

Sticky Group Discussion Questions for Sunday, April 19, 2015

God's Rx for Wisdom

Proverbs 1:1-33 Proverbs 3:1-26

1. The Book of Proverbs gives us God's perspective on everyday life. In fact, it could be considered as God's prescription for everyday life. There are, of course, many familiar proverbs found outside of the Bible too. See if you can complete the following and discuss briefly what they mean :

- The squeaky wheel gets the
- When things get tough, the tough get
- The pen is mightier than the
- No man is an
- Fortune favors the

How helpful are the following proverbs to you ?

- If you're not living on the edge, you're taking up too much room.
- If you can smile when things go wrong, you already have someone to blame.
- Don't worry about the world coming to an end today. It's already tomorrow in Hong Kong.
- Law of the Bath : When the body is fully immersed in water, the telephone rings.
- Whoever said money can't buy happiness didn't know where to shop.
- Always remember you're unique. Just like everyone else.
- Never, under any circumstances, take a sleeping pill and a laxative on the same night.
- If you don't go to other people's funerals, they won't go to yours.

Take a few minutes to read and react to some of these favorite proverbs in God's Book of Proverbs :

1:7 3:5-6 4:23 6:6 13:20 13:24 14:12 16:18 16:24 17:17 17:22 22:6 27:17 29:18 31:10

2. The theme of Sunday's sermon – and of the entire Book of Proverbs – is given in 1:7. Read this verse and discuss the following :

- What is wisdom ?
 - o Who (in addition to Jesus) is the wisest person you know (living or dead) ? Why do you call that person wise ?
 - o How does a person become wise (or is a person born that way) ? Consider Psalm 119:97-100.
- How do you understand the expression "the fear of the Lord" ?
 - o How do you personally practice "the fear of the Lord" ?
 - o How is the fear of the Lord disregarded in our society, and perhaps even in the Church ?
 - o Why is holy and reverent fear an appropriate response to the Person of God ? Consider Jeremiah 10:6-7 ; Proverbs 16:6 ; and Hebrews 11:7.

3. What does the father plead with his son to do in Proverbs 1:8 ?

- What promise, in verse 9, is attached to the father's plea ?
- What warning does the father provide his son in verse 10 ?
- According to 1:13-14, what motivates the sinners of whom the father forewarns his son ?
- What warning does verse 19 give with regard to the consequences of greed ?

4. A four-part prescription for wisdom was given Sunday :

- The most reliable source of wisdom for making good choices is God (Prov 16:3 ; 28:5).
- Future goals and needs should have an effect on current decisions (Prov 6:6-8 ; 10:5).
- Avoid hasty choices based primarily on presumption or feelings (Prov 13:16 ; 18:15).
- Don't be a lone ranger (Prov 17:17 ; 27:17).

In what personal situation are you seeking God's wisdom ? How is He providing, ... or how do you anticipate He will provide ? Who's sharpening you (Prov 27:17) ?