling. Being lost or trapped and knowing no one is looking for you is completely hopeless. Knowing there is no way out is nothing short of devastating.

When David was hiding from Saul, he felt a variety of deep emotions. He turned those feelings into Psalm 142. He cried out to God because he was overwhelmed. Traps were everywhere. No one was willing to help or even thinking about him (142:4). When he paused in the chaos, he remembered God was all he really wanted in life (142:5), so he looked to Him and to the day he would give thanks for God’s rescuing him (142:6).

When no one else is thinking of you or listening to you, God remembers you, and God hears your prayers (143:1). When the enemy was giving chase and life had paralyzed David, he remembered the goodness and faithfulness of God. He wanted to drink Him in like parched land soaks up rain (143:2-6). He admitted his deepening depression and his utter dependence on him (143:7-8). He pinned his hopes on God’s unfailing love.

David knew God had given him the skills to lead in battle (144:1), but he

was fully aware of God's immense power to destroy kings and armies and shake the foundations of the earth (144:2-7). God has a role for every person to play in His Kingdom, but He remains sovereign. He will be the hiding place and the gracious provider for His own.

Thank God for finding you, saving you, and calling you to serve.