

Outline

- I. The book of Proverbs is full of wisdom for everyday life (Prov. 1:2-5; 2:1-2; and 8:32-36).
 - A. Many people in the United States and different countries around the world have rejected godly wisdom.
 - B. They've embraced the wisdom of this world.
 - C. If we want to see the blessing of God manifest, we need to walk in wisdom—the wisdom that's revealed in the Word of God!

- II. If you live a righteous life, you'll have a godly legacy:

The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Proverbs 10:7

- A. Many don't like to consider this, but how will people talk about you when you're gone?
- B. Would there be a lot of good things to say about you?
- C. You need to confront yourself with this truth.
- D. If you want people to miss you, give them something to miss.

- III. There's a special blessing on every person who has been persecuted for righteousness' sake:

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. [12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

Matthew 5:10-12

- A. Someday you will stand before God, and He will honor you in front of all creation.
- B. People who have never heard of you will see you rewarded because you stood up for the Lord and suffered the criticism, rejection, and persecution of other people.

- C. If you understood this, you could rejoice.
 - D. When you understand that when you're persecuted for righteousness' sake, it's like a crown that you could wear, then you'll look forward to persecution (Phil. 3:10).
 - E. You should not be unwise and cause persecution to come your way, but when it does come due to your godly life, you can look forward to it because you know that the Lord will bless you for it.
- IV. By Jesus's own words, we who hear the Word of God and keep it are more blessed than even His mother was:

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Luke 11:27-28

- A. We're blessed!
 - B. Givers are more blessed than receivers:
It is more blessed to give than to receive.
Acts 20:35
 - C. If we truly understood this, we would choose to be generous givers because we get blessed when we give.
- V. If you can't believe, it's because you willed not to believe (John 20:25).
- A. You chose to believe something else instead of the report of the Lord.
 - B. Your mind is in the way.
 - C. You've educated yourself right out of faith.
 - D. The greatest faith that the Lord ever saw was a faith that simply took Him at His Word (Matt. 8:10).
 - E. The least faith that Jesus ever saw was Thomas's faith (John 20:29), who basically said "Lord, I believe" (John 20:28) only after he saw Jesus risen from the dead.

Living in God's Best

- F. There is a greater blessing on those who will just believe the Word than there is on those who believe because it's been proven to them in some natural, physical way.

VI. You can't argue a person into faith.

- A. You can't just use something in the natural to force people to believe (Luke 16:31); it won't work.
- B. Everyone has to choose to believe.

VII. God could do anything, but faith is what pleases Him (Heb. 11:6).

- A. The Lord loves you so much that He wants you to come into His best, and that is to believe without seeing.
- B. His best is for you to believe His promises simply because the Holy Spirit bears witness and there's a quickening in your heart.
- C. God's best is for you to walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7).
- D. It's not that He won't come down to you, but He's already come down to you in Jesus.
- E. Now He's trying to bring you up to His level.

VIII. There are so many blessings!

- A. God has truly provided everything.
- B. You need to choose to believe in the power of His spoken favor and to find out what these blessings are and then activate them with your voice.
- C. Start acting on the Word.
- D. If you cooperate with what He's said, the blessing of God will manifest itself in your life, and your life will become better than you could ever have believed.
- E. God's plans for you are awesome.

- F. Your future is so bright, you have to squint to look at it.
- G. God loves you, and you're blessed.
- H. Receive His very best!

Discipleship Questions

1. What is the book of Proverbs full of (Prov. 1:2-5; 2:1-2; and 8:32-36)?

2. *Discussion question:* What are some examples of how people have rejected godly wisdom?

3. If you want to see the blessing of God manifest, you need to _____ in wisdom—the wisdom that’s revealed in the Word of God!

- A. Pay
- B. Grow
- C. Walk
- D. Sit
- E. Rest

4. If you _____ a righteous life, you’ll have a godly legacy.

5. According to Proverbs 10:7, “*The _____ of the just is blessed: but the _____ of the wicked shall rot.*”

6. *Discussion question:* What can you do to leave a godly legacy?

Living in God's Best

7. What is on every person who has been persecuted for righteousness' sake?

8. Where does it say that in the Bible?

9. Someday you will stand before God, and He will do what?

- A. Reject you in front of all creation
- B. Acknowledge you in front of all creation
- C. Condemn you in front of all creation
- D. Embarrass you in front of all creation
- E. Honor you in front of all creation

10. True or false: You shouldn't cause persecution to come your way.

11. When persecution comes due to your godly life, why can you look forward to it (Phil. 3:10)?

12. Luke 11:27-28 says, "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, _____ is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea _____, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it."

13. According to Acts 20:35, "It is more blessed to _____ than to _____."

- A. "Receive" / "give"
- B. "Work" / "play"
- C. "Walk" / "run"
- D. "Give" / "receive"
- E. "Eat" / "sleep"

14. If you can't believe, it's because you _____ not to believe (John 20:25).

15. What did you choose to believe instead?

16. When that happens, what is in the way?

- A. Your brain
- B. Your thoughts
- C. Your mind
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

17. True or false: The greatest faith that the Lord ever saw was a faith that simply took Him at His Word (Matt. 8:10).

18. True or false: The least faith that Jesus ever saw was Thomas's faith, who basically said "Lord, I believe" only after he saw Jesus risen from the dead (John 20:28-29).

19. What kind of blessing is on those who will just believe the Word?

20. True or false: You can argue a person into faith.

21. *Discussion question:* Why do you think a person won't believe even when there is proof (Luke 16:31)?

Living in God's Best

22. According to Hebrews 11:6, what pleases God?

- A. Faith
- B. Fasting
- C. Giving
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

23. The Lord loves you so much that He wants you to come into His best, which is what?

24. True or false: His best is for you to believe His promises simply because the Holy Spirit bears witness and there's a quickening in your heart.

25. *Discussion question:* How do you walk by faith (2 Cor. 5:7)?

26. Since God has already come down to you in Jesus, what is He trying to do?

27. *Discussion question:* Now that you've reached the end of the book, how will your approach to receiving, walking, and living in God's best be the same or different from what it was at the beginning of the book?

Scriptures

PROVERBS 8:32-36

Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways. [33] Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. [34] Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. [35] For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD. [36] But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

PROVERBS 2:1-2

My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; [2] So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding.

PROVERBS 1:2-5

To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; [3] To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; [4] To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion. [5] A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.

PROVERBS 10:7

The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

MATTHEW 5:10-12

Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. [11] Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. [12] Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

PHILIPPIANS 3:10

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death.

LUKE 11:27-28

And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked. [28] But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Living in God's Best

ACTS 20:35

I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

JOHN 20:25-29

The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in his hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into his side, I will not believe. [26] And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. [27] Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. [28] And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. [29] Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

MATTHEW 8:8

The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

MATTHEW 8:10

When Jesus heard it, he marvelled, and said to them that followed, Verily I say unto you, I have not found so great faith, no, not in Israel.

JOHN 11:44-53

And he that was dead came forth, bound hand and foot with graveclothes: and his face was bound about with a napkin. Jesus saith unto them, Loose him, and let him go. [45] Then many of the Jews which came to Mary, and had seen the things which Jesus did, believed on him. [46] But some of them went their ways to the Pharisees, and told them what things Jesus had done. [47] Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles. [48] If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation. [49] And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, [50] Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. [51] And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; [52] And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together

in one the children of God that were scattered abroad. [53] Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

JOHN 12:10-11

But the chief priests consulted that they might put Lazarus also to death; [11] Because that by reason of him many of the Jews went away, and believed on Jesus.

LUKE 16:31

And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

HEBREWS 11:6

But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight.