



KING'S CHAPEL

Daily Devotional - Proverbs Study

Week 1 - Day 3

Approaching God

Read Psalm 37:3-4 - *"Trust in the LORD, and do good; so you will live in the land, and enjoy security. Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart"*

Prayer: Be still today and consider the trustworthiness of God. Ask to help God get in touch with your deep desires today. Where might you be caught between wanting what the world offers through greed, and becoming what God has created you to be in love? Offer that to the Lord.

Bible Reading, Study & Meditation - Proverbs 1:20-33

Passage Introduction: The First Wisdom Appeal - Wisdom is personified here as a woman inviting people to learn from her. She does so not from the ivory tower, but outside, in the public square and public places of the city. Wisdom is developed only in experience. No matter how hard they study, the graduates of medical school, law school, and business school will become truly wise in their fields only out in the open, that is, in real-life experience.

Proverbs 1:20-33 - ESV

20 Wisdom cries aloud in the street, in the markets she raises her voice; **21** at the head of the noisy streets she cries out; at the entrance of the city gates she speaks: **22** "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple? How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge? **23** If you turn at my reproof, behold, I will pour out my spirit to you; I will make my words known to you. **24** Because I have called and you refused to listen, have stretched out my hand and no one has heeded, **25** because you have ignored all my counsel and would have none of my reproof, **26** I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when terror strikes you, **27** when terror strikes you like a storm and your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. **28** Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. **29** Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, **30** would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, **31** therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices. **32** For the simple are killed by their turning away, and the complacency of fools destroys them; **33** but whoever listens to me will dwell secure and will be at ease, without dread of disaster."

Start with Engaging the Text: Take a few minutes to highlight, circle, or underline key words. What words or ideas are repeated, related, compared, contrasted? What key themes stand out to you?

Daily Study Questions

Because wisdom comes not through acquisition of knowledge but through long experience and reflection, it takes years to produce. What happens, then, if suddenly you come to a crisis that demands great discernment and self-control? If you haven't learned the hard-won habits of wisdom—of resting in Christ when other comforts are removed, of discerning choices among the bad, the good, and the best—you cannot suddenly develop them overnight, any more than you can get ready for the Olympics overnight.

- Are you devoting time to developing wisdom? Begin by assessing how much planned time you give to, first, Bible study and, second, personal accountability with Christian friends.
- What 1 or 2 principles do you observe in this section?
- When in your life or the life of someone else have you seen this observation illustrated?
- How can you put this observation or principle into practice?
- Lastly, try to summarize your thoughts by rewriting your main ideas and observations into your own words in a sentence or two.

Close in Prayer:

Lord, I know you won't give me more than I can bear (1 Corinthians 10:13). But I can fail to put on all the spiritual armor you give me (Ephesians 6:10–18) and thereby put myself in harm's way. Give me the real thing, the hard-won wisdom. I'm ready to do what is necessary to receive it. Amen.