

Come Back to Wisdom

Discussion Notes

1. When you hear the word *wisdom*, who comes to mind?

This week's message reminded us that the choices we make shape who we become, and that godly wisdom should guide those choices. Proverbs shows us that wisdom is worth far more than wealth, while foolishness often leads to things we see all around us—like overspending, broken relationships, and prideful independence. Real wisdom begins with a reverent respect for God, and it grows as we ask Him for help and surround ourselves with people who live wisely. The sermon challenged us to slow down, seek counsel, and be willing to learn instead of assuming we know it all. In a world that often celebrates instant gratification and self-reliance, living with godly wisdom stands out—and it helps protect us and those we love from unnecessary pain.

Read Proverbs 16:16

"How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver."

2. Which "foolish behavior" mentioned in the sermon do you see most often in our culture?

Read 1 Kings 3:5-9

"At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, 'Ask what I shall give you.' And Solomon said, 'You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?'"

When Solomon became king, he could've asked God for anything—power, wealth, or long life—but instead, he asked for wisdom to lead well. What made his request so meaningful was that it came from a heart that feared (revered) the Lord and recognized his need for God's guidance. Scripture says that *"the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom"* (Proverbs 9:10), and Solomon's life shows that wisdom starts when we humbly acknowledge God's authority over our lives.

3. How would you describe fear of the Lord and how does fearing God help you grow in wisdom?

Read Proverbs 8:32-26

“Now then, my children, listen to me; blessed are those who keep my ways. Listen to my instruction and be wise; do not disregard it. Blessed are those who listen to me, watching daily at my doors, waiting at my doorway. For those who find me find life and receive favor from the LORD. But those who fail to find me harm themselves; all who hate me love death.”

In Proverbs 8, wisdom is speaking directly to humanity, urging us to pay attention to her voice. The chapter paints wisdom not as abstract knowledge, but as something deeply personal and relational, calling us to a better way of living. In these verses, wisdom speaks directly, urging us to listen and follow her ways. Those who pay attention and seek wisdom daily are called blessed and they will find life and receive favor from the Lord. Wisdom isn't passive; it requires us to watch, wait, and pursue it intentionally. But rejecting wisdom leads to self-destruction and spiritual death. This passage reminds us that wisdom must be sought with intention, not just in our personal choices, but also by walking closely with wise people who help us stay on the right path. Surrounding ourselves with the wise strengthens our ability to hear, recognize, and respond to God's wisdom.

4. How have the people you surround yourself with influenced your ability to walk in wisdom—or not?

Read James 1:2-6

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind.”

Life often brings trials in areas like relationships, work, or finances—and James reminds us to count those struggles as opportunities for growth. In the middle of those challenges, we don't have to figure everything out on our own; God invites us to ask Him for wisdom, and He promises to give it generously. When we come to Him in faith, even the hardest situations become places where He can shape us, strengthen us, and lead us toward wholeness.

5. Where do you need wisdom most right now (relationships, work, finances, etc.)?

Closing/Prayer:

- Pray for a humble heart that loves and respects God and wants His wisdom above all.
- Pray for God's wisdom to guide your daily choices in relationships, work, and finances.
- Pray for wise people to surround you and for strength to avoid bad influences.